















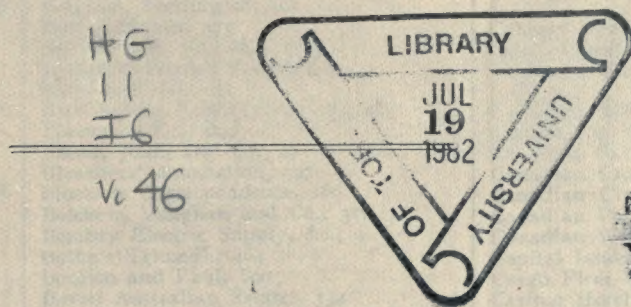


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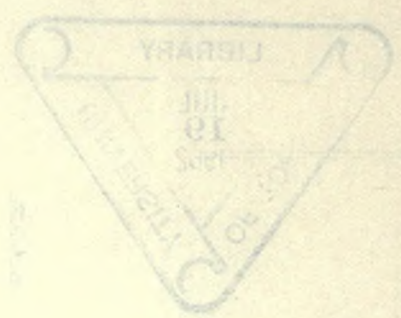


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## Passing Events.

One of the most striking characteristics of the income and expenditure account of the nation for the quarter ended June 30 is the nett increase of £10,796,459 shown in the revenue for that period compared with the corresponding three months of 1914, which were totally unaffected by the new problems laid before us by the outbreak of war. Actually the revenue amounted to £51,297,136, against £40,500,677 in 1914, the greater part of the increase being due to higher income-tax levies and a much larger inflow from Excise. The former brought in £10,819,000, or £4,880,000 more, while Excise receipts were £4,844,000 up at £13,374,000. Customs dues, also, were £1,233,000 higher at £9,796,000, and death duties £1,093,000 up at £9,064,000, but £764,000 less at £1,332,000 was obtained from stamps, and £800,000 less at £5,600,000 from the Post Office. The total expenditure chargeable against revenue was naturally incomparably larger than a year ago, and amounted to £258,472,992, against £46,616,660. Of last quarter's outgo the great bulk, or £248,615,807, was in Supply Services, being at the rate of about £2,962,000 per diem. As a result of this enormous expenditure there was a shortage of no less than £207,175,856 in revenue, £15,756,468 of which was met by drawing on the Exchequer balances, thereby reducing them to £67,694,484, held as to £66,942,560 in the Bank of England and as to £751,924 in the Bank of Ireland. This still left a deficit of £191,419,388, which was covered by temporary borrowings in the shape of Treasury bills, £199,963,000 of which were sold during the quarter. In addition, £20,687,000 was obtained by Treasury bills for Supply, £35,300,000 by War Loan, 1925-28, and £242,345 by Exchequer bonds, making, with £230,000 from the repayment of bullion, an aggregate inflow of £391,170,433. Against this the entire outgo, including £47,250,000 for the repayment of Treasury bills, and £16,395,500 for the redemption of Exchequer bonds, was £323,475,949, leaving, as has already been mentioned, £67,694,484 in the Exchequer.

"And you still think the Germans will be defeated?" Most assuredly we do, and think there could be no greater mistake than to hold any other opinion. The

job of destroying the abandoned savages is harder than we all thought, but not harder than we had made up our minds to encounter if need be, and as soon as it became apparent that the seductive dream of world-domination had come to possess the minds and permeate the corrupted imaginations of all Germanic peoples. Towards the end of February last in the introduction then written to the essays from THE INVESTORS' REVIEW collected under the title, "No Deluding Peace," this was said:—"The Allies have to go on killing the befooled German multitudes until their rulers are reduced to such a state of impotence as will compel them to submit to whatever terms the victors decide in unison to impose. This beating-down task, of course, may involve, before the end is attained, the death of from seven to ten millions of German manhood through slaughter and disease, because, obviously, the vanity which permeates their minds will be hard to eliminate; but whatever it costs—and the prospect is sad enough in all conscience—in the end a world's peace can only thus be attained." That becomes more emphatically true every day, and therefore people must not because of passing mists lose sight of the goal the Allies are steadily and strenuously making for. No greater mistake could be made than to confuse the delays, crosses, occasional reverses, and disappointments with the one grand aim of the Allies in waging this war. From the higher point of view all goes well still, though not so swiftly as, in our eagerness for peace once more—a real peace—we expected. The news from the Dardanelles is splendid, and however much to be regretted it is that the interference of the Kaiser with his brother-in-law, King Constantine, prevented the Greeks from sending 200,000 men as promised to help the Allied Fleets to storm the fortresses of the straits in February, the loss in the end will be to the Greeks more than to us. Probably the conflict has been lengthened by some months, and its costs increased three to fivefold, but the work will be done all the more thoroughly for that, and when it is finished there will be no more fight left in the Turk. His career as a slave-driver and benighted oppressor will be ended for ever. So, too, in Galicia the steady, carefully ordered retreats of the Russians cannot fail to contribute to the ultimate destruction of the Teutonic hordes aimed at and necessary for a real peace. They gain no victory by all their hunt, these hordes. Two



or more million of men may toil after the retreating armies of the Tsar, one or more of the hordes may even succeed in occupying Warsaw for a time, and they will be further from the goal they seek than before their onslaughts began. When worn out, when deprived of supplies their bankrupt Governments will no longer be able to furnish, the Russians, renewed in strength and refreshed, will again sweep forward and destroy what is left of them. And Italy, France, and ourselves are all busy at the necessary butchery, and all succeeding—not without loss, not without disappointments, but always resolutely and with a valiancy unsurpassed in the history of mankind. "We have bungled much, and been easy-going; we are short of many things." Yes, yes; but we can fight, and the mistakes will be remedied—the true leaders will emerge. When *les Boches* make their next effort to reach Calais they will find out what our bungling comes to mean in a fight for mastery. There is abundant cause for increased endeavour and resolution, none for gloom and despair.

Quite a hot debate sprang up on Thursday evening in the House of Commons during the passing of the Munitions Bill through Parliament. It was led off by Sir Henry Dalziel, who moved a new clause providing for the handing over of all the powers of the Ordnance Department of the War Office in regard to the supply of munitions to the new Ministry specially created therefor. This motion enabled Sir Henry to make a furious attack upon the War Office, much to the gratification of Lord Northcliffe, whose two papers, the *Times* and the *Daily Mail*, gave the episode unusual space. There is no denying it was a telling speech, still less that it received a large amount of assent in the House. It will also command great attention outside, because the country is becoming hot and sore in mind about the way our Army has been fed with instruments of murder since it was sent abroad. Food to eat it has had in plenty, but guns and shot and shell, no; and as it is the fashion for our War Office to fail in all wars, to bungle at the beginning and sometimes throughout, there is a disposition to give ready assent to such outbursts as that of Sir Henry Dalziel, who was supported by such men as Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Crooks, Sir Frederick Cawley and Mr. Duke. Unfortunately, the debate took Mr. George by surprise, and he really had no answer to the charges except to deprecate the revolution implied in wiping out the Ordnance Department of the War Office so that his new department, which he is busy creating, might be overwhelmed at the outset with work it was unable to perform. Something of a different answer will have to be given next week, else it would not surprise us at all if the whole Coalition Ministry were in danger of upset. It is, unhappily, failing to show that strength and resoluteness expected of it—is, in fact, behaving as Ministries of that sort always have done. But we adhere to the hope that the very magnitude of the crisis will endue Ministers with the necessary energy to make a clean sweep of antiquated red tape, incompetence, obstruction, and possibly enough malfeasance, without further delay.

Mr. Walter Long's exposition of his Numbering of the People Bill, a measure intended to provide for the compilation of a National Register, was clear enough, and as the Local Government Board is to take charge of the operation, he was, as President of that Board, the right man to expound its provisions. But clear and conscientious as his statement was, we regret to say that it did not on all points quite convince. Before saying anything, however, let us first summarise what the Bill is designed to do. It is, in fact, a census of labour—the possibilities of labour buried, we presume, among all classes, from the King to the meanest inhabitants of Tooting slums—and any citizen who makes a wrong entry in answering the questions put will be liable to a fine of £5. Every man and woman in the United Kingdom between the ages of 15 and 65 must register, and two months are to be given to make up the returns from the papers after they have been

filled in. Those receiving the papers must answer the questions within three days, and hand the form back to the distributors. A Royal Proclamation will make known which these three days are to be. Meanwhile, papers are to be furnished asking the name and address, the age, the condition, whether single, married, or widow, the number of children, if any, the trade or occupation, if any, the name of the employer and the willingness of the individual to engage in any special form of labour with which he or she may be acquainted, giving particulars regarding that labour and also an answer to the question whether the individual, if a man, is willing to enlist. A wife will get a form for herself, every grown-up son and daughter living at home will get separate forms, every servant also; minors, furthermore—lads and girls from 15 to 21—will be supplied with forms, but the father or other householder will be responsible for seeing to the filling up of these. Above 21 each individual makes up the return on his own responsibility. All this implies an enormous, an inconceivable, amount of clerical and messenger labour, some of which may only be abstracted from the supreme ammunition-furnishing business of the country for a matter of a fortnight or three weeks, say, but a considerable slice of which cannot fail to be occupied for more time than the Bill allows—two months—to be devoted to classifying the information obtained. Can we spare all the money and all the labour involved? It does not seem to us that the Government has looked at this side of the matter with other than the most casual glance, if at all, and has therefore formed no conception of the toil and expense involved, or of the risk it is running that the whole expenditure of money and labour may turn out to be absolute waste. The war might even be finished before Mr. Long's department was in a position to supply much information of the least additional value to the Munitions Office, or the War Office or Admiralty beyond what is already available in borough records, in census returns, or in the books of manufacturers or employers of labour. It is a pity to have to say this, because the Ministry is obviously so anxious to please at every point; but, at the same time, it is impossible not to regret that greater courage is not shown in resisting newspaper clamour and greater coolness of mind in looking at proposals from all sides. While the thrift campaign is going on at one hand, a waste campaign seems to be about to be inaugurated at the other.

How do the German submarines that haunt the English Channel and our West coasts get supplied with petrol? Have they any concealed depots on the West coasts of Scotland or Ireland, or in the Scilly Isles, or do they go further south to the Channel Islands to get their petrol tanks refilled? No doubt questions like these have exercised our Admiralty intensely since the submarine piracy began, but, so far as we know, it has not yet been solved, and yet such a catastrophe as the sinking of the Leyland liner *Armenia* should stimulate effort. Perhaps, however, we have left to the French marine the more southerly spots where facilities might exist that the Germans could make use of, and do not know what has gone, is going, on there. More definitely it is impossible to speak, but we do know that the Admiralty has already been furnished with hints and information that ought to have been useful to it in tracing the sources of German supplies and perhaps unearthing traitorous subjects.

Sixty years a banker. That of itself is surely a rare title to fame; but Mr. Edward Clodd, who has just retired from the post of secretary to the London and Joint Stock Bank, Ltd., a post occupied by him for more than 40 of his 60 years of service, is entitled to honour on many grounds besides his age and eminence in his business. He is one of those by no means rare, and yet peculiarly select, band of men who may be described as "literary bankers," and his fame as a follower of the scientific schools of Darwin and Huxley is world-wide. He was none the less, like



the late Walter Bagehot, a shrewd and excellent handler of credit, notwithstanding his diligence in writing books that popularised the science of the day and in many side branches of literature. He well deserved the honour his colleagues did him on his retirement from active service, and everybody who knows him will hope that his keen, active mind will be at the service of his fellowmen for many a year to come. We hear casually that he is even now engaged upon an enlarged and what might be called an up-to-date edition of his "Childhood of the World," written originally in 1872, and now, the *Daily Chronicle* tells us, about to start on a second life, so to say, in English and American editions. By his personal friends in the City Mr. Clodd will be much missed, for he was geniality itself, and his keen wit, his ever-bubbling humour and jovial way of looking at life have long been the delight of all who knew him. Although this writer rarely saw much of him in the City, he knows him well outside its borders, and in some sense might envy him the happy fate of his retirement, if envy formed part of his composition. His liberty to be idle would we envy? Nay, Edward Clodd can never be idle—but he can now work just to please himself.

Paragraphs have been going the round of the newspapers giving the position of the London Tramways in most lugubrious guise. They are being run at a loss, and the accounts just issued for the year ended March 31 last appear to bear out this statement. They show that the nett revenue, including war service allowances, was only £699,276, whereas all the charges, including income-tax, came to £732,449. This left a deficiency to be met out of the general reserve fund amounting to £33,173, and the report of the Highways Committee, from which these figures are extracted, draws a gloomy picture of the future. The tramways suffer to a very serious extent "through not being able on many of the routes to carry passengers to their desired destination." That is true, and it is a defect which should and might have been remedied many years ago. Now it cannot be remedied because there is no money with which to build the necessary extensions, and also because the obstructive and people-despising territorial oligarchy which still holds the nation more or less in its grasp—more rather than less—refuses to permit the lines running north and south to be physically linked up across the various bridges. What a clamour would arise in privileged quarters, for example, were the tramway lines over Westminster Bridge to be carried up Parliament Street, round Charing Cross, up Regent Street, and along the Tottenham Court Road, or other thoroughfares, to link up with lines coming down from the north! Or would the plutocracy of Park Lane survive tramway lines along Victoria Street, up Grosvenor Place and Park Lane to connect with lines coming from the north down the Edgware Road? Would the West End tolerate tramway lines running up through Kensington or along Oxford Street or Piccadilly? It tolerates buses everywhere, but tramways are altogether too democratic for the super-exclusive, and consequently the disability to earn complained of will remain. Even in spite of it, however, the tramways have on the whole done remarkably well, and are not yet in the derelict position the committee would seem to wish the public to believe. No doubt the service is often poor, even on such lines as are open, but it pays, or has paid, handsomely. Since the strike services have not all been resumed in full, and on some routes have never been quite up to requirements even at the best. Revenue consequently tends either to stagnate or to diminish, with a corresponding pressure upon the ratepayer. Even last year, however, there would have been no deficiency at all had the County Council abstained from charging against the revenues of the tramways the war allowances granted to the men. For the past year these seem to have amounted to £42,209, and for the current year are put down at £81,000. Over and above that, £50,000 is debited for "contin-

gencies," or twice as much as these took last year. Is this good or straightforward finance on the part of the Council? Ought exceptional kinds of expenditure—especially war-created expenditure—to be laid upon the tramways at all? Should not that be borne by the Treasury? In one sense the result might seem to be as broad as it is long, but in another it is surely a mark of bad policy to put a load upon the tramways that would make the people of the metropolis imagine them to be an unprofitable possession, and incline opinion to the view that it might be just as well to lease the entire network to the great omnibus trust, whose formidable competition is continually increasing in effectiveness, an effectiveness lately powerfully stimulated by the strike, a misfortune estimated to cost £100,000 in the current year. After all, this London tramway undertaking has cost up to March 31 last £13,745,000, and involved the inhabitants of the metropolitan area in a nett debt, less sinking fund in hand, amounting at the same date to £9,836,187. It is out of the sinking fund, presumably, that the Council has been able to subscribe for £1,000,000 of the 4½ per cent. War Loan. The pity is that the hoard could not have been used to pay for a further development of the network towards perfection. It is still only 150 miles long—144 miles electric and 5½ miles horse traction—and the inhabitants of the metropolis could do with another 50 miles at least. Will it ever get them? Never under present circumstances and fashions in finance. Meanwhile the deficit looked for this year is £92,000—but there would have been a surplus had "contingencies" and war allowances been kept out of the accounts.

The 1914 budget for Algeria, so we learn from *L'Actualité Financière*, terminated with a deficit of £572,920, covered, however, by the excess of receipts in previous years. For 1915 the deficit, which is estimated at between £800,000 and £1,000,000, will be met by a loan of £2,000,000 in 4 per cent. bonds, which the Bank of Algeria will discount, and which it will cover by the emission of bills for a like amount. In order to balance the 1916 budget the Government of the colony proposes to impose a war tax of 50 centimes per hectolitre on wines, of 20 centimes per quintal on cereals, and of 20 centimes a head on sheep. Moreover, additional taxes will be imposed on oils and imported coffee. The Government also proposes to fix a surtax on railways and on the postal and telegraphic taxes.

Apart always from the War Loan, last month's requests for fresh capital were very small, amounting to a mere £2,882,000 nominal altogether. And of this total £2,500,000 was in 5½ per cent. secured notes of the Grand Trunk Railway at 99, due July 1, 1920, so that there only remained £382,000 to be distributed over the rest of the world. The United Kingdom offered £320,000, of which £100,000 was in Aluminium Corporation 6 per cent. first debenture stock, £100,000 in ordinary and deferred shares of the Bleriot Manufacturing Aircraft Co. and £75,000 in 6 per cent. perpetual debenture stock of the East Kent Colliery, issued at par to shareholders. Outside these the only demand of any size was made by the Province of Buenos Ayres Waterworks, which offered £60,000 in 5 per cent. three-year notes. The nominal amount for the first six months of the year amounted to £53,810,000, while the nett total of £2,857,000 for the month made the aggregate amount, exclusive of brokerage, &c., up to £53,583,000. In 1914 the nominal figure was £193,649,000, and the nett £187,780,000, and in 1913 the totals were £152,423,000 and £162,658,000 respectively. In addition, however, to these emissions of actual fresh capital there were considerable sums issued in exchange for maturing bills and bonds, &c. Motor Owners' Petrol Combine, for instance, offered £370,050 of 6 per cent. convertible first debentures and £1,482 in 8 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares to first debenture-holders of the British Austrian Oil Investment Co. in exchange for their bonds. Calgary City Council issued £278,250 in six-



months' bills, Prince Rupert City Council £210,750 in 12-months' bills at 93 and Moscow City Council £1,000,000 in 12-months' Treasury bills, all in exchange for maturing bills. An issue of £5,000,000 in 4½ per cent. debentures (convertible into inscribed stock) at 99½ was also made by the New South Wales Government, but the great event of the month was the emission of the second War Loan for an amount not exceeding £910,000,000 4½ per cent. stock or bonds at par, redeemable between 1925 and 1945.

Another circular has been issued by the Public Trustee giving a somewhat fuller explanation of the notice in our June 19 number dealing with the registration of British property in enemy countries. It should be clearly understood that, while returns of enemy property held in this country are compulsory, the new returns of British property in enemy territories and territories in enemy occupation are voluntary, and are purely for the purpose of making a record to aid the Government in estimating the relative position of this country and its enemies with regard to general indebtedness. We may here note that the word "enemy" has a new meaning, and refers to any person, of whatever nationality, residing or carrying on business in enemy territory. Another very important point to be observed by those who are making returns is that if their enemy debtor has property in this country, such property can, under the provisions of Section 4 of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1914, be, on application to the High Court, vested in the Public Trustee, for the satisfaction of British creditors. The first step is, obviously, to ascertain whether the enemy debtor does, in fact, hold such property in this country, and on application to the Public Trustee, Trading with the Enemy Department, 2, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C., an enquiry form will be sent to any British creditor, and when the form has been duly filled in and returned, the records of the department will be searched, and any available information forwarded to the person making the enquiry.

Exact comparison between the report and accounts of the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., now issued for the year closed March 31 last and those for the previous period cannot be made because they are not coterminous, the earlier accounts having covered 15 months. That partly accounts for the decline of £329,808 shown by the profits of the past year, bringing them down to £184,558. Of this decline, however, £75,010 is due to the reduction in the balance brought forward included in the profit statement. It was only £28,185, consequently the exhibit is better than it seems, and not at all discouraging considering the troubled state of the South African Union. It seems that £175,000 had to be taken from the reserve fund to cover estimated losses in the assets taken over from the Natal Bank, Ltd., but that did not affect the profits, and the directors are again able to give the shareholders 6 per cent. upon the paid-up capital, although it is £432,420 larger at £2,782,420. This dividend, however, takes £22,277 less than that required to make the same distribution for the 15 months preceding on a smaller paid-up capital, and the balance left to carry forward is slightly higher at £30,585. For the previous period, closed March 31, 1914, £200,000 was added to the reserve and £30,000 to the pension fund, while £79,931 set down as "balance of purchase price of the late National Bank of the Orange River Colony" was obliterated from the accounts. The increase in the paid-up capital is due to the absorption of the Natal Bank, a 60 years' old institution with 33 branches. In spite of the amount written off for estimated losses in that bank's assets, the reserve fund, thanks to the addition made a year ago, is £25,000 higher at £525,000. The note circulation is also £371,000 up at £1,164,000, and liabilities on deposits, &c., are £3,548,000 larger at £20,223,422. Cash in all forms, including remittances in transit and native gold, aggregates £4,433,304, cash on hand and with bankers alone

being £844,746 up at £3,471,000. The bills discounted, loans, &c., show an increase of £2,127,000 at £13,407,000, but bills of exchange are £865,786 lower at £2,293,874. Still the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £4,736,000 higher at £28,956,753, a very substantial figure, and we hope the business will continue to flourish.

A report in English of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, whose head office is in Milan, came to hand at the end of last week, and has proved interesting and instructive. At the time when its advertisements first made their appearance in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW we had to confess absolute ignorance as to the position of this bank, and were wholly unaware of the campaign against it instituted chiefly, but not entirely, by the German and Jew-baiting type of papers in this country, papers that constantly foam at the mouth, or invite their readers to do so, at the mention of everything German. As recently as the 16th of last month, for instance, the Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* furnished his paper with some particulars about the bank conceived in the virulent strain. Among other things, he told us that it had existed hitherto at the goodwill and pleasure of the Deutsche Bank, the Allgemeine Deutsche Creditanstalt of Leipzig, and the Discontogesellschaft of Berlin. Its general manager, Commendatore Joel—doubtless a Jew, and therefore an expert financier—was "originally a German," but naturalised as an Italian and a confidential agent of the Italian Government in many of its transactions. There is nothing derogatory to the bank in all that, and even this correspondent had to admit that under cover of his Italian citizenship, and with the assistance of the other German financiers, Joel raised the Banca Commerciale, founded more than 20 years since, to a high level of power, and gradually succeeded in securing the control of most Italian limited companies of standing, of the large steamship companies, of the metal industry, and other branches of Italian commerce. This seems an exaggerated estimate of the bank's power, but it forms a solid-looking basis on which to found the charge that the bank was used entirely to develop German business connections in Italy, and as a vehicle by means of which Italy should be brought commercially and financially under the grip of the Prussian. Well, the bank has survived its severance from the German guidance and domination, and we now have the directors' report covering the year 1914, in which, alluding to this sort of attack, they say: "We were harshly accused of engaging in business which was sometimes in direct opposition to the true interests of our country. We scorn the attack, and do not inquire as to its origin or purpose. It is to be deplored on account of the possible damage it might cause to our national economy in times like the present, when we all have a supreme duty to perform towards our country, and when we are uniting all our energies to putting aside every thought of vain competition in order to direct our collective forces to the common good of all." The great majority of the bank's shareholders are Italians, and during the whole 20 years of its existence its entire energies have been centred in a large number of industries and interests purely Italian. By its constant and liberal support these concerns have attained an independence which enables them to "freely expand their respective spheres of activity." All this is good as far as it goes, and the general manager, Commendatore Joel, resigned some time ago, presumably that there might be no question of his complicity in traitorous designs against his adopted country, but the most convincing proof of the Italian character of the bank would appear to be found in the accounts and record of its business done. In spite of the war the business seems to have been good and profitable enough last year. A nett profit of £319,714 was earned, a 6 per cent. dividend paid, 7 per cent. of the profits assigned to the directors, and £15,916 left to carry forward against £16,022 brought in. Early in 1914 the capital of the bank was increased to £6,240,000 by an issue of £5,200,000 of new



money, sanctioned at the shareholders' meeting on March 28 in that year. This was a large increase, and a premium was obtained on the par value of the shares. The result was an increase in the reserve fund, which brought it up to £1,248,000. There is also an extraordinary reserve fund and a reserve for tax on the 1914 issue of shares which together amount to £1,130,800. Moreover, the bank possesses an officers' pension fund of about £465,000. As for liabilities to the public, they amounted to £6,667,383 on deposits and to £23,092,483 on current accounts, with acceptances a gross entry of £2,537,855. Besides this the bank held securities, either as collateral, as surety, or merely in custody, to the amount of £32,359,571, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet was £75,924,222. However measured, therefore, the bank looks decidedly a very powerful and trusted one, doing an extensive Italian business, and thus one that we have no more right to attack and vilify than one of our own banks at home—some of whom, by the way, were subjected to very similar maltreatment in the early stages of the war, as readers of the *Harmsworth* and other Press will doubtless remember. And whatever the Germans may have been to the bank in the past, they can never guide it or use it for their own ends again.

A little pamphlet entitled "Some Arguments for the maintenance of Voluntary Service," printed and published by the St. Clements Press, has strayed our way and deserves a frank word of welcome. Its arguments have been taken largely from articles that have appeared in the *Economist*, and those who hold similar opinions and wish to oppose conscription in every shape are requested to write to the Secretary of the Voluntary Service Association, 3, Arundel Street, Strand; W.C., enclosing a subscription of 1s. and enrolling themselves as members. Space does not permit us to go through the arguments contained in the half-dozen or so of short essays, but we can assure readers that they are both informative and cogent. One, not the least instructive, among them is entitled "The Origin of Conscription," and its perusal forced in upon the mind the essentially dishonest, because wilfully ignorant, character of the entire agitation. No one except those who did not want to know the facts, let alone the meaning, of conscription could have set going the outcry we have been deafened by during the last few months. In our Militia Acts the power already lies, without any further bill-drafting or law-making, to summon every able-bodied individual to come to the defence of the country should necessity arise. Parliament has only to abstain from suspending their operation, the King to issue an Order-in-Council, and every locality would, in the dire contingency, be bound to institute a ballot of all its inhabitants of specified age for the purpose of supplying fighting-men to the Army. There is, consequently, no use in this country for the establishment of any permanent system of forced military service, except that such might constitute the foundation for a military hierarchy formed on the Prussian model—disastrous, therefore, to individual independence and to the free growth of intellectual and spiritual life. We hope the pamphlet will be well studied.

In some respects the report of the Dominion Steel Corporation for the year ended March 31 last is about the most comforting we have received from Canada this good while back. Its nett earnings, to be sure, fell off \$871,000 to \$3,571,000, and the diminution was increased by \$16,204 additional at \$920,000 set aside for sinking funds, exhaustion of minerals, depreciation and permanent improvements, so that when interest and proportion of discount on bonds and notes sold are deducted, the \$855,257 left shows a reduction of \$999,569 on the corresponding figure for the previous year. There was also \$86,105 less at \$797,000 brought forward, so that altogether the available balance of \$1,652,000 shows a reduction of \$1,086,000. Nevertheless, the company is able to pay the dividend

on its preference shares and also the 7 per cent. on the preferred stock of the Dominion Coal Co., with \$1,022,000 left. A year ago, however, the preferred stocks of the constituent companies got their 7 per cent., and the Corporation's own common stock something between 2.5 and 2.6 per cent. The dividend on the Dominion Iron and Steel Co.'s preferred stock had also been paid, and there is consequently a considerable setback. Yet when we remember that some of the steel plants owned or controlled by the company had to be closed down, and that the Coal Co.'s business was thereby seriously curtailed, we might have seen something considerably worse without being surprised. These were not the only drawbacks, for the business of the Steel Co. was seriously disturbed throughout the year even before the war broke out, and, like every other concern dependent upon freights for the circulation of its commodities, the requisition of the company's colliers by the Admiralty seriously affected transportation. Since the war broke out business has been poor, and there has been no revival of demand in Canada, but a considerable tonnage of steel is required for war purposes, and has led to a large export trade done at advancing prices—these in turn marred, however, by the rise in freights. A full share of the current business has fallen to this company, and the outlook is accordingly cheerful. Its balance-sheet shows that nett cost of properties has been reduced by \$645,000 during the year to \$69,305,000, and with the addition made to its undistributed profits last year the total surplus is now \$2,578,000. Capital expenditure has been insignificant during the year, and the company's reserves of various descriptions have increased about \$96,000 to \$696,000. Its funded debt has shrunk by about \$1,611,000 to \$27,252,000.

A little recovery is shown by the Hudson's Bay Co. in its statement of land sales for the quarter ended June 30. Sales of farm lands amounted to 8,600 acres for £31,100, compared with 5,350 acres for £20,200 in the March quarter and 4,200 acres for £16,400 in the corresponding period of 1914. Business in town lots was considerably better than in the March quarter, producing £2,060 as against less than £100, but it was still well below the level of the June quarter of 1914, when £3,400 was realised. Receipts for the three months were £43,400, compared with £86,500 a year ago.

Another company that has done well, despite the difficulty of the times in which we live, is the General Electric Co., Ltd. The war interfered with the plans for extension, but, so far, has not affected the volume of business, the reason being that the great increase in orders from Government departments and contractors has fully offset the decrease in general trade. For the year ended March 31, therefore, the directors are able to show a further improvement of £6,948 in nett trading profits and income from investments, making them £164,877, or £19,600 more than two years ago. Moreover, the balance brought in was £4,409 up at £36,740, and the surplus available for distribution, therefore, showed an increase of £11,393. Dividends on the preference and ordinary shares are maintained at 6 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively, but, owing to the issue of £300,000 preference shares and £100,000 ordinary during the year, payment of the former requires £14,681 more, and of the latter £8,142 more. A sum of £7,482 is also set aside for war grants, but the allowance for depreciation and removal expenses has been reduced by £5,473 to £18,855, and the transfer to reserve by £10,000 to £20,000, while slightly less at £13,822 is written off the balance of issue of capital expenses. Nothing is set aside for staff benevolence against £3,000, and, after providing £9,934 for managing directors' and employees' bonus, £36,701 is carried forward. Expenditure on Kingsway site and buildings, completion of the building of which has been deferred, amounts to £39,624, and on the Carbon Works extension to £12,699, both new entries. Cash is £131,411 up at



£171,720, debtors owe £24,862 more at £544,831, and trade investments have risen by £30,286 to £334,181, while the company now has £184,144 of other investments, including £100,000 of the first War Loan at a cost of £94,289. Stock and work in progress are £72,625 down at £440,910, but the liability to sundry creditors is also £69,041 lower at £269,711. Although the great majority of the company's products are essential for war purposes, the report indicates some uncertainty in the outlook for the current year, partly owing to the enlistment of nearly one thousand of the most skilled staff and workmen, and partly to the unsettled state of the labour and raw material markets. The company, however, is in a strong position, and ought to be able comfortably to meet the difficulties it may have to face. Extensions are now being carried out to give more assistance in the supply of munitions and other war material.

The most important item in the report of the Rhodesia Railways for the year ended September 30 is the development of the mineral traffic, which showed an increase of no less than 108,207 tons at 358,944 tons in quantity, and an improvement of £40,091 to £185,758 in receipts. Unfortunately, however, there was a falling off in the higher-class traffic, such as mining machinery and imported grain and flour, and although the reduction in tonnage was only 19,164 tons the decrease in receipts amounted to £52,448 at £460,046. Construction material also yielded £11,792 less, so that the total earnings from goods were £24,150 lower at £694,888. With small declines in passengers and live stock, the total income, including £3,303 from share of profit from the lease of the line from Broken Hill to the Congo border, was £23,161 lower at £984,205, and as expenses, after deducting £29,177 or £9,998 more for hire of rolling-stock, were £13,572 heavier, the nett revenue showed a reduction of £36,732 at £557,395. Interest charges took £7,303 less, but income-tax appears this time for £22,300, and £44,357 is written off for depreciation of permanent way and rolling-stock, compared with sundry small items aggregating £4,695 a year ago. With £5,928, or £4,677 less, from sales of land, the nett surplus was £96,015 down at £225,512, but the heavy debit balance, which was reduced last year from £762,386 to £105,758, is now extinguished, and £119,754 is carried forward. Up to September 30 the Beit Railway Trust had supplied the company with some £385,000 worth of rolling-stock, which is being paid for by half-yearly instalments, and the balance-sheet shows that £69,464, or £22,862 more than a year ago, has been so paid. Current liabilities have risen by £52,014 to £179,429, and are slightly in excess of the amount due by sundry debtors, which is £82,130 up at £172,235, but the company has £209,668, or £138,012 more, with the British South Africa Co. During the first six months of the current year the company's business, like everything else, was affected by the war, and its gross revenue decreased by £117,395, while the nett earnings were £99,621 down.

Conditions on the Beira-Salisbury section of the Mashonaland Railway Co. were much the same as those noted above. There was a considerable falling off in the consignments of mining machinery, which the improvement in low-rated goods was not sufficient to counterbalance, with the result that, while the total tonnage of goods carried showed a small increase, the receipts dropped by £100,276. Construction material, too, brought in £48,565 less, and although mineral traffic rose by £15,084, the gross income showed a decrease of £136,775. A saving of £25,858 was effected in expenses, mainly because considerably less was spent on the permanent way and works, leaving the nett earnings £110,917 down at £297,273. On the Kalomo to Broken Hill section there was a further expansion of traffic in coal and coke to the Congo and in the export of copper, which was reflected by an increase of £40,209 to £166,966 in the gross receipts. At the same time, expenses only rose by

£5,448, and the nett receipts were therefore £34,761 higher at £116,116. Including rents and miscellaneous receipts the nett income from the entire system, after meeting administration charges and providing £11,244, or £5,971 less, for hire of rolling stock, was £20,947 smaller at £258,121. To this was added £42,500 for rent payable by the Beira Railway and the Beira Junction Railway, making a total of £300,621; but, on the other hand, interest charges absorbed £282,964, another £5,200 was written off discount on debentures, and £26,489 was set aside for depreciation of rolling stock, leaving a debit balance of £14,032 to be carried forward, compared with a surplus of £1,180 a year ago. Credit is taken for £22,492 added to the capital account for estimated betterment of the Kalomo-Broken Hill section, and after allowing for this the debit balance on nett revenue account is £8,460 down at £1,342,605. In addition to this charge for betterment £68,569 was spent on the property during the year, reducing the credit balance on capital account by £91,061 to £1,665,161.

War activities might have been expected to help the wireless telegraph companies, just as they have done the old cable companies, and the Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Ltd., has accordingly an excellent exhibit to make for 1914. The last five months of the year brought considerable disorganisation and some loss to the company, threw upon its staff also a great increase of work and strain, but nevertheless the result was a nett profit £18,639 larger than that of the preceding year at £55,668. From this £4,119 more at £28,000 was deducted for depreciation and debenture interest, but enough was left to enable the board, not only again to make up the dividend to 10 per cent. for the year, but to set aside £10,000 to meet losses sustained in consequence of attacks by enemy submarines, a sum "far in excess of losses to date," and then to carry forward £20,747, or £14,680 more than was brought in, besides again putting aside the regulation £3,500 to the redemption of the debentures. The company's revenue from ships' telegrams, subsidies, &c., rose by £28,704 to £175,021. Its telegraph stations owned and worked increased from 788 to 905, and the increase would have been even more satisfactory had normal conditions prevailed. During the current year further progress is being made, and the number of steamers fitted up to June 19 increased by 970. There are now over 2,000 ships, exclusive of ships of war, fitted with Marconi telegraph stations, and for the most part doing work under the direction of this company and its associated companies. It is also stated that the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Ltd., formed in 1913, in which this Marconi International Co. is interested, has paid a 4 per cent. dividend for the period to June 30, 1914, and an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. for the second half of that year. No very important changes occurred in the balance-sheet. The plant, apparatus, furniture and stores, however, rose in value by £38,483 to £252,289 during the year, debtor balances were £13,892 higher at £61,025, and cash and money lent were together down £19,961 to £46,792, while the company owed £9,604 more at £76,856 to its creditors.

At the meeting of John Brown and Co., Ltd., Lord Aberconway, the chairman, took occasion to defend his own and other armament manufacturing companies from the charges levelled against them that they make excessive profits out of Government contracts. His speech was a carefully-prepared one, and effective both in arrangement and in the facts put forward. His lordship described the agitation got up against so-called "war profits" as a very foolish one. So far as his own company was concerned, there was no truth in the charge, although in its past year, thanks to low prices and to the company being well placed for work, it had made the largest "absolute" profit ever earned in its history, and was able, in fact, to pay 12½ per cent. upon the now heavy capital. But on the



average since the company's balance-sheets were first drawn up 50 years ago the dividends earned had been just about 8 per cent., and the speaker declared that "nobody would put money in such a precarious business as an armament firm if they knew that 8 per cent. was all they were likely to get out of it." That statement may be disputable, but there is another fact which is not, and which is well worth pondering. In 1901, when the capital of the company was £2,180,000, it made a profit of £452,000, and last year, with a capital of £5,154,000, the profit was only £521,000; thus the doubling of the capital had added less than 16 per cent. to the aggregate nett profit and although 20 per cent. dividend was paid for 1901, it was bestowed upon a much smaller capital than the mass that got 12½ per cent., less tax, for the past year. Other statements, even more directly concerned with the source of profits and their fairness, were to the effect that the Government of the country gained by employing these armament firms. Had it bought them out and carried the works on itself the cost would have been a great deal more to the taxpayer than it is to-day. The mere incentive of profit produced vigilance, skill and enterprise, and, in fact, all the development of naval and military appliances during the last 50 years "came in very large proportion from the enterprise and inventive capacity of private firms." That is perfectly true, and no contention we remember was ever more effectively sustained than that advanced by the late Richard Cobden when he fought determinedly against the creation of any Government arsenal works at all. They would be a sink of public money, he said, and that, we fear, is but too true—a sink of corruption also too often. On still another point Lord Aberconway was emphatic: no failure to supply ammunition can be laid to the doors of John Brown and Co. or any of the armament firms. They did everything the Government asked them to do, and were never encouraged to do more than they had actually done. Moreover, in ordinary times "only one man out of every seven employed by the company" was occupied with Government work. It is otherwise now, no doubt, and all armament companies are working to their fullest extent in fulfilling war orders, but they are now hampered by shortage of men. Out of the 55,000 men the John Brown company employed, about 10,000 had joined the colours, and although those left behind had risen to the occasion and were doing their utmost, the pressure of work must tend to be excessive. As regards those who have gone to fight or otherwise serve the Government in the field, the company is now paying something like £20,000 a year towards their dependents, and Lord Aberconway is quite right in thinking that shareholders will approve of that liberality. Altogether the speech was a most instructive one, which Labour leaders and others will doubtless do their best to master the meaning of—and to clash against where they can.

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co. did exceedingly well during the year ended December 31, although business in the tramways department during the last five months of the year was seriously affected by the shrinkage of the city's export and import trade caused by the war. Gross receipts, however, were only £787 down at £169,885, but as working expenses were £4,174 up, the nett earnings of this branch showed a reduction of £4,961 at £84,587. This decrease was much more than made good by the expansion in the electric supply department, where the gross revenue improved by £27,203 to £132,669. Expenses rose by £9,450 to £55,734, giving a nett surplus of £76,935, or £17,753 more, and the result would have been even better had conditions been normal. Nett profits of the whole undertaking were £157,583, or an increase of £12,010, which was equivalent to 8.25 per cent. Interest charges were rather heavier, and an extra £3,500 at £27,000 is transferred to depreciation fund, while £2,303 is set aside for the provident fund established on January 1, 1914, and after transferring the usual £8,000 to the

redemption fund for second debentures, the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 6 per cent., leaving £8,327 to be carried forward as against £4,350 brought in. During the year a further £46,461 was spent on capital account, making a total of £1,885,476, exclusive of the £115,342 still carried in the balance-sheet for balance of cost of old horse tramways, and £158,912 for underwriting and other expenses connected with share and debenture issues, both of which it would be more satisfactory to see eliminated from the balance-sheet. Investments show a small increase of £3,580 at £66,237, debtors owe £8,314 more at £28,956, and cash is £16,525 up at £22,593, against which £62,795, or £53,211 more, is due to bankers, but sundry creditors are £12,084 down at £56,317. Depreciation account is £23,135 up on balance at £113,403, while the sinking fund for capital redemption comes to £57,198, or £15,502 more. Referring to the question of increasing the capital, for which arrangements were in progress in July last year, the directors say that the proposed issue of ordinary shares in December had to be postponed owing to the closing of the Stock Exchanges. In March last, however, an extraordinary general meeting was held for the purpose of authorising an issue of 12,000 ordinary shares of £10 each, which were offered to the preference and ordinary shareholders at £12 12s. per share in the proportion of one share for every 10 held, and 9,520 were taken up. A further offer is now made to these shareholders to apply for additional shares in the proportion of one share for every six held. Out of the proceeds of those issued, the bank overdraft has been repaid, and the directors say that with the funds now in hand, the financial position is thoroughly satisfactory.

Heavily over-capitalised at the outset, the distillery business of John Robertson and Son, Ltd., Dundee, has dragged out a precarious existence since 1896. For the period to December, 1897, the ordinary shares, which were all taken by the vendors, got 7½ per cent. per annum, and between that time and 1908 they received 2½ per cent. per annum on five occasions, but since July 1, 1908, the company has not been able to meet even its preference dividend, and the debit balance has steadily grown until by the end of 1914 it had reached about £55,000. So hopelessly waterlogged is the concern that in order to bring the capital down to the real value of the assets the directors propose to write off no less than 90 per cent. At present the capital is £250,000, half in preference and half in ordinary shares of £10 each, and the directors ask the

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shareholders to sanction the cancellation of £9 per share on both classes and the sub-division of the ordinary shares into 5s. shares. If the scheme is adopted the preference shares will receive one £1 preference and three 5s. ordinary shares for each £10 preference share and the ordinary shareholders one 5s. share for each £10 ordinary share. The sacrifice demanded looks a heavy one on paper, but under existing conditions the shares are practically valueless, and the drastic scaling down may enable the company to prosper in a modest fashion.

As the report of the South African Breweries, Ltd., says, the conduct of the company's business during the year ended March 31 entailed great difficulty. The large proportion of the male population engaged on active service naturally curtailed sales, while the higher income-tax levy, increased cost of freight and raw material, &c., seriously affected the trading accounts. No one, therefore, will be surprised to find that gross profits, after setting aside £2,193 less at £29,659 for depreciation and including slightly more at £17,562 from dividends, interest, &c., were £39,720 down at £215,610, the nett being £39,282 smaller at £206,597. Out of this £6,943 against £1,000 was provided for balance of income-tax, while no less than £15,526, compared with only £4,730 in the previous year, had to be set aside to meet the decline in investments. The transfer to reserve is maintained at £20,000, but the ordinary dividend is reduced by 5 per cent. to 12½ per cent., and even then the directors had to draw on the balance brought in to the extent of £6,532, leaving £32,657 to be carried forward. Property and goodwill account is £5,795 down at £1,638,123, £5,000 of the decrease being due to loss on cancellation of licence, while trade investments show a decrease of £5,250 at £175,252, the two accounts aggregating £1,813,375, or £11,045 less. Against this there is a reserve of £686,500, and a special reserve against trade investments of £38,775. Plant, machinery, tools, live stock, &c., are valued at £213,247, or £13,763 less than a year ago. Trade loans and mortgages have been reduced by £16,362 to £294,090, and stocks of beer, stout, malt, &c., by £33,897 to £174,409. Foreign Government, municipal, and railway stocks and bonds have fallen off £14,326 in market value, and only amount to £112,044, but cash has risen by £76,030 to £123,362. Sundry liabilities remain much the same at £48,387.

Judging by the recently-issued report of the South Brazilian Railways Co., Ltd., which covers the year ended March 31, 1914, the directors had quite enough to occupy their minds without having to bear the additional strain doubtless caused by the outbreak of war in Europe. During 1913-14 the company's results were seriously affected by the political and financial crisis in Brazil, and the development of the various undertakings was considerably retarded. Gross earnings from the tramways amounted to £28,056, and from the light and power section to £47,896, while working expenses absorbed £53,512, leaving nett earnings of £22,440, a sum which fell short of the amount required to meet debenture and war interest and general expenses in Europe by no less than £29,454. The directors, however, retain their opinion that with the return of normal conditions the company will reveal its ability to deal with a considerably larger volume of business than that shown in 1913-14 without any important increase in expenses. One cheering item, at least, is given in the report, and that is the table illustrating the rapid increase in the light and power connections during the year. For instance, the candle-power installed for private lighting has risen 31 per cent. and that for public lighting 33 per cent., while the number of power consumers has increased 60 per cent. and the number of h.p. contracted for 93 per cent. Meanwhile, the directors have been unable to provide funds to meet the last two coupons due on the debentures, and application has been made to the Court to sanction a scheme of arrangement which,

it is hoped, will, at the same time, protect the interest of debenture-holders and other creditors, and give the undertaking time to consolidate its business. Moreover, an extension of the loans granted in respect of the amounts outstanding at the close of the financial year has been asked for and new loans have had to be contracted to meet the company's liabilities. These loans are secured by debentures, at present unplaced, together with an option on such debentures and upon certain 6 per cent. preference shares and second mortgage debentures to be eventually issued. In the balance-sheet we note that £18,074 has been spent during the year on the tramway undertaking and £20,540 on the light and power undertaking, raising the total cost of the first to £424,811 and of the second to £454,081. Loans from bankers show an increase of £82,318 at £128,000.

A very good year indeed was enjoyed by the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., in its first twelvemonth under the enlarged form. During its year which closed on April 30th last, the capital was increased by £1,030,000, and now amounts to £1,880,000 paid up, there being still £520,000 of the 7 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares unissued and needed to fill up the total nominal capital of £2,400,000. Naturally, such a large mass of new money would be expected to augment the profits, and does, although not to the full extent which may be looked for in future years. Altogether the nett income is set down at £377,199, or £79,585 more than that of the preceding year. Out of this the 7 per cent. preference dividends are paid, there being both a cumulative and a non-cumulative 7 per cent. preference share, and the ordinary capital gets 20 per cent., all less income-tax. This 20 per cent. takes £66,125 more than a 35 per cent. dividend did upon the ordinary capital in existence the previous year, but the ordinary capital now amounts to £900,000, and then it was only £300,000. A year ago, however, there was £50,000 in deferred capital, and that got a dividend of 158 1-5 per cent., equal to £79,100. Were this reckoned in, the 20 per cent. dividend for last year now paid on an ordinary capital of £900,000 would take about £13,000 less than the ordinary and deferred dividend payments together on £350,000 a year ago. Out of the balance £100,000 is placed to reserve, and the amount left to carry forward is reduced by £37,755 to £54,162. No particulars about the business are contained in the report, which merely tells us that expenditure for allowances to families and dependents of the company's employees who became soldiers, together with subscriptions to hospital and war funds and war bonuses, took £7,664 last year, and we fear it will take more still in the current year; but the company is so prosperous that we may be quite sure neither the board nor the shareholders will grumble at the charge. As the company was reshaped and enlarged in July last, it is impossible to compare the present figures of the balance-sheet with those that have gone before, but the position looks serene enough.

Wonderfully good business was done by the Mauritius Estates and Assets Co., Ltd., in its year ended March 31. The company's sugar realised an average price of Rs. 11.62 per cental, compared with Rs. 6.97 in the previous year, and as a result gross profits rose by no less than £91,588 to £250,206. Unfortunately, very high prices had to be paid for planters' canes, and all working costs were increased by higher prices of labour and provisions, the expenditure on sugar estates and on canes together showing an advance of £36,525 at £181,533. For all that, however, the directors were able to write off the entire expenditure on machinery and plant of the previous year as well as the present, absorbing £30,454 against £2,048, and still to keep £31,186, or £25,897 more, as nett profits. Out of this they pay debenture interest, and in addition to meeting the debit of £7,617 brought in, distribute 5 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders and carry forward £1,254 to the current year's



accounts. Special resolutions were passed during the year sanctioning the arrangement made with the holders of 4 per cent. debenture stock, cancelling the article which limited to 5 per cent. the dividend payable to the shareholders, so that, now all adverse balances have been wiped out, the shareholders may well look for even better returns on their money. The stock of sugar and molasses is £16,250 up at £22,254, and cash has risen £8,853 to £11,063, but advances to planters have been reduced by £3,511 to £1,919, while sundry liabilities are £9,547 larger at £13,796. The company possesses a depreciation fund of £10,000 for redemption of debenture stock, which amounts to £330,000.

### The Summons to be "Thrifty."

Impressive and eloquent speeches were delivered at the Guildhall on Tuesday afternoon by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in furtherance of "bumper" subscriptions to the new loan. They will powerfully stimulate "subscriptions." In his usual lucid manner, Mr. Asquith first contrasted the frightful cost of the present conflict with that of the long struggle waged by our ancestors during the French Revolution. They, he said, spent £800,000,000 to vindicate, as we are vindicating to-day, the freedom of Europe. [This, it may be said in passing, was the amount borrowed; the real total national expenditure probably exceeded £1,000,000,000, taxes having contributed the balance.] To-day our expenditure approaches £1,000,000,000 for the current year, and for weeks and months to come we are likely to incur liabilities to the amount of something like £3,000,000 a day, while our daily revenue from taxation works out at less than £750,000 per day. Hence the necessity for an enormous supply of lent money and the urgency that it should constitute a fund steadily contributed to by the whole mass of the people. "My text," said the Prime Minister, "the text of all those who will take part in this loan propaganda, is a very simple one:—Waste on the part of individuals or of classes, which is always foolish and short-sighted, is in these times nothing short of a national danger." That is perfectly true; true also is it that in order to contribute to the loan, private expenditure must be reduced wherever possible. Here is, in Mr. Asquith's own words, a sketch of what is demanded of us:—

"Then it follows by a process of exhaustion that there remains only one course which can be adopted without adding to the necessary destruction and dislocation caused by the war a permanent source of impoverishment of this country. What is that course? It is one we have come here to advocate and to press upon our fellow-countrymen—to diminish our expenditure and to increase our savings. (Cheers.) I put before you two very simple propositions. The first is this: If you save more you can lend to the State more, and the nation will be proportionately enabled to pay for the war out of its own pocket. (Hear, hear.) And the second proposition, equally simple and equally true, is this: If you spend less you either reduce the cost and volume of our imports or you leave a larger volume of commodities available for export. The state of the trade balance between ourselves and other countries at this moment affords ground, I do not say for anxiety, but for serious thought. If you look at the Board of Trade returns for the first five months at the end of May of the present year you will find, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, that our imports have increased by 35½ millions, while our exports and re-exports have decreased by 73½ millions. What does that mean? It means a total addition in five months to our indebtedness to other countries of nearly 110 millions. And if that rate was to continue until we reached the end of a completed year the indebtedness would rise to over 260 millions. That is a serious problem, and I want to ask you and those outside how can that tendency be counteracted. The answer is a

very simple one—by reducing all unnecessary expenditure—(cheers)—first, of imported goods, familiar illustrations are tea, tobacco, wine, sugar, petrol. I might easily add to the list. That would mean we should have to buy less from abroad; and next, as regards goods which are made at home—you can take as an illustration beer—setting a larger quantity free for export, which means that we have more to sell abroad and enabling Capital and Labour here at home to be more usefully and profitably applied. (Hear, hear.)

"That may seem a rather dry and technical argument—(laughter)—but it goes to the root of the whole matter, and if you ask me to state the result in a sentence it is this—all the money that is spent in these days on superfluous comforts or luxuries, whether in the shape of goods or in the shape of services, means the diversion of energy which could be better employed in the national interest, either in supplying the needs of our fighting forces in the field or in making commodities for export, which would go to reduce our indebtedness abroad. (Hear, hear.) On the other hand, every saving we make by the curtailment and limitation of unproductive expenditure increases the resources which could be put by our people at the disposal of the State for the triumphant vindication of our cause. (Cheers.) I said our cause. That, after all, is the summary and conclusion of the whole matter. We are making here in this United Kingdom and throughout the Empire a great national and Imperial effort, unique, supreme. The recruiting of soldiers and sailors, the provision of munitions, the organisation of our industries, the practice of economy, the avoidance of waste, the accumulation of an adequate war fund, the mobilisation of all our forces, moral, material, personal—all these are contributory and convergent streams which are directed to, and concentrated upon, one unifying end, one absorbing and governing purpose. It is not merely with us a question of self-preservation, of safeguarding against hostile design and attack the fabric which has withstood so many storms of our corporate and national life. That in

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itself, by itself, and for itself would suffice to justify all our diverse yet concordant endeavours. But there is something even larger and worthier at stake in this great testing trial of our people. (Hear, hear.) There is not a man or woman among us, if he or she is touched even in the faintest degree to a sense of the higher issues which now hang in the balance, who has not during this last year become growingly conscious that in the order of Providence we here have been entrusted with the guardianship of interests and ideals which stretch far beyond the shores of these islands—(hear, hear)—beyond even the confines of our widespread Empire, which concern the whole future of humanity. (Cheers.) Is right or is force to dominate mankind? (Cheers.) Comfort, prosperity, luxury, a well-fed and securely sheltered existence, not without the embellishment and consolations of art and literature, and perhaps some conventional type of religion—all these we can purchase at a price; but at what a price! At the sacrifice of what makes life, national or personal, alone worth living. (Hear, hear.) My Lord Mayor and citizens of London, we are not going to make that sacrifice. (Cheers.) Rather than make it we shall fight to the end—(cheers)—to the last farthing of our money, to the last ounce of our strength, to the last drop of our blood. (Loud cheers.)”

Before saying anything about the economics of this eloquent appeal, we must also give readers a specimen of Mr. Bonar Law's platform eloquence, because it is excellent in itself, and likewise because of the generous terms in which the speaker referred to our Allies. In our self-absorption we are too apt to forget these Allies, without whose help our position on the Continent would be indeed forlorn. France, Russia and Italy are all putting us every day increasingly under obligations to their heroic and steadfast loyalty in the cause of the liberty dear to us all. We *must* fight on, indeed, as the Prime Minister said; there is no alternative unless force is to rule the world. Mr. Law said:—

“We are in the midst of the greatest and the most dangerous struggle in which this nation has ever been engaged. Until a short time ago there was, I think, a feeling of optimism in this country greater than the circumstances justified—(hear, hear)—and I am inclined to think that now, in some quarters at least, there is a feeling of pessimism which is just as little justified. (Hear, hear.) Our enemies have shown, and are showing, a strength, a resourcefulness, and an energy in every direction which, in a better cause and with more human, rather than humane, methods, would win the admiration of the world. But the resources which are on the side of the Allies are greater far than any which our enemies can command. (Hear, hear.) We are proud of those Allies. (Cheers.) The latest of them to join the league of freedom—Italy—(loud cheers)—has thrown her weight into the scale at a time when that weight was needed, and is proving most effective. Our French comrades from the beginning of the war have shown, and are showing now, a courage, dash, and a tenacity which were not surpassed even by soldiers of the Revolution, of whom it was said that on bread and iron they could march to China. Our Russian Allies have suffered severely at the hands of our enemies; but their courage is unabated. (Cheers.) Their armies are unbroken, and the attempt to conquer Russia, which ruined Napoleon, will not be successfully made by Germany. (Hear, hear.) But, although we are proud of our Allies, we must trust to ourselves. When this war broke out the two chief contributions which were expected from this country were the command of the sea and our financial resources, and neither has failed us. (Cheers.) Our Navy has swept the seas—(cheers)—and in spite of the new form of blockade—(laughter)—our sea routes are still kept open, our commerce is going on, and thus the sinews of war, which are as vital as ammunition, are being increased by those means in this country. But in the past nations, like ourselves, whose power depended upon the sea and upon commerce, have gone down before a military power such as is threatening us

to-day. But they have gone down because the spirit and the valour of their people were sapped by luxury, and the men of those nations were not prepared to defend their possessions with their own blood. (Hear, hear.)”

And “hear, hear” say we all, in grim determination to see the thing through. To say a word running in the least degree counter to such cogent appeals as these is a hard task indeed, and yet it is necessary to point out that the Prime Minister's appeal to the people to cut down the consumption of such dutiable articles as tea, tobacco, wine, sugar and petrol cuts both ways, nay, cuts several ways. In proportion as the consumption of these is reduced the revenue diminishes and the necessity to borrow increases, and in like manner the markets open to our producers are for the time being restricted. That these are dilemmas there is no getting over, for since borrow we must, the course the Prime Minister recommends appears to be the only one open to us—unless “thrift” can be extended in meaning towards other directions. To reduce outlay upon the necessities, or universally consumed luxuries, of life is doubtless an effective step in itself, but alone it is insufficient to square with the magnitude of our necessities, and we should be glad if in the course of this campaign other kinds of thrift were described and pressed home. There is, for example, first of all—vigilance in supervising all expenditure, especially all Government expenditure. In the hurry of preparing for a campaign or carrying it on, the tendency invariably is to throw money away. Of the £3,000,000 provided, or to be provided, every day for the campaign now in progress it might very easily be that from one-fourth to one-fifth would prove to be absolute waste, and under old-fashioned habits the waste might rise to one million in three. Amongst all the committees which have been gathered round the heads of the State to assist them in undergoing the most exacting toil and in bearing the heaviest responsibilities ever placed on men's shoulders is there such a thing as one committee of expert accountants whose work it is to check all bills, compare all prices, and see to it that overcharges do not occur? We have very substantial reason for asking this question, and hope that amidst all his zealous energy in screwing up the labour of the nation to perform its duty in furnishing enough killing material to the troops Mr. Lloyd George will not forget the almost equally imperative necessity of keeping the spending departments well under control. That is one kind of thrift which, well exercised, might do more to lessen the burden of debt this war is going to impose on the British Empire than all that people can do by cultivating abstinence in the interests of liberty, after a style that increases the debt while diminishing the fertility of the taxes.

And there is yet another form of “thrift” which can be exercised most effectually by those in high places whose establishments might be reduced to a greater or less extent, according to the scale of magnificence hitherto maintained, and without in the least causing discomfort to them or to anybody. This sort of thrift is no doubt being already exercised now by the more high-minded and enlightened of our aristocracy and plutocracy; but the majority of the upper or wealthy ranks in the country is not perhaps describable by these adjectives, and it may be necessary to remind some among them more pointedly of their duty. To illustrate what we mean, let the reader accept and ponder over the following quotation from a little book called “Frederic the Great and Kaiser Joseph,” written by Mr. Harold Temperley, and published this year, although, apparently, it is not really a book called into existence by the war. As Mr. Temperley explains in his preface, the study had its origin nearly five years ago in the Record Office. There he found some unpublished despatches from Berlin and Vienna of the years 1776-1779, and with the help of this material he put together what is really an excellent and most instructive book, all the more instructive that it had no war purpose behind it. And this is what Mr. Temperley says when speaking about Joseph II., Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, son of a much



grander and sorely tried mother, Maria Theresa. Joseph found his empire in a mass of debt, and he set to work vigorously to remedy this state of affairs, so that in the ten years during which he was co-Regent he completely renovated its finances:—"To obtain this result Joseph had subjected the Court to the most rigid economies, had handed over 20,000,000 gulden of his private fortune, and pledged his numerous estates in Bohemia, Moravia, Austria and Hungary, finally even his Duchy of Teschen, to support the credit of the State. By these means the interest on the State debt was reduced from a 6 and 5 to a 4 per cent. average, and at last credit and expenditure actually balanced one another. It can hardly be denied that these measures, and these measures alone, saved the State from bankruptcy, and that this inestimable boon was due to Joseph more than to anyone else."

Here is an example worthy of universal imitation by the high-placed in the United Kingdom. It would seem to be unnecessary to labour the point further just at present. We should only remind those great ones of the land, and the Press which expresses their opinions, that they would do well not to rail at the "poor," or the patronise them or to drown them in "good advice," for the humble are on the way to be our masters. What are the great landowners going to do to deal thriftily with their land?

### Insolvent Enemies.

Let us turn for this once from the gory side of war, and also try to forget the rising tide of resentment against our own War Office and, above all, against Lord Kitchener, who, according to Sir Arthur Markham, is "treating the people of this country like Dervishes." He and other great ones of the hour will have their day and cease to be, even like us all, and probably enough most of the fine work Lord Kitchener was called upon to do, and did, has been already almost completed, so that his future services might be specialised and a civilian member of the House of Commons placed, with greater constitutional propriety, at the head of the War Office. But let us pass all this by, and cease for a moment to pore over these arid bulletins from the seat of war, telling of bombardments here, assaults there, captures of that trench or "sector," loss of this other, and the number of machine guns and men lost. We are for ever forgetting that—except in Galicia, where the Russians are carefully and methodically retreating before the hordes of the foe—the war is a series of sieges, and therefore slow; all too slow for our eager expectations. We keep looking for great manœuvres, telling strokes of strategy, huge battles, and, none emerging out of the trench welter, hastily conclude that no progress has been, or is being, made.

In reality the progress has been great, and the Teutons are beaten. Every one of the goals they set out to reach eleven months ago have been denied to them, and the very best they could now hope for would be to reach "stalemate." But they will be denied that also. Listen to what the Tsar says in his latest, and most inspiring, message to his peoples. Does it not ring true? Are not its intimations of respect for and trust in the co-operation of the peoples through their representatives full of encouragement not only for Russia and all the nationalities within that great empire, but for the Allies every one. No betrayal, no defection is to be feared in that quarter, as witness the following extract from the Rescript:—

"The enemy must be crushed, for without that peace is impossible. With firm faith in the inexhaustible strength of Russia, I anticipate that the governmental and public institutions, Russian industry, and all the faithful sons of the Fatherland, without distinction of ideas and classes, will work together in harmony to satisfy the needs of our valiant Army. This is the only and, henceforth, the national problem to which must be directed all the thoughts of united Russia, invincible in her unity. Having formed, for the discussion of questions of supplying the Army, a Special Commission

in which members of the Legislative Chambers and representatives of industry participate, I recognise the necessity, in consequence, of advancing the date of the re-opening of these Legislative bodies in order to hear the voice of the country. Having decided that the sessions of the Duma and the Council of the Empire shall be resumed in the month of August at the latest, I rely on the Council of Ministers to draw up according to my indications the Bills necessitated by a time of war."

To Russia, to France, to Italy, to ourselves, is the affliction, but all are resolved to meet it with steadfast loyalty, in harmonious efforts. To beat down the foe is undeniably exhausting. Precious lives in tens and hundreds of thousands are being sacrificed to preserve freedom, or to bestow it on peoples who have long borne the weight of pitiless tyranny. We know from the frank expositions of the financial position our Government bestows upon us from time to time, how terrible the mere money cost is. But do the two Germanic empires escape a similar strain, the consequences of their crimes? Are they not being ground to dust, crumbling as upstanding, live powers under the appalling cost of the war they initiated, schemed for, laboured long for and refused to forego? They are. Their condition to-day must be far worse than that of any one of the allied nations they are now wasting all that remains of their manhood upon. Take the following testimony of a Berlin banker high in finance, given to M. Maurice Strauss, by whom it was communicated to *l'Information*, of Paris, one of the most authoritative journals of its kind in Europe. We have never said anything stronger than this banker. We quote from the translation sent over by the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*:—

"Even if we win, we are ruined. The money which is in circulation is fictitious. I do not mean that the Reichsbank paper money is valueless. But how are you to determine this value? On what basis can you fix it? In England gold circulates; in France it is hidden away by the private citizen. Here in Germany, it is the Government which has taken possession of it. Nilly-willy, it had to be given up. At the beginning of the war the Government gave out that it would pay all its purveyors in gold. It was so. Then those who had received this gold were made to understand that they must pay it into the Reichsbank if they expected a continuance of Government orders. How were they to refuse? They had no option. In these troublous times you must work for the military or not at all. In a word, all the gold in the country has gone to swell the war treasure. What has been done with it? Here is the *Continental Times*, a journal written in English by Germans. It is distributed in Berlin among the hotels, and is intended for the use of Americans, to console them for the absence of English newspapers. Look at this little article. The author tries to show that the financial situation in France is as bad as possible. Who will believe such stuff? Take the *Berliner Tageblatt* (June 4). Look at this: The German military authorities in Belgium announce that one year's imprisonment and a fine of £400 will be inflicted on any person who buys a French banknote at more than its face value. Our stratagems to hide our real financial situation are very childish. In March the loan was covered. Another is spoken of. It will be covered, too, of course. But how? The Darlehnskassen (loan banks) advance up to 90 per cent. on each subscription. If, therefore, the public has subscribed seven milliards, it will in reality only have contributed 700 millions (marks). It has no more gold. These 700 millions will be paper—notes issued by the Reichsbank, and whose value is only maintained abroad by the exportation of our gold. How long shall we be able to keep up that game? The munitions question is, I grant, important, but less so than the gold question."

This is not idle vapouring, the outpourings of a pessimist. What is here recorded must be far short of all the truth, as anybody may realise who tries to calculate what the great combined *Razzia* now in pro-



gress against the Russians must be costing. Assume that there have been 4,000,000 of men engaged in that campaign of enraged despair. At 10s. per diem per man, all in, that would mean an expense of £14,000,000 per week, but the real money cost—cheap human life not counted—is probably much more than 10s. per fighting man per day. Unprecedented quantities of the weightiest and most costly kinds of ammunition have been expended, the expenses incident to the maintenance of supplies have from the first been stupendous, and now increase with every yard of advance. It is therefore probably no excessive estimate to place the costs of this one wing of the tremendous Austro-German onslaught at nearer £3,000,000 than £2,000,000 a day, or, say, to be moderate, at from £17,500,000 to £20,000,000 per week. How long can the middle-Empires stand a drain like that? They cannot stand it now; they are fighting as the cleaned-out gambler at Monte Carlo plays—recklessly, knowing that they are ruined, hoping against hope for “a run of luck,” beholding suicide ahead as the appropriate finale.

And the Galician campaign against Russia is only one of the yawning open drains through which all that remains of German wealth, actual or potential, is being poured out. All the chances of amassing wealth throughout a future of 100 years is being sacrificed at the cost now of the long engulfed or suppressed nations blighted by Prussian domination. For eleven months now the siege war has raged in France and Belgium; for more than one month it has developed increasing wealth-devouring energy on the frontiers of Italy; and for full half a year the suborned Turkish upheaval has consumed German capital. How much, guess you, may it have footed up to all this waste of material? “To the merest nothing,” insinuate the sycophants of Berlin. “Look how much gold we have even now; behold how we have plundered and used the metallurgical establishments of France and Belgium; how we have ‘lived upon’ their territories. They are paying for this war, or for most of it.” Such are the insinuations and hints. They are just lies, lies almost without qualification. On a moderate estimate, we believe the cost of the war in France and Belgium alone, together with the cost of the fleet, its submarines and the Zeppelins or other instruments of life and wealth destruction, has not fallen much short of £1,000,000,000 to Germany and Austria together since the war began. Add in the other expenses mentioned, and we may contemplate a mass of irretrievable insolvency rising toward three thousand million pounds sterling. Can the war go on much longer under the embarrassment the swelling up indebtedness imposes? M. Yves Guyot says, “Another two months will see it ended.” We have become cautious in prophecy, and there are apparently millions of Teutons yet willing and waiting to be killed for Hohenzollern and Hapsburg. But the facts point definitely to an early collapse. It is not unlikely to be a sudden collapse, is almost sure to be that when it does come, and if we use all diligence in consuming the human material thrown against our ranks and trenches the day of retribution cannot be now far off.

### The Sphinx and the Questioners.

Undeniably an increasingly acute feeling of depression is beginning to pervade the country regarding the position of affairs at the seat of war in Flanders. We always combat this feeling, insisting on the optimistic side, and remain still convinced that in the long run righteousness and liberty must triumph. It is impossible to imagine such a state of things prevailing over Europe as is implied in Prussian domination and “kultur.” All Europe cannot be turned into an Alsace-Lorraine, of that we are sure. Our troops to a man have the same conviction, and fight like the heroes they are; but the foe is tough and well gunned and cunningly entrenched, and victory is harder, much harder, to attain than we thought. Nevertheless this is overlooked, and influences in plenty are causing the

public mind to become imbued with a pessimism as unreasoning as was the previous optimism, but none the less tending to paralyse effort, and, unhappily, the present Coalition Government is not always doing as much as was expected of it to dissipate the gloom. It is doing its best and hardest though, and we must back it up in spite of the perplexing incidents which arise, as it were, in spite of us.

There was, for example, that episode at question time in the Commons on Monday afternoon. Sir Arthur Markham, a very zealous patriot and most honourable man, much less of a “crank” than officialdom would allow, asked the Prime Minister to disclose to the country his authority for making that statement of his at Newcastle-on-Tyne to the effect that “neither our Allies nor ourselves were hampered by our failure to provide ammunition.” Was it Lord Kitchener or any other official of the War Office who told him this, queried Sir Arthur, repeating a question asked a week before, asked but not pressed, by Lord Hugh Cecil, and Mr. Asquith again begged to be excused from answering, pleading that “it was most undesirable to raise, in the interests of the Army and the campaign, any such query.” Probably from the point of view of the Government, the War Office, and the heads of the Army, the Prime Minister could assume no other attitude. He had to keep silence and bear all the blame, as is invariably the lot of the mere politician when it is a question of screening the permanent Services, some high-placed functionary, or colleague. But the country is not in sympathy with the Government over this incident. The humble citizen who is called upon to pay and to save in order to lend his all to help to meet the costs of the war—a war that so far, to his eyes, has brought on land neither the promised success nor the prospects of immediate success—sees that Mr. Asquith was proved to have been grossly misinformed at Newcastle, and that the much-abused Lord Northcliffe was right. He is bewildered by a sudden reversal of the Government's imperturbable optimism, which has been replaced all of a sudden and at Lord Northcliffe's summons, by a feverish energy in organising the entire nation into ammunition-producers in order that our now huge Army may be equipped and at last put into the field to fight. What is the plain citizen to think of a right-about-face of this kind, if not that it must be the result of incompetence in high places, if not of over-confidence? Because of legitimate doubts, in fact, Mr. Asquith's silence contributes not only to the screening of the guilty, but may lead up to the punishment of the wrong man. The entire incident is full of disquieting significance, and had not the Harmsworth attack upon the Government and its supineness in the matter of providing shot and shell been marred by a virulent assault on the character and administration of Lord Kitchener—the Harmsworths' own idol or fetish when the war began—it is by no means improbable that the wrath the disclosure excited would have turned the Government out, punished the innocent *en masse*, and left the real culprits scathless.

As mere journalist we have never taken much part in deification of any particular Minister, never helped to make any fellow-man into a super-excellent creature proper to be worshipped. Equally have we tried to be careful to unduly depreciate no one. But here again it is useless to feign ignorance of stories coming home from the front—not through censored letters, for the censorship is just as rigorous against information that would be for our good as against what might be supposed to help the enemy, but gossip about slackness and *insouciance*, not to say incompetence in high places—never, though, against the mere fighting “detail.” Mr. Tennant is quite right in denouncing with indignation all slanders against him, but the real aim is against men high placed. What emerges in the gossip of General This and Captain That, of Corporal Sniper, or of their wives, cousins and aunts, unquestionably suggest conflict behind the scenes between—God knows who. And the costs run to £3,000,000 a day or over.



Mr. Asquith's beguiled complacency was rudely shattered by the complaint from headquarters in Flanders made to the nation through the military correspondent of the *Times*, and the fact that all the world got to know what was wrong by this round-about and totally irregular channel is taken to indicate want of discipline. No wonder people grow despondent, but there is no more to be said upon that point. We may all be mistaken. What, however, looks clear is that if all had been well in the permanent Services—so extremely costly, so continually multiplying in cost—it would not have been through the columns of the *Times* or any other newspaper, but through direct pressure upon the Parliamentary executive, that the shortage of ammunition grievance would have been remedied. How can a nation be otherwise than dispirited when it sees such episodes happening, beholds a Government suddenly whirled round by a newspaper disclosure, and converted into strenuous advocates of a vigorous ammunition-providing policy, which a day or two before it denounced as uncalled for, purring sweetly, "all is well, we are doing first-rate," at the moment when the leader at the front was inferentially in such utter despair as to be driven to Lord Northcliffe for help? The inference to be drawn from all this is something too disagreeable to think of, and the perplexity is intensified by Mr. Asquith's silence. Well, we shall trust him, and hope that before long all may be clear as day. So long as failure and incompetence are never screened nothing matters so much.

Meantime, though, everything which comes trickling through from the front more or less tends to deepen the bad impression actually pervading the public mind and throwing the City and its Stock Exchange into the depths of despondency, our brave fighting men are not maligned or misrepresented, but their leaders would seem to be, else why that gossip about "a staff" of some 200 to help Sir John French in controlling his 31 miles of front, while General Joffre manages his 400 odd miles with about 40 helpers? Why all the unsavoury tales about cohorts of fashionable ladies at St. Ouen and supernumerary staff officers who pass their time in playing tennis? That kind of talk goes on now everywhere to the great detriment of the Army and the vexation of the people at home, and cannot be unknown to the Ministry. It will have to show more courage in being frank if the people, especially the working classes, are to be prevented from nurturing gloomy opinions.

It is useless to try to wrap up in fine glowing words, flaming outbursts of fervid patriotism, grumbles and doubts. The Ministry must face the facts and apply the remedies like men. Probably great things are at hand, probably another great effort of the Germans to reach the coast may be impending. Perhaps we and our Allies are only holding back to make sure. If not, why not be frank about it all?

Nothing, moreover, that is visibly happening in the Dardanelles has as yet come to relieve the sense of disappointment and gloom, although we believe that the progress there is great and steady, making for victory. That says little, the reader may think, but everywhere it is a siege warfare we are waging, a case of wearing the foe out and down. Have we worn down the Germans in our segment of the long Western frontier? Yes, we have; not so thoroughly and effectually as the French have done along their long line, but still we have consumed them by tens of thousands, destroying their finest troops, and go on consuming them. The French, though, seem to be doing better than us at the moment, and we must never forget that they made a clean sweep of their incompetent generals early in the war—shot some of them—while we have done neither the one nor the other, have only "retired" one or two now and then on half-pay, generously giving other proved failures another and yet another chance. But surely the Ministry knows all this much better than we do. Would it not be well, then, just to trust it a little

longer until the effect of the more munitions policy and most likely of impending further changes has had time to be made manifest? Yes, we trust—but it must speak out.

## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Special interest was taken in the meeting of the Lobitos Oilfields, held this week, in view of the persistent rumours which have cropped up from time to time of the sale of the property to one or other of the big corporations. The chairman, however, definitely put an end to these by stating that, although he would not say that there had been no informal suggestions made for purchase, amalgamation, or alliance, he had no proposals to lay before the shareholders. The company would continue to go on developing its business on the lines hitherto successfully pursued, and if proposals were made which in the directors' opinion would be distinctly to the advantage of the shareholders to accept they would be brought before them. Dealing with the company's position and prospects, the chairman took a very hopeful view. The output for May, he said, constituted a record, exceeding 8,000 tons for the first time, and the production for the first five months of the current year amounted to 37,193 tons, compared with 32,964 tons for the corresponding period of 1914, and as the company had contracts running which would take all the increased production, the outlook was satisfactory. Since the closing of the accounts advantage had been taken of an exceptional opportunity to acquire 3,200 acres, part of which lay contiguous to lands which had already been proved to be rich in oil. The price paid was a very moderate one, and had been met out of the ordinary resources of the company.

**BIDOR RUBBER.**—This company suffered in several ways from the war during its year ended March 31. For several weeks tapping was confined to five days a week, and full work was only resumed when it was found that freight would be available, while with Tamil immigration suspended for some months the labour force fell short of requirements. As the result of this even the revised estimate was not realised and the crop only exceeded that of the previous year by 15,017 lbs. at 267,500 lbs., but the f.o.b. cost, including depreciation, was reduced by 1.98d. to 10.97d. Profits were £2,489 lower at £15,460, but the decrease was practically offset by the larger balance of £4,357 brought forward, and after repeating the dividend of 25 per cent. an extra £256 at £2,368 is written off development account, leaving £4,948, or £305 less, to be carried forward, subject to directors' special remuneration. On March 31 the Tamil labour force had dwindled from 752 to 581 coolies, and was supplemented by about 70 Chinamen, but immigration is in full swing again, and the manager hopes to have a full complement of Tamils on the estate very soon. The crop for the current year is estimated at 331,000 lbs., of which 57,500 lbs. has been obtained in the first two months, compared with 40,690 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1914-15.

**BANDJARSARIE (JAVA) RUBBER.**—Owing to the ill-health of the manager and a consequent lack of the necessary supervision, tapping operations in the year ended December 31 were not very satisfactory, and the yield only amounted to 149,607 lbs., against an estimate of 161,700 lbs. and a crop of 125,054 lbs. in the previous year. The gross price was 3.32d. lower at 2s. 1.31d., and the nett "all-in" cost, exclusive of debenture interest, was only reduced by .67d. to 1s. 7.48d., with the result that nett profits showed a decrease of £511 at £3,287. Miscellaneous receipts were also smaller, but as £1,188 more at £1,408 was brought forward the nett surplus was £400 up at £3,912, and the dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, is repeated, leaving £1,108 to be carried forward. The company has been busy thinning out its trees from an average of 146 per acre to 127, and this policy is to be continued until they are reduced to 100 per acre. At the same time drastic changes have been made in the system of tapping, and the directors, therefore, do not venture to make any estimate for the current year.

**BARU (JAVA) ESTATES.**—The coffee crop for 1914 was disappointing owing to severe drought, and was only 426 cwts. larger than that of the previous year at 2,659 cwts., while the nett price dropped to £1 16s. 11d. per cwt. Rubber yielded 35,339 lbs. more at 59,549 lbs., but the price was 3½d. down at 18.94d. No figures are given of "all-in" cost, but the nett profits showed a drop of no less than £1,156 at £321. Although the balance brought forward was rather larger, the nett surplus, after providing for debenture interest, only amounted to £344, or a decrease of £882. The company spent £3,896 on development during the year, making a total cost of £72,349, exclusive of buildings and machinery, which were increased by £1,012 to £9,104, and against these the liability on loans has risen by £5,935 to £6,250.



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The end of the half-year, with its usual large turn-over of credit, has come and gone without causing the slightest disturbance in the Money market. Bankers charged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for weekly advances right up to the last day of June, and day-to-day loans for the most part cost  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., although there was generally a large surplus over, which was offered at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Yesterday the abundant supplies of credit had their usual effect, and rates became easier at 2 per cent. for weekly fixtures and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for overnight loans.

As expected, business in Treasury bills "over the counter" has dwindled considerably since the issue of the War Loan prospectus, and last week's total was only £2,878,000, or an average of a little over £300,000 a day. Recent buyers of these are now said to be turning their attention to remitted paper, in order to fill up their cases, and the competition from such quarters has made it still more difficult for the discount market to raise its quotations for bills. Rates, in fact, were inclined to be easier at first, and some fine parcels of three months' maturities changed hands at 4 per cent. The persistently low level, however, at which the American exchange remained and the fears lest payments in full on the new War Loan on July 20 would cause stringency in the Money market had some effect. Brokers quoted  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. for sixty-day bills,  $4\frac{1}{8}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for three months,  $4\frac{3}{8}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for fours, and  $4\frac{3}{8}$ – $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. for sixes. A conference, however, took place yesterday between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and representatives of the bankers for the purpose of coming to some arrangement which would reduce as much as possible any chance of an undue strain being put upon the bankers' resources. It was understood that a satis-

factory agreement had been made, and discount rates consequently showed an easier tendency. No great change was made, but the higher of the alternative figures was knocked off all round.

While satisfaction was expressed by the bankers with the result of their interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it seems that only a general agreement was arrived at, and the terms and procedure to be adopted for giving the help required have still to be settled. It is suggested that the Government will re-deposit with the joint-stock banks the War Loan money as it is paid over at an agreed rate of interest. At present the banks have three ways open to them of obtaining the necessary credit. Either they can take currency notes to the extent of 20 per cent. of their deposits, paying interest at 5 per cent., or they can rediscount Treasury bills at the Bank at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., or they can borrow on the old War Loan at 1 per cent. under Bank rate, or 4 per cent. To be satisfactory, therefore, the rate of interest charged on the new advances by the Government will probably have to be something under the lowest of these figures.

To a large extent the ease in money would seem to be due to large Government disbursements, which were not offset to any appreciable extent by market purchases of Treasury bills, with the result that Public Deposits were reduced by £18,100,000 to £81,514,000. At the same time there was an increase of £16,521,000 in "Other" Securities, which was generally ascribed to repayments by the Bank of money taken off the market earlier in the year, and "Other" deposits consequently rose by £31,100,000 to £140,654,000. Gold has again left the Bank in large amounts, and the stock of coin and bullion at £52,092,000 showed a decrease of £2,065,000, of which £1,279,000 was on foreign account and the remainder was taken in connection with the end of the half-year requirements. For the same reason the note circulation expanded by £1,507,000, so that altogether the reserve was reduced by £3,572,000 to £35,906,000, and the proportion has fallen by another  $2\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. to  $16\frac{1}{8}$  per cent.

Considerable attention has been attracted by the violent fluctuations which have taken place in the Paris cheque. Business on Thursday was done as high as 27.25, but the rate has since relapsed to 26.82 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and hopes are entertained that this foreshadows the sending of a further instalment of the gold promised in the arrangements made between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the French Finance Minister. The Petrograd exchange has further advanced to 128 $\frac{1}{2}$ , which is the highest yet touched, and the Italian has also risen sharply to 29.40, but the Dutch exchange has moved irregularly and at the close was inclined to be adverse. It is announced that the Bank of the Netherlands has reduced its rate from 5 per cent. to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . In spite of the gold movements and the sales of securities to Wall Street, the New York exchange continued to decline, and was at one time as low as 4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but there has since been a recovery to 4.77 $\frac{1}{8}$ d.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended June 30, £1,777,470 in £1 notes and £625,754 in 10s. notes were issued. In the same period £1,299,001 in £1 and £424,462 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £679,761, leaving a total of £46,576,801 outstanding, made up of £34,685,187 in £1 and £11,891,614 in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £302,665 1s. 2d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £8,654,638 8s. 8d. at the Bank of England, while £139,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue.

At the meeting of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers on the 1st inst. the first annual election for the offices of chairman and vice-chairman took place. Until the death of Lord Avebury, both of these offices were held for life, but two years ago it was decided that after July 1, 1915, they should be held for one year only. For the intervening period Sir Felix Schuster and Lord Goschen were elected chairman and deputy-



chairman respectively, and they have now been succeeded by Lord St. Aldwyn, of the London Joint Stock Bank, as chairman, and Mr. R. V. Vassar Smith, of Lloyds Bank, as deputy-chairman, for the ensuing year. On taking office Lord St. Aldwyn, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Sir Felix Schuster for the very great assistance he had rendered to the bankers during his tenure of the office, particularly during the momentous months of war.

## SILVER.

Supplies of silver coming into the market have only been moderate, but there has been little or no support from any quarter. Indian buyers are holding back for the present in view of the uncertainty regarding the crops. The Chinese demand has also been very small, and the price went steadily downwards to 22½d. per oz. A few buying orders then came in, both from the East and from the Continent, causing a rally of 1½d. to 22½d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday only amounted to Rs. 30,000 in bills, which were allotted at rs. 3½d. A special sale was afterwards made of Rs. 3,24,536 in bills at rs. 33½-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 29th ult. the total sales were Rs. 2,65,67,441, realising £1,768,922, compared with Rs. 3,98,53,332 for £2,661,629 to June 30 last year.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, June 30, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£	Government Debt .. ..	£
69,530,250		11,015,100	
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	51,080,250
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
£69,530,250		£69,530,250	

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£	Government Securities ..	£
14,553,000		51,043,491	
Rest .. ..	3,087,078	Other Securities .. ..	152,914,703
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	34,893,970
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,011,644
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	81,514,428		
Other Deposits .. ..	140,654,115		
Seven Day and other Bills	55,187		
£239,863,808		£239,863,808	

Dated July 1, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year, July 1.	June 23, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,257,175	3,170,702	3,087,078	—	83,624
17,071,618	99,578,264	81,514,428	—	18,063,836
54,550,853	109,562,874	140,654,115	31,091,241	—
13,756	49,486	55,187	5,701	—
			Decrease.	Increase.
11,005,126	Gov. Securities. 51,043,491	51,043,491	—	16,521,380
49,692,774	Other do. 136,393,323	152,914,703	—	—
28,748,502	Total Reserve .. 39,477,512	35,905,614	3,571,898	—
			31,668,840	34,668,840
			Increase.	Decrease.
29,784,295	Note Circulation 33,129,655	34,636,280	1,506,625	—
40,082,797	Coin and Bullion 54,157,167	52,091,894	—	2,065,273
40 p.c.	Proportion .. 18½ p.c.	16½ p.c.	—	2½ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate .. 5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,279,000 out.

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

During the week ended June 19 the Bank sold Treasury Bills for £2,878,000, under the new arrangement, at fixed rates of 2½ per cent. for three months, 3½ per cent. for six months, and 3½ per cent. for nine and twelve months.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3½
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 1½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	—
* 178,084,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
250,584,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,204,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	255,846,000	358,772,000	—	102,926,000
" 12	236,533,000	297,352,000	—	60,819,000
" 19	238,617,000	360,045,000	—	121,428,800
" 26	199,913,000	270,044,000	—	70,131,000
June ..	233,285,000	306,206,000	—	72,921,000
" 6	231,525,000	285,464,000	—	53,939,000
" 16	225,460,000	329,729,000	—	104,269,000
" 23	236,425,000	275,105,000	—	38,670,000
" 30	266,789,000	445,419,000	—	178,630,000
Total ..	6,251,689,000	8,802,635,000	—	2,550,946,000

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Egypt (released) ..	Saturday—Bars .. ..
Tuesday—Straits Settlements	Monday— .. ..
(released) .. ..	Miscell. set aside .. ..
Bars .. ..	Wednesday— .. ..
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Friday—Bars .. ..
Friday—Egypt (released) ..	
Nett Efflux .. ..	
£1,503,000	£1,503,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 11 days ended June 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs .. ..	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. ..	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. ..	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. ..
Land Values Duties .. ..	Supply Services .. ..
Post Office .. ..	Bullion Advances .. ..
Crown Lands .. ..	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. ..	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Ry. Act,	Act, 1913 .. ..
1913 .. ..	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
Under Military Works Acts,	Under Military Works Acts,
1897-1903 .. ..	1897-1903 .. ..
Issue of War Stock and War	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Bonds .. ..	penses Act, 1903 .. ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8,
East Africa Protectorate	issued under Section 9
Loan repayments .. ..	of Finance Act, 1908 .. ..
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11,
account of principal ..	issued under Section 16
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	(1) (b) of the Finance Act,
China Indemnity .. ..	1911 .. ..
Ways and Means Advances	China Indemnity, issued
Temporary Advances De-	to reduce debt under the
ficiency .. ..	Finance Act, 1911 .. ..
Decrease in Exchequer	Deficiency advances repaid
balances .. ..	Ways and Means Advances
20,185,948	reaid .. ..
	Increase in Exchequer
	balances .. ..
£26,956,486	£26,956,486

† Reduction.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 11, 1915.	June 4, 1915.	May 28, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	49,246,200	48,503,000	48,728,800
Legal tender, silver certs., &c.	8,926,400	7,067,400	6,397,800
Total .. ..	58,172,600	55,570,400	55,126,600
30-day bills and loans .. ..	2,944,200	2,810,800	2,581,400
60-day bills and loans .. ..	2,163,600	2,294,800	2,484,600
Others .. ..	2,093,600	1,836,000	1,724,200
Total .. ..	7,201,400	6,941,600	6,790,200
Investments .. ..	3,436,600	4,987,600	6,008,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
Items in transit .. ..	2,975,600	1,426,400	1,487,000
All other assets .. ..	2,470,000	2,580,200	2,638,200
Total assets .. ..	74,256,200	71,506,200	72,049,400
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,839,000	10,836,800	10,831,600
Reserve deposits .. ..	59,930,600	57,656,200	58,410,000
Note circulation (nett) .. ..	2,419,600	2,282,600	2,184,200
All other liabilities .. ..	1,067,000	730,600	625,600
Total liabilities .. ..	74,256,200	71,506,200	72,049,400

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	June 26, 1915	June 19, 1915	June 12, 1915	June 27, 1914
Loans .. ..	493,006,000	494,716,000	492,000,000	423,652,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	91,644,000	90,932,000	89,156,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	25,942,000	25,278,000	24,684,000	99,372,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	5,648,000	6,328,000	5,900,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits .. ..	486,862,000	481,100,000	477,526,000	406,678,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	27,538,000	27,638,000	27,412,000	—
Circulation .. ..	7,582,000	7,588,000	7,588,000	8,220,000
Excess Lawful Reserve .. ..	39,006,000	39,300,000	37,160,000	7,156,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits, and 5% of the Time Deposits.



## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	June 12, 1915.	June 27, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	116,114,000	115,132,000	115,132,000	114,879,200
Specie .. ..	9,820,000	9,842,000	9,892,000	8,660,200
Deposits .. ..	118,860,000	118,000,000	117,976,000	115,132,800
Legal Tenders ..	1,950,000	1,858,000	1,920,000	1,986,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 1, 1915.	June 24, 1915.	June 17, 1915.	June 10, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	157,262,000	157,686,850	156,848,800	156,785,040
Silver in hand ..	14,862,840	14,011,200	14,959,160	15,009,400
Bills discounted ..	10,820,440	10,347,200	10,298,080	10,334,480
Advances .. ..	24,971,880	24,587,280	25,043,720	24,985,960
Note circulation ..	488,633,880	484,186,640	481,745,840	480,629,160
Public deposits ..	3,280,560	2,173,080	5,278,040	1,765,680
Private deposits ..	94,609,720	90,997,200	88,625,880	84,983,680
Foreign Bills ..	65,520	40,400	65,440	48,580

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35½ per cent. against 35½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £248,000,000; increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £44,735,000, decrease £770,600, and at the branches to £44,966,200, decrease £445,640.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 23, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 7, 1915.	June 23, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	121,813,750	121,673,400	121,584,500	85,597,750
Treasury Notes .. ..	13,559,850	13,183,450	14,859,350	3,576,500
Bills discounted .. ..	211,005,850	214,705,950	210,136,900	37,770,100
Advances .. ..	751,300	808,350	767,150	2,749,250
Note circulation .. ..	261,245,500	262,200,900	264,483,950	90,228,450
Public deposits .. ..	80,692,200	75,400,750	71,895,350	53,302,350

Clearing House returns during May £208,056,720 against £280,595,975 in April.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 14, 1915.	June 5, 1915.	May 28, 1915.	June 15, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve ..	9,265,800	6,833,000	7,869,300	6,625,200
Cash in reserve ..	157,351,100	157,379,500	157,420,200	159,186,300
Gold in reserve abroad ..	12,431,000	13,781,300	13,881,800	19,276,600
Circulation note issue ..	357,000,000	352,000,000	327,000,000	170,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	49,096,100	44,121,700	40,892,800	43,387,000

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	June 12, 1915.	June 27, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	27,582,547	27,293,370	27,123,284	21,264,073
Silver .. ..	29,884,627	29,753,304	29,622,324	29,240,325
Foreign Bills .. ..	4,938,710	4,998,249	4,995,465	7,173,914
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,070,339	27,147,740	27,336,452	27,258,615
Treasury Account, &c. ..	32,540,154	32,080,689	32,506,133	27,138,285
Notes in Circulation .. ..	79,679,911	79,330,540	79,705,010	75,686,149
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	26,916,681	27,742,811	27,422,008	19,067,781
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,439,761	1,334,847	1,376,177	1,013,638
Government Securities ..	5,417,643	3,498,325	3,740,491	7,058,005

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	June 23, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 7, 1915.	June 23, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver .. ..	11,759,428	11,722,864	11,667,080	7,842,920
Bills .. ..	5,024,360	4,918,084	4,964,156	3,122,887
Note circulation .. ..	15,677,572	16,035,372	16,318,908	10,051,240
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,011,864	2,992,776	2,569,332	1,926,768

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	June 12, 1915.	June 27, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	28,928,052	27,659,497	26,835,827	14,165,431
Silver .. ..	198,295	213,995	209,246	779,799
Bills discounted, &c. ..	16,238,878	17,685,113	17,707,181	12,118,834
Note circulation .. ..	40,320,796	40,208,562	40,151,943	25,512,796
Deposits .. ..	4,575,551	4,517,638	3,853,385	424,052

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	June 19, 1915.	June 12, 1915.	June 5, 1915.	June 20, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	6,302,000	6,303,000	6,299,000	5,823,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	4,009,000	3,875,000	4,008,000	6,104,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,803,000	2,787,000	2,821,000	1,803,000
Discounts and Loans ..	7,134,000	6,784,000	6,915,000	5,910,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,017,000	15,178,000	15,328,000	12,217,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,175,000	3,393,000	3,285,000	3,703,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	June 22, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 7, 1915.	June 22, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	3,969,222	3,410,000	3,418,000	2,707,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,167,778	3,190,000	3,137,000	1,593,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	642,778	637,000	637,000	486,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,232,500	4,279,000	4,200,000	4,543,000
Notes in Circulation ..	7,677,222	7,545,000	7,515,000	6,433,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,357,944	1,464,000	1,442,000	459,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 29, 1915.		July 1, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Belgium .. ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
Do. .. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	—	—	—	—
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	12.2½	12.3½	12.2½	12.3½
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.90	11.94	11.93	11.96
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	29.35	29.55	29.75	29.95
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	28.95	29.15	29.35	29.55
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	37½	36½	37½	36½
New York .. ..	Cable transfers ..	4.77½	4.77½	4.76½	4.77½
Do. .. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	4.77½	4.78½	4.77½	4.78½
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.00	27.10	27.50	27.65
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	26.60	26.70	27.15	27.25
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers ..	126	128	127	131
Scandinavia .. ..	Cable transfers ..	18.15	18.30	18.15	18.35
Spain (Bnk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	45½	45½	45	44½
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.65	25.80	25.90	26.10
Switzerland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	26.20	26.40	26.20	26.40
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.80	26.00	25.80	26.00

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. ..	chqs.	26.27½	27.10	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	sight	28.55	29.27½
Amsterdam .. ..	sight	11.95½	11.95	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd .. ..	3 mths	124½	128	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York .. ..	sight	4.77½	4.77½	Hong Kong .. ..	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/9½d.
Lisbon .. ..	sight	36½	36½	Shanghai .. ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	25.65	25.55	Singapore .. ..	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama .. ..	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. ..	2½	2½
Six months .. ..	3½	3½
Nine months .. ..	3½	3½
Twelve months .. ..	3½	3½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4	4
Three months .. ..	4½	4½
Four months .. ..	4½	4½
Six months .. ..	4½	4½
Three months fine inland bills ..	4½	4½
Four months .. ..	5½	5½
Six months .. ..	5½	5½

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
" short loan rates ..	5½	5½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2	2
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	2½	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	2½	2½
" for call loans ..	1½-2	1½-1½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

It continues to be "War Loan" in the City and very little else. The fact that this is so is for the time being almost destructive of other business on the Stock Exchange. People are working and scheming to shift their money from old securities into the new, but find the greatest difficulty in doing that because they cannot sell to any advantage. Their efforts to sell, in fact, only increase the embarrassment of the market because where there are no buyers it can have no absorbing power. Happily the worst would seem to be over, and the week closes with some disposition to harden quotations. The only outside open market really is the New York one, and even it has been upset a little by the multitude of American Railroad and other securities thrown back upon it by investors here. As the date for closing the War Loan need not necessarily be next Saturday, we should advise the owners of American Railroad bonds, and shares to hold off a little so as not to run unnecessary risks of loss. There will be plenty of time to exchange because the wants of the Government are not likely to be all covered for the rest of this year by all the money that comes in up to the 10th inst.

Not that the stream of cash pouring into the loan is small; the reverse is the fact. Each day that passes increases the enthusiasm, and we begin to think that the "placard" advertisements so skilfully drawn up, and so lavishly displayed in all the popular daily journals is telling more powerfully than we were disposed to think probable in the way of spreading enthusiasm. Our wealthiest insurance company, the Prudential, has increased its contribution from



£3,000,000 to £5,000,000. "It might eventually be more," says Mr. Burn, the senior actuary of the company, but that is the total for the present. Other insurance companies are following in the same direction, the Clerical, Medical, and General, with a further £100,000, making £200,000, and raising its total possession in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Government stock to £300,000, when the conversion "rights" have been exercised. The Sun Life of Canada is subscribing for £200,000, and we quite expect to see other colonial institutions, bank and insurance, handing over their free money with appropriate generosity. It is also reported that British banks in Argentina have announced their willingness to collect subscriptions to be sent home, and as was said in this column a week ago, there can be little doubt that banks and rich capitalists in neutral countries everywhere will be quite ready to subscribe freely if given the opportunity. After all, the money is not for our use alone; it is also to enable our Allies to maintain their place in the fight with efficiency and success. In spite of ourselves, there can be no jostling of rival loans allowed in our Money market—anywhere in the world. We must borrow for all without saying anything about it—even for France to some extent, although both France and Russia remain at liberty to come here for whatever money the market may be able to lend after satisfying home requirements. The difficulty will be to spare them cash, but as long as our credit is intact and our banks powerful, we shall be able to assist the banks in France and other Allied countries in providing for all wants. That may be taken as certain, even if the war lasts on its present immense scale for another 12 months, which it cannot do. The resources of humanity, even Junker humanity, are not equal to that strain. Therefore, the hotter the fighting now the sooner the peace of exhaustion.

Amongst the humbler classes of the community the effect of stimulating advertisements and diligent newspaper advocacy is also beginning to make itself visible, and trade unions are planking down their money with increasing readiness, while the applications from customers of Savings Banks might even become embarrassing unless most carefully managed. As yet, however, all has gone smoothly, and if the nation at large, rich and poor, can only be well disciplined in the conception of duty which dictates the placing of all spare cash in the Government loan, its total ought soon to be impressive.

Amid all this, we again warn and beseech readers and clients to make no efforts to sell stocks that can be withheld at the present time. Loss of capital will be inevitable if sales are pressed. Much better hold off and wait the better time that will come. At the moment spirits are clouded and depressed far more than there is any warrant for. Great events impend. Have patience and hold on.

Last week, in reference to the War Loan, we said that "the holder of Consols will simply be at liberty to exchange £150 nominal of his stock for £100 of the new stock—provided always he has already subscribed for £100 of that new stock." The end of the quotation should, of course, have read thus—provided always he has already subscribed for £200 of that new stock—the right of conversion being at the rate of £75 of Consols for £50 of the new loan after subscribing for £100 of that loan.

Activity on the Stock Exchange has for the most part been confined to the old War Loan, in which a very large number of transactions have taken place. Holders have sold part of their stock to enable them to take advantage of the conversion privileges, and the price at one time dropped to 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ . At this level the stock was the cheaper for conversion purposes, and the demand became sufficient to bring about a recovery to 93 $\frac{3}{4}$ , but selling again predominated later, and after touching 93 $\frac{3}{4}$  the final price was 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Some disappointment was caused by the bank's definite announcement that the "rights" attached to the new War Loan would not be detachable, which meant that they could not be dealt in separately, but members have already found a way out of their difficulty. Holders of the fully-paid scrip of the new loan who desire to exercise their "rights" in respect of a part only of their certificates must

split the amount into smaller certificates before lodging their application for conversion, and it will therefore be possible for them to lend the scrip carrying the rights which they do not propose to use. Consols have been a more or less stagnant market, only an occasional bargain being marked in them, and most of the recently issued trustee securities, which have no fixed minimum prices, were marked down sharply. New South Wales  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debentures suffered most, dropping to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  discount, but East India Railway guaranteed debentures fell to 94 $\frac{1}{2}$  and Canadian  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. bonds were lower at 97, but towards the end of the week this market became rather steadier.

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	65	92	95x	95x
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	100	100
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	95	95
—	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	92	92
92	92	92	—	99	96
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	71	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	63	63	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	84
—	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	83	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	97	95	—	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	80x	—	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	—	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brighton defd. ....	55	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd. ....	88	88	Do. new pf. ....	105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chatham ord. ....	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26
Gt. Central pf. ....	15	15	Do. 5% New pf. par. ....	par.	par.
Gt. Eastern dfd. ....	7	7	Met. District ....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	Midland dfd. ....	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	59
Gt. Western ....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British dfd. ....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
Lancs and Yorks. ....	71	72	Nth.-Eastern ....	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
			Nth.-Western ....	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
			Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific ....	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	148 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake ....	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6% Notes ....	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie ....	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Trunk ord. ....	82	84	N. Y. Central ....	92	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 3rd pf. ....	22	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ....	16	16
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes ....	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	Southern Pacific ....	92	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. " ....	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Union Pacific ....	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison ....	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	U. S. Steel ....	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baltimore ....	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Antofagasta dfd. ....	125	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6% Notes ....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5% Notes ....	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
Brazil Com. ....	8	8	Do. 6% " ....	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific ....	47	41	Leopoldina ....	33	31
B. A. Gt. Southern ....	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican ord. ....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Western ....	90	83	San Paulo (Brazilian) ....	180	175
			United of Havana ....	70	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Australasia ....	117	115	London City & Midland ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A" ....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	London County & West. ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. "B" ....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	London Joint Stock ....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22
Capital & Counties ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pd)	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	28
Chartered of India ....	58	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. (£12 pd) ....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	30
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	Parr's ....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Standard of S.A. ....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union & Smiths. ....	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	23
London & S.W. ....	13	13			
Apollinaris ord. ....	28	28	Forestal Land ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness, Withy ....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Associated Cement ....	38	32	Hudson's Bay ....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birmingham Small Arms	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Borax dfd. ....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. dfd. ....	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bovril ....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kynochs ....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Traction ....	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
British Amer. Tobacco ..	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J. ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John), & Co. ....	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond ....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cammell-Laird ....	5	5	Mond Nickel ord. ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Castner-Kellner ....	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car. ....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coats ....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nobel Dynamite ....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
Cunard ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2
Dennis Bros. ....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	P. & O. dfd. ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dorman, Long ....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail ....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastmans ....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Durham Steel ....	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26
English Sewing Cotton ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers ....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku ....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	North Caucasian ....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Roumanian Cons. ....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lobitos ....	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shell ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Pipeline ....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spies (10/-) ....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Eagle ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ural Caspian ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Malay ....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Linggi ....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Batu Caves ....	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	London Asiatic ....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Mertajam ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Malacca ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Sembawang ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Malayalam ....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Damansara ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Melinau ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpang ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Trust (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ pd.) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Serdang ....	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johore Rub. Lands 19/- pd.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa ....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbontiakeon ....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	De Beers dfd. ....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. ....	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Boulder ....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cam & Motor ....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meyer & Charlton ....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining ....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B" ....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered ....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deep ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	New Medder ....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rand Mines ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte. ....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio Tinto ....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines ....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Van Ryn Deep ....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Foreign bonds were less affected than other sections by sales to raise funds for investments in the War Loan, but Japanese were offered for this purpose and showed declines of several points. Russian issues relapsed on the war news, and several Chinese loans weakened. Brazilian stocks were lower, and Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury notes eased off to 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Home Railway stocks continued their downward course in the first part of the week, but it was then felt that the decline had been overdone, and buyers came forward with greater freedom. Great Western, after touching 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ , recovered to 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and North-Western and North-Eastern closed above the lowest, while Great Eastern, Great Northern deferred, and Midland deferred show small gains on balance compared with a week ago. Canadian Pacific shares, after a small rally, fell heavily



on the May statement, which showed a nett decrease of \$520,000. For the 11 months the decrease in gross earnings was \$28,407,000, and in nett \$8,193,000. The Grand Trunk statement was more favourable, a reduction of £60,500 in gross receipts having been converted into an increase in nett of £18,950, making the nett aggregate for the 11 months only £19,700 down. Prices steadied a little on these figures, but they were unable to resist the general tendency for very long. Further declines were recorded. Some large sales of American Railroad bonds to New York have been effected this week, but business in the shares remains very minute. Dealers, however, were nervous, owing to the further fall in the exchange, and marked down quotations all round, but here also the tendency improved towards the end. Argentine Railways remain depressed, and a few offers of stock caused an all-round decline, but the fall brought in a little support. Central Argentine suffered most severely, the ordinary losing 5½ and the notes ½. The Argentine North-Eastern announces that, owing to the heavy and continuous decline in the traffics caused by the financial depression in Argentine and Paraguay, there were no funds available for payment of the half-year's interest on the "B" debentures and debenture stock. A scheme has therefore been drawn up for the creation of a further £165,064 "B" debenture stock and for payment of the interest due on the 1st inst., and for the four subsequent half-years, if necessary, in funding scrip at par, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Lenders who advanced £320,000 to the company until June 1 have agreed to extend the loan until September 1, 1917, and the interest due to them will also be satisfied in scrip to the extent of 4 per cent. Leopoldina and San Paulo have again relapsed, and United of Havana also show a further decline.

Bank shares have been depressed by fears that large amounts will have to be provided to meet the depreciation in their investments caused by the readjustment in values which has taken place, and substantial amounts have been knocked off the prices of most of the London group. In Shipping things Royal Mail has further relapsed to 66, and P. and O. deferred is down to 250, while Leyland were offered on the sinking of the *Armenian*. Armament and Engineering shares were inclined to be dull on the Government scheme for limiting profits. Amongst Land shares Hudson's Bay dropped to 4½ on pressure to sell, and Forestal Land shares were a shade easier. Marconi International Marine were bought on the report, and the American Co.'s shares were supported from Wall Street, but the parent company's shares were dull, and fractionally easier. Lake Superior Corporation shares have quite gone out of favour after their brief spell of popularity, and have relapsed to 7½, and Canadian Car and Foundry issues have also receded. British American Tobacco were offered, and Lyons, Liptons, and Bovril deferred have all fallen back. Courtauld's have yielded to selling pressure, and are down to 52s., while Coats have dropped to 4½. Brazil Tracton fell to 50, but recovered to 50½ on the recovery on the exchange.

Oil shares have been neglected on the whole, and with indications of a desire to realise quotations were marked down. Royal Dutch fell to 44¼, but then met with a little support, and recovered to 45¼, while Shell, after touching 4½, also close a shade above the lowest. Russian things generally were idle, but a little inquiry sprang up for Spies on the improvement to 42½ kopecks in the price of crude oil at Baku. Lobitos rose slightly on the chairman's speech at the meeting on Tuesday, but the gain was not held, and they have relapsed to 28s. 6d. In spite of the price of the commodity having risen to 2s. 6d. for the first time in over a year, Rubber shares have been dull, with business confined to a very few shares. A little inquiry was experienced for Rubber Trust, and Linggi were wanted on the maintenance of the interim dividend at 15 per cent. actual. Malacca were offered and Johore Rubber Lands fell back on the final call of 1s. per share.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A steady business was again effected in this commodity, while the Government have made further purchases of Cuban 96 per cent. polarisation and American granulated. Low brown sugars are somewhat scarce, and prices were slightly firmer. The American beet crop estimate denotes an increase of 100,000 tons compared with that of last season. British refined goods remain unchanged, and Tate's cubes No. 1, sold, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; fine granulated, 28s.; standard, 27s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. White Java, on spot in London, sold, 26s. 7½d. to 27s.; outports, 26s. 6d. to 27s. 3d.; and soft Java in outports, 24s. Cuban receipts for all ports last week total 22,000 tons, against 31,000, and centrals at work 20, against 11 at same time in 1914. Weather favourable. Cane sorts generally quiet. Trinidad crystallised sold: good to fine yellow and coloury, 26s. to 26s. 6d.; and Jamaica and St. Kitts, 25s. to 25s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—At public sale fair supplies were catalogued and passed off quietly, but rates fairly steady. East India: Mysore, bold, 72s. to 76s. 6d. Vera Paz: fine bold, 95s. 6d.; peas, 106s. 6d. Costa Rica: good to fine bold, 81s. to 86s. New Granada: good bold, 74s. Guatemala: fair to fine bold, 72s. to 76s. 6d. Futures dull. September, sold, 38s. 6d. to 38s. 3d.; December, 36s.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies in auction met a fairly good inquiry. Trinidad, 2s. to 4s. up; Grenada, 1s. to 1s. 6d. firmer since previous sale. Ceylon generally steady and Guayaquil firm. Ceylon, ordinary to fair, sold, 73s. to 77s. Trinidad, mid to fine, 77s. to 80s. Grenada common to fine, 71s. to 79s. 6d. St. Lucia, fair to

fine, 73s. to 79s. Jamaica, fair, 74s. 6d. Demerara, fine, 78s. 6d. to 79s. Guayaquil, Caraquez, 92s. Puerto Cabello, clayed, 97s. 6d.; and unclayed, 95s. Java, good, 86s. 6d. Costa Rica, fair to fine, 73s. 6d. to 80s.

**COCOA BUTTER.**—60 cases Brazilian offered, and sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3½d.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week chiefly consisted of new season's, which again met with a good demand, and full to dearer prices were obtained, most noticeable in teas from 1s. to 1s. 0½d. per lb. Ceylon offerings passed off with active competition, and although quality showed a further falling off, late rates were fully maintained. Java sales of 9,392 packages encountered good competition, and firm prices were obtained.

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES. WEEK ENDING JULY 2, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian	1 3½-2 6½	1 8-2 6
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	1 4-1 11½	1 3-1 9½
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Scoured Cr'sbr'd	0 6-1 6½	0 9-1 6
Lyle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	Greasy Merino	0 8-1 6½	0 8-1 5½
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	nom.	nom.
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	nom.	nom.
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	1 1½-1 7	1 3½-1 8
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	nom.	1 10½-2 0
Crystallised, West	24 0-27 3	24 0-27 3	<b>Indian rubber</b> —lb Plantation, Spot	0 2 6½	0 2 6
India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 6½	0 2 6
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.	nom.	nom.
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
8½ lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 11½-1 2½	0 11½-1 3½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11½-1 2½	0 11½-1 4½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11½-1 3	0 11½-1 2½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11½-1 2½	0 11½-1 3½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 11½-1 1½	0 11½-1 2½	Steamers, best	1 0 0	1 0 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11½-1 1½	0 11½-1 1	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Broken	0 11½-1 2	0 11½-1 1½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	0 11½-1 2	0 11½-1 1½	English Pig	25 0 0	26 0 0
Broken	0 11½-1 3	0 11½-1 2	Foreign soft, Sept.	24 10 0	24 17 6
Pekoe Souchong	0 11½-1 0½	0 11½-1 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hands	£ 16-£ 16½	£ 17 0-17 5
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
duty 1d. per lb.			English Ingots	£ 171-£ 172	£ 171-£ 172
Trinidad—per cwt.	73 0-80 0	76 0-84 0	Do. bars	£ 172-£ 173	£ 172-£ 173
Grenada	70 0-78 0	71 0-79 6	Standard cash	£ 171	£ 170 15
West Africa	nom.	nom.	19 Plates, per box	19 0-19 3	19 0-19 3
Ceylon Plantation	68 0-83 0	68 0-83 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0-99 0	92 0-100 0	English, Tough	£ 94-£ 95	£ 92-£ 93
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			per ton	£ 94-£ 95	£ 92-£ 93
duty 1½d. per lb.			Best Selected	£ 94-£ 95	£ 92-£ 93
East India	66 0-102 0	66 0-102 0	Sheets	£ 110	£ 110
Jamaica	51 0-118 0	51 0-118 0	Standard	£ 82 5 0	£ 79 2 6
Costa Rica	60 0-87 0	60 0-87 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
<b>Provisions</b>			Native firsts for sh'pmt. Sept.	£ 22 12 6	£ 24 c 0
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			<b>Oils</b>		
Australian finest	138/-142/-	138/-140/-	Linseed, per ton	£ 26½-£ 27	£ 27-£ 27½
Irish Creameries	140/-146/-	140/-146/-	Rape, ref. English,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	casks	£ 38-£ 40	£ 38-£ 40
Russian finest	128/-132/-	128/-132/-	Brown English,	£ 36-£ 37	£ 36-£ 37
Normandy baskets	120/-138/-	128/-140/-	naked	£ 29	£ 29½
Danish finest	150/-154/-	150/-154/-	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 31-£ 37	£ 31½-£ 37
Brittany rolls	13 6-15 6	14 0-16 0	Ditto, refined	83d.	83d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per	83d.	83d.
Irish	89 0-95 0	86 0-95 0	8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Continental	84 0-95 0	84 0-95 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Canadian	80 0-88 0	76 0-88 0	Calcutta—per 410	2 13 9	2 14 9
American	70 0-78 0	70 0-77 0	lbs., June-July	2 16 0	2 15 6
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Rape, Gujarat	3 6 1	3 7 6
Irish	106 0-116 0	106 0-124 0	June-July		
Canadian	82 0-88 0	80 0-86 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
American	57 0-80 0	57 0-78 0	Cleveland Cash	3 6 1	3 7 6
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
Edam	68 0-88 0	68 0-90 0	3/8, 4/14 per lb.		
Canadian	90 0-94 0	88 0-90 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Gouda	nom.	68 0-80 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	98 0-102 0	98 0-102 0	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
New Zealand	92 0-96 0	92 0-95 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon			Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
open charter,			Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 7½ lb.	2 0	2 0
cwt.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and		
Basselin	nom.	nom.	Memel Fir, per		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	250/-600/-	250/-600/-
Dutch	15 6-18 0	15 6-17 6	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	10 6-12 6	11 6-13 0	Town households,		
Danish	15 0-17 6	14 6-17 0	official	46/-	44/-
			American, 1st pa-	45/- upds.	45/6 upds.
			tents		

**SPICE.**—Pepper remained quiet. Black Singapore, July-September, shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, April-June, buyers, 48s. 6d.; Lampong, August-October, sellers, 5½d.; white Singapore, July-September, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; Penang, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves inactive. Fair Zanzibar, June-August delivery, sellers, 6½d. At public sale, fair supplies were offered, and met a moderate demand. Ceylon black pepper, sold, 6½d. Zanzibar cloves, 7d.

**RICE.**—Market firm, but dealings restricted. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 12s. 3d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 12s. 9d. to 13s.

**JUTE.**—Market exhibited a quiet tone. Native first marks, June-July, nominally £23 15s.; ditto September, sold, £24 15s. to £24; Gouti, M, in circle, spot, Dundee, at £24, c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila inactive. New graded fair, June-August and July-September, sellers, £37; medium, £32 10s.; coarse,



£28 15s.; and coarse brown, £26 15s., c.f. and i. New Zealand dull. G.F., July-September, sellers, £32; H.P.F. ditto, £31; and fair, £30, c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Spot parcels inactive. Fair T.N. orange sold, 57s. to 56s.; free A.C. garnet at 57s. Futures idle and rates nominal, August done 56s.

GAMBIER firm. Good marks, July-August shipment, sellers, 31s. 6d., c.f. and i.

INDIA-RUBBER.—A fairly good business was conducted, and rates moved in favour of sellers. Plantation standard crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d.; July, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d.; August, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d. and 2s. 5½d.; September, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d.; July-September, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; July-December, 2s. 5½d.; and October-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d.; July-August, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d.; August-September, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 7½d.; September-October, 2s. 7½d. Ball, June-August, buyers, 1s. 10½d.; August-September, sold, 1s. 11d. per lb.

COPRA.—Market quiet. To London: Ceylon, June-July shipment, sellers, £22 5s.; Malabar, June-July, £23; F.M.S., Singapore, June-July and July-August, £21 15s. South Sea, ditto, buyers, £20 12s. 6d. To Marseilles, F.M. Straits, ditto, buyers, £21 15s. Cebu, ditto, nominally £21 15s. Manila, June-July, buyers, £21 10s., c.f. and i.

WOOL.—The fifth series of Colonial wool sales for the current year commenced this week with an available total of 232,500 bales, more than half of which is of cross-bred growth. A large number of buyers attended and brisk competition was forthcoming, while prices compared with those ruling at the close of last series showed an advance of 7½d. per cent. for good merino combing, inferior and faulty being unaltered. Cross-breds showed an improvement of 5 per cent., and also South African, but lambs were unaltered.

TALLOW.—Market presented a very firm tone. In auction 1,801 casks were brought forward, and 1,519 sold, prices showing an advance of 9d. on good sorts, and 1s. 6d. to occasionally more on inferior. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. 3d. to 35s. 6d.; dark to dull, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; hard, 35s. 6d. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 34s. 9d.; dark to dull, 26s. 6d. to 31s. 3d.; sweet, 36s. 3d. per cwt. Market letter unchanged for tallow, and 9d. dearer for stuff. Town tallow, 33s. 6d.; melted stuff, 23s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6d. per 8 lbs.

OILS.—Linseed firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £27 5s.; barrels, £28; Hull (naked), spot, £25 17s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £29 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £29 5s.; refined pale, spot (pipes), £30 5s.; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £23 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine firm. American spirits, on spot, 38s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 8½d.; water-white, 9½d. per gallon. Linseed market firmer. Calcutta, spot, 54s. 6d.; affloat, 54s. 6d.; June-July, 55s.; July-August, 55s. 3d.; August-September, 55s. 6d.; La Plata, June-July, 49s. 9d.; July-August, 50s. 6d.; August-September, 51s. Rapeseed: Guzerat, June-July (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), June-July, 52s. 6d. Cottonseed firm but quiet. London: Egyptian, spot, £8 17s. 6d.; June, £9. Resin: common strained, spot, 12s. Palm oil, Lagos, £31.

METALS.—Copper: An unsettled and easier tendency prevailed since the week's commencement, business in the warrant market being on a moderate scale. Settling down last Monday at £82 5s. cash, £83 10s. three months, standard in these positions declined by the middle of the week to £81 15s. and £83 respectively, further relapsing on Thursday, cash delivery being fixed as business left off at £80 5s., three months £81 10s. Tin irregular, and lower on balance since last Monday, when standard cash closed at £171, and three months £168, values of these dates improving by the middle of the week to £172 and £168 respectively. The market became easier on Thursday, closing, cash £170 10s., and three months £167. Lead firmer. Foreign, July to September, £26 10s. to £26, sellers. Spelter dearer. American, July, £105; September, £95. Iron better. Quicksilver, £16 10s. to £16 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Only a moderate business has been passing since last Monday, the general tendency being steady, and wheat dearer. Wheat.—English: Whites range at 53s. 6d. to 56s. 6d., and reds 53s. to 55s. 6d. per quarter, 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba held for 58s.; No. 2, ditto, 57s.; No. 3, 56s., ex ship. Choice white Karachi, 52s. 3d., ex ship. Flour.—American, first spring patents 45s. to 47s.; Manitoba patents 44s. to 45s., landed. Grinding Barley.—Karachi, 35s. 6d.; Karoon, on sample, 35s. to 36s.; Japanese, 34s. to 35s., quay terms. Plate, ex ship, to arrive, 33s. to 34s. Sound Plate, maize 31s., ex quay. White flat, South African, 34s. Oats.—Plate, 26s. 3d., ex ship, 27s. to 30s., landed, according to quality; American, white clipped, No. 2, 33s., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has shown very little change. Buying in both yarn and cloth has been on small lines, and operators at the present time do not seem at all disposed to purchase speculatively. The prospects for supplies in raw materials are fairly encouraging, and there is some expectation of a lower range of values before very long. Prices in yarn and cloth, however, are not now so much based on raw cotton values as on the cost of production, which has considerably increased during the last few months. Shippers of piece goods to India have not been in the mood to place large lines, and makers of light fabrics suitable for our Dependency are doing very badly. The monsoon rains are said to be making good progress, and more business is expected before very long. A little more activity has been reported for China in

certain well-known styles, and certain export houses seem more inclined to replenish stocks on the other side. Several minor outlets have given support, but the total sales do not amount to very much. The home trade has again done fairly well, and certain Colonial markets are providing more business than a few months ago. American yarns for home use have been steady in quotation, and the general demand has continued quiet. Most of the buying has been in the lower numbers for early delivery, and in such counts we do not hear of stocks at the mills. Shippers of yarns to the Continent are harassed for the time being by the restrictions of the Board of Trade, and further buying is delayed. Bundles for India have moved off fairly well, and two-folds are well engaged. Bolton spinnings have moved off very quietly, at about late rates, and the holidays have brought a little relief.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—Prices for white descriptions ruled unaltered. Cane auctions steady, but rather quiet. Crystallised Trinidad sold 26s., Demerara ditto 25s. 9d. to 26s., and Jamaica 24s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Public sales quietly steady. Futures firm. December delivery sold 37s.

SPICE.—White dull and rates lower, but black held for recent quotations. Singapore white, July-September, sellers, 85½d.; Muntok ditto 9½d.; Penang value 8d. Cloves dull, and rates against the buyer. Tapioca quiet. Fair flake, August-October, sellers, 2½d., and Penang seed 18s. c.f. and i.

JUTE.—Market flat. Native first marks, June-July, sellers, 23s. 10d., and new crop September value £23 10s.

HEMP.—Market for Manila ruled dull, unchanged. New Zealand steady but quiet on spot, but forward easier.

GAMBIER.—Reservedly held and firmer. Good marks, August-October, buyers, 32s.

RUBBER.—Firmly held. Standard plantation spot crêpe sold 2s. 6d., July 2s. 6½d., and smoked sheet spot 2s. 5½d.

CORN.—Mark Lane.—Higher prices were demanded in most cases at market this week-end, trade being limited.

LINSEED OIL.—Spot pipes (landed) £27, barrels £27 10s. Linseed firmer. Calcutta spot and near 54s. 9d.

RAPESEED.—Guzerat, June-July (3 per cent.), 55s. 6d. Toria 51s.

METALS.—Tin slightly firmer for cash, but lower for three months. Standard, early July, sold £170, middle of July £171, and three months at £166, closing £170 15s. cash, and £166 three months. Settlement price £170 15s. Copper again declined. Standard cash sold finally £79 2s. 6d. and three months £81, £80 5s. and £80 10s., closing £79 2s. 6d. and £80 10s. respectively. Settlement price £79 2s. 6d. Electros £93 to £94. Tough £93 to £94. Best selected £92 to £93. Strong sheets £110. Lead declined. English £26, foreign September sold £25 to £24 17s. 6d. Spelter steady. G.O.B. officially quoted £105 to £95. Tin plates I.C. cokes 19s. to 19s. 3d. basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron dearer. Cleveland cash 67s. 6d., one month 67s. 11d., three months 68s. 9d. Quicksilver £17 to £17 5s.

## Answers to Correspondents.

A. B. D.—Prospects are certainly not bright for this company, and yet we do not think you should throw away the stock you hold at the ruinous price now obtainable, for if the harvest should be good, or if war news takes a better shape, as it doubtless will presently, there would be a recovery. The price might even rise to 60 or more when the market became active, and if it did so it might be advisable to sell, but not now.

F. H. J.—Whether the stock you hold will shrink further or not it is impossible to say, but believe it a mistake to sell it now even to invest in the new loan, because it is one of the very best securities the country possesses, and the difference in interest would be so slight as to give you no compensation for the loss of capital.

S. H. B.—Certainly subscribe. If you want to realise, you will be able to sell.

M. M. M.—We do not think you should sell now. Traffics are poor, but there is a prospect of improvement. The market has been disorganised by the big national loan.

E. G. C.—You could raise a loan, but whether you care to do so is for your own good judgment. Naturally, markets are upset by the new issue, but the income from the stocks you hold is as sure as is possible.

W. J. M.—If your investments are safe ones, your dividends will come along regularly. The fall is entirely due to the war. You can do nothing but just hold on until times are better again.

Cantor.—Why not use some of it to subscribe? You will be able to sell if there is need; if not, you have a good investment.

F. L. S.—We doubt it. The likelihood of great progress seems rather distant.

South Winnipeg, Ltd.—At the meeting of debenture stockholders, which was held on May 28 last, the resolutions submitted were duly passed, and Messrs. A. F. P. Roger, C. B. B. Smith-Bingham, and G. Douglas Newton were appointed a committee to represent the debenture stockholders. The committee is taking the necessary steps to carry out the resolutions referred to, and in due course will report to the debenture stockholders.



## American Business Notes.

Evidently the public mind is not yet satisfied over the Government's treatment of the cotton trouble. "More might be done," writers in the Press of all shades of politics keep insisting. They mostly forget the danger rigour would create of a quarrel with the United States, or such a sharpening of feeling there against us as might not only cause the American people to deny the tacit assistance now given, but to fall a prey to German devices. Undeniably, however, the Germans must have profited enormously by our abstinence from serious effort to prevent them from getting cotton, and the following statistics contained in a letter written by Mr. Pennefather, M.P., and published in last Tuesday's *Morning Post*, are eloquent in support of the demand for greater vigour:—

STATEMENT SHOWING IMPORTATION OF BALES OF COTTON (all sorts) by the following countries for the nine months, August 1, 1914, to April 30, 1915, as compared with the consumption of such countries for the whole of the preceding year:—

Country.	Total Imports for Nine Months Ending April 30, 1915.	Total Consumption for Preceding 12 Months.	Excess of Imports for Nine Months over Consumption for 12 Months.
			Bales.
Holland .....	419,370	105,000	314,370
Denmark .....	65,830	27,500	38,330
Norway .....	125,510	13,689	111,820
Sweden .....	747,630	100,000	647,630
			1,112,150

That the four countries, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, should have in the nine months ended April 30 last imported 1,112,150 bales of cotton more than in the whole 12 months preceding is a fact which can only be accounted for on the assumption that the great bulk of this supply went from these countries into Germany. If the same excess continued now, the Germans might be serene as to their capacity to manufacture explosives. But cotton is not alone required for that purpose; its uses are infinite, and the subjoined list of directions in which fibre enters into the composition or manufacture of all manner of commodities, which was extracted from Mr. Pennefather's letter, is illuminating enough to be worth preserving:—

(a) Railways are large users of cotton fabrics for various purposes, including the use of cotton fabrics for air brake hose. American railways alone use about 250,000 bales yearly of cotton in various forms, which may give some idea of how much Germany requires for her railways.

(b) The world (some years before the war) was yearly using over 250,000 bales of cotton in connection with motor-cars. As this is largely a motor-car war, and as cotton fabric is the basis for motor tyres, Germany must require large quantities of cotton for this purpose.

(c) Agricultural machinery, such as harvesters, reapers, binders, and threshers, use millions of yards of cotton fabrics for "aprons," "carriers," and "elevators."

(d) Armies require great quantities of cotton for clothing, bedding, tents, ground sheets, mackintoshes, boot linings, tarpaulins, waders (for trench work), snow shoes, &c.

(e) More cotton is said to be used in various ways in a modern battleship than was used by a frigate in the days of canvas sails. It is no doubt also used in submarines and (special kinds) in aircraft.

(f) The "brattice" cloths, necessary to coal mining, are made of cotton.

(g) Cotton is generally used as "insulation" for electric cables and wires.

(h) Cotton is largely used in munition and other factories in combination with asbestos for covering boilers and steam pipes. It is also used (as a substitute for leather) for driving belts for machinery, and also for filtering oil and for many other factory purposes.

Even this long list is no more than an important summary.

It is not possible to say whether facts of this or any description will render Americans interested in cotton more willing to accept at our hands increasingly drastic measures against its importation by Germany, but it is better for us to endure a but fumblingly organised check than to quarrel or create sources of bad feeling between ourselves and our brethren beyond the Atlantic. In the meantime it is interesting to keep an eye upon the doings of the Teutons themselves, on their unconscious efforts to aggravate American feel-

ing against them. As was announced at the time, they are insolently postponing their answer to President Wilson's last Note. "Let his wrath cool, and the affair will blow over or prove easy to bluff," they say with a perfect imperviousness to the conception that any human being could possess feelings of his own worthy of notice by the haughty self-worshipping Junker. We shall have to wait a week yet for the reply it seems, but meantime the forecast of it put round the Press is much what was to be expected. Trivialities will be pattered about, efforts made to seem to be willing to modify the "blockade" so as to give immunity to ships really owned by the United States, and things of that kind. That any substantial reparation will be made for the *Lusitania* atrocity and other crimes by a landward, coarse-grained people on the high seas is in the highest degree improbable. The aim is to "fool the American people all the time," and therein lies the danger that these people, exasperated at finding themselves mocked at, may rush into war, completing thus the chaos now threatening civilisation.

As the above was being put in type the news came that, after a brave effort to escape, the Leyland liner *Armenian* (8,825 tons) had been torpedoed and sunk on Monday evening last 54 miles north-west of Bishop Rock, Scilly Isles, by the German submarine U38. The ship was fired on and a dozen or so of her crew killed before the captain decided to heave to and surrender. Although the Leyland ships are on the British register and the company that directly owns them is a British company, the real controller and main proprietor of the fleet is the International Mercantile Marine Company of New Jersey—the "Morgan Shipping Combine," in other words—so that the Washington Government has in this disaster and in the loss of American citizens among its crew new and poignant grounds for dissatisfaction, for distrusting the word-juggling plausibilities of Berlin. But already German officialdom has its answer ready: "The ship was used by the British Government to carry munitions, and therefore lawful prey"! And that may be true, but its truth will in no way tend to lessen the tension of feeling in the States. Probably the Teutons do not now care much what happens. Their destiny is to be destroyed as a dominating race—be it soon, be it late—and they seem to have begun to realise their doom, are growing reckless, therefore ready to bid defiance to all the world in war, as they have already scorned all affinity with the ordinary ties and rules of civilisation which, everywhere else, were beginning to draw the human family together.

A side show of an amusing description is afforded by that mysterious gentleman, Dr. Meyer-Gerhard, who was said to have been sent to the United States ostensibly for philanthropy, really to try to pick up ammunition for the Berlin Government. If he had this latter purpose in view—we have no proof that he had—he does not seem to have succeeded much, judging by the farrago of nonsense he has been pouring forth to the Berlin *Tag*. In his opinion, the Americans are opposed to the sale of arms and ammunition to the Allies, and would show their opposition could a referendum be taken. This seems to have surprised New York newspapers, and undoubtedly it would be news to them as to us. If the Germans could manage to get the ammunition through, we have no doubt at all that any energy and material they had to spare for the purpose would be cheerfully devoted to the manufacture of explosives for German consumption provided payment were sure. The difficulty is that while France and ourselves and Russia can import all the supplies we can pick up, Germany cannot, hence the yelling and manœuvring. But this Dr. Meyer-Gerhard makes observations so wide of the mark about the good Yankees as to be unworthy of further notice.

We note with a certain by no means unkindly satisfaction that New York City has not been able to borrow as cheaply as was expected, or as usual. That fact shows how the war expenditure in Europe is tending to paralyse finance everywhere, or otherwise to



heighten the value of loanable capital. It accumulates in New York none the less, for the bank loan average for the week ended June 26 is £1,700,000 down at £493,000,000, and the deposit average is quite £5,650,000 up. Money is accumulating, and threatens to be inconveniently plentiful, so that we hope the New York bankers and financiers will see their way to buy a large slice of our tempting  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan. If they took £250,000,000 of it, that kind of help would be much more valuable to us at the present juncture than the sending of their fleet to learn how ours "contains" the German one so well enough bottled up. The deposit average in New York, including £27,558,000 of time money, now exceeds £514,000,000, and the loan average is only about £493,000,000. The actual reserve is £123,234,000, or £694,000 up on the week, so that a decline of £294,000 in the surplus reserve signifies nothing. It still amounts to £39,000,000.

### Insurance News.

In spite of restricted business caused by the war, the report of the Life Association of Scotland contains some pleasing features. New proposals dropped from over a million pounds to £737,292, and policies were issued for £505,108, a decrease of £338,892, but the nett business retained at the association's risk was £487,408, with premiums of £24,655. In spite, however, of the adverse war influences, the nett new business and the nett new premiums were within 17 per cent. and 6 per cent. respectively of the averages in the three previous years. The mortality experience was again light, the ratio of actual to expected claims by death, exclusive of bonuses, being 87 per cent., against 88 per cent. in 1913. The actual amount was £309,468, against £299,000 in the previous year, while the amount expected was £340,548. This result is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that £27,335 of claims were directly due to the war. Revenue from premiums and interest, less tax, amounted to £588,525, and the total funds show an increase of £33,963 at £6,127,362. The nett rate of interest realised on the life assurance and annuity fund, after deduction of tax, was £3 18s. 9d. per cent., as against £4 os. 9d. per cent., the increase in tax more than accounting for the difference. The ratio of expenses to life business was the lowest for several years past, cash bonuses to policy-holders in the old series are allocated at the same rates as last year, and the dividend is maintained at £1 3s. 6d. per share, less tax.

The effect of the war is also reflected in the accounts of the University Life Society for the year ended April 30. The amount of proposals declined from £209,162 to £167,018, and the nett amount effected was £107,557, as compared with £137,417. Claims were estimated for a total of £68,548 under 51 policies, including endowments. Claims by death were appreciably below the expectation; 53 deaths were provided for assuring £77,617, but the actual deaths were only 36 for £64,355. At the close of the year there were 3,399 policies in force assuring £2,245,600, and producing a premium of £71,907 per annum, as compared with 3,342 policies assuring £2,193,321, producing £68,483 in premiums, at the close of 1913-14. The average rate of interest earned on the funds, which amounted at the end of the year to £1,007,289, was £4 os. 2d. per cent., after deduction of tax. Stock Exchange securities have been written down to the value as at April 30, 1914, and in addition £25,000 has been placed to investment reserve. The quinquennial valuation shows a surplus of £68,316, of which £65,204 is divided as to £6,929 among the proprietors and £58,275 among the policy-holders. A bonus of 24s. a share is paid to the proprietors, the sum carried forward being reduced from £269 to £22. The amount available for the policy-holders admits of additions to all full bonus policies of 30s. per cent. in respect of each year's premium in the quinquennium.

### Indian Tea Company Results.

Knowing how easy it is not only to fail to grasp the true characteristics of a year's work in any branch of trade, but even to light on false ideas when one is guided merely by the two or three reports studied at intervals of a week, we have as usual collated facts relating to more than thirty of the most important of the Indian tea-producing companies, in order to try to obtain therefrom some real grasp of the state of affairs during the 1914 season. Any general remarks based on our statistics ought thus to have a solid foundation of truth. Most of these companies' accounts are drawn up so as to coincide with the calendar year 1914, and, at a first glance, the period thus covered seems to have been quite a prosperous one from the standpoint of the tea merchant. But there are wheels within wheels, and although no company can be said to have done badly, the general results are in a way patchy. First, however, we may say that to the big tea producer the market has been very satisfactory, the prices obtained for common tea being high. With only one exception the prices realised during the year show an increase in comparison with the previous 12 months, and even though the average secured by the Darjeeling tea was 1.32d. lower at rs. 0.3d. per lb., it got more per lb. than any other company in our list. Three companies, Longai-Valley, Lungla (Sylhet) and Doloo got over 1d. per lb. more than in 1913, while the others show increases ranging between .92d. in the case of Dooars and .17d. for Travancore.

The story of the crops is rather different; true the majority of the companies produced more tea, but no fewer than nine experienced reductions in their output, and a considerable number of the reports state that the yield suffered from insufficient or badly distributed rains and from hail. Further, a large quantity of tea was lost owing to the sinking of various ships, and though some of this was insured, a good part, we fear, involved a direct loss to the owners, having been dispatched uninsured. On the whole, however, production was good, and Baraoora (Sylhet) and Chargoala, with increases of 106,682 lbs. to 2,317,597 lbs. and of 40,011 lbs. to 2,671,536 lbs. respectively, reached record figures. Assam increased its yield by 694,916 lbs. to 7,273,053 lb., Imperial by 18,285 lbs. to 6,112,148 lb. and Jokai (Assam) by 206,720 lbs. to 6,337,503 lbs., but the two others whose output tops the 5,000,000 lbs. mark, Dooars and Nedeem (Dooars), both show reductions, the one of 124,517 to 5,177,631 lbs., and the other of 619,658 to 5,485,673 lbs. Of the 23 companies whose crops are between 1,000,000 and 4,000,000 lbs., 16 have managed to do better than in 1913, the largest of them, Jorehaut, having increased its output by 337,963 lbs. to 3,595,359 lbs., while the next largest, Lungla (Sylhet), registers a small decrease at 3,110,333 lbs. As regards those whose accounts indicate a decline, each report says that the results are due largely to lack of rain or to hailstorms, which did great damage to the bushes. Similar remarks are made by two out of the three companies which have produced less than 1,000,000 of lbs. of tea, the directors of the

## AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Established 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

FUNDS, £32,000,000.

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Moderate Premiums, Liberal Conditions, World-wide Policies.

Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.



Doloo Tea Co. stating, moreover, that but for insufficiency of rain in the last three months of the year the crop, which as it was amounted to 208,371 lbs. more at 910,923 lbs., would have been still larger. Darjeeling increased its yield by 18,962 lbs. to 545,725 lbs., and Meppadi Wynaad by 60,972 lbs. to 773,365 lbs., these being the two smallest crops on the list. Generally speaking, the cost of production, &c., was higher, for although on this point we cannot speak in absolute terms, owing to the fact that several of the companies do not give the cost, 10 out of the 12 that do give it have a higher figure for 1914 than for 1913. And after all this is quite understandable, for managers had to take into account at least two new items, namely, war risk insurance and higher freight charges, both directly attributable to the war. In four cases, unfortunately, the advance in the cost per lb. exceeds the gain in the price realised, these four being Chargola, Jhanzie, Jokai (Assam) and Pabbojan. Mappadi Wynaad, however, managed to reduce its cost by .24d. to 5.98d., while the increase of .60d. per lb. in the Dooars garden of the Singlo Co. was more than offset by the drop of 69d. in the Assam garden.

We find this increase in cost of production, &c., even more clearly shown when we come to study nett profits, for, although 22 companies show an advance in their yield and 30 in the price realised, only 19 can point to an improvement in nett profits. Three or four of the remainder can probably fairly ascribe the small decrease shown to the advance in the income-tax, but there are at least seven—no one of whose nett profits are less than £2,000 lower than in 1913—which cannot lay claim to that excuse, though some of these, again, are to a certain extent influenced by the reduction in output. On the other hand, we note such increases as £13,231 in the profits of the Assam Co., £13,832 in those of the East India and Ceylon, which also produces a certain amount of rubber, £9,116 in those of Jorehaut, and £7,066 in those of the Brahmapootra Co. What, however, is quite certain is that shareholders have not suffered as the result of the year's business. Only four companies have had to reduce their dividends, while nine have increased theirs, the remainder maintaining their former handsome returns. Even those who have had to put up with smaller distributions need scarcely grumble; true, Darjeeling only pays 3 per cent. as against 5 per cent., but the halving at 2 per cent. of the bonus paid by the Jokai (Assam) still gives a total return of 12 per cent., while the dividend paid by Makum is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. down at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and that by Meenglas 2 per cent. lower at 23 per cent., good returns in all conscience. Assam Dooars increased its dividend by 1 per cent. to 14 per cent., Brahmapootra maintained its dividend at 10 per cent. but increased the bonus from 14 per cent. to 18, British Indian paid 12 per cent. against 11, Doloo doubled its distribution at 10, and Dooars repeated the 15 per cent. dividend, but raised the bonus  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 15. East India and Ceylon increased its distribution by no less than  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $22\frac{1}{2}$ , Jorehaut, while maintaining the bonus at 10 per cent., paid a dividend of 20 per cent. as against 15, Lungla (Sylhet) distributed 25 per cent. against 20, and Longai Valley  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. against 15. Appropriations for reserve and for depreciation purposes also have not suffered, the most striking example to the contrary being an advance of £12,000 to £21,000 in the amount set aside by Assam, while Singlo put by £17,500 against £10,200, £15,500 being for redemption of debentures and premium. Chubwa did not make any allowances in 1914 compared with £5,000 in 1913, but added £3,569 to its carry forward, an example followed by most of the other companies. They all seem to have aimed at possessing extra liquid funds with which to meet any emergency the current year may bring forth. Summing up, it seems to us that, taking all things into consideration, and despite such drawbacks as inclement weather, higher freight charges and heavier insurance, 1914 was a good year both from the standpoint of the producer and the shareholder.

## Notes on Books.

*The Evolution of the Money Market.* By Ellis J. Powell, LL.B. (Lond.), B.Sc. (Econ. Lond.), &c. (*Financial News*, 111, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.)

We do not propose, would not be able, in fact, in the space at our disposal, to enter into a discussion of the vastly complicated organisation, the foundations and the final structure of which the clever editor of the *Financial News* has so ably dissected. To enter into such a discussion would require study almost as thorough as that which has gone to produce the book. And here we may say that the first impression we received of the book was just that of ungrudging toil and care. Otherwise Mr. Powell would never have compiled the book he now offers, in particular, to the financial world. It is not a book which will be likely to attract the average haphazard reader, and it is, indeed, dedicated to "my valued colleagues of the financial Press, as well as to City editors and City financial writers generally." To such as these the book ought to prove invaluable as a compendium of information—information, moreover, which gives proof of much reading and well-balanced, careful thought. The one fault we have to find—and friendly criticism will not be out of place here, for, as the writer himself says, "impatience of criticism is incompatible with the spirit of earnest search for truth in which all our great scientific problems should be approached, dissected, and discussed"—is that at times the style becomes rather diffuse. There are places, too, which almost necessitate the presence of a dictionary by the side of the reader; but, after all, if the trend of thought thus discovered in delving repays the trouble taken, that is the chief thing. The book, then, is a study—historical and analytical—"of the rise and development of finance as a centralised, co-ordinated force," and was brought into being through the belief of the author that the present power of modern finance was attributable to something in the nature of organic development, operating by means of natural selection. This development he endeavours to trace throughout the five sections into which the book is divided, commencing with an historical sketch, covering the period between 1385 and 1694, the date of the establishment of the Bank of England. After 1694 the essay becomes rather more elaborate in its recital of facts and in drawing inferences—the first part being merely an introduction to the main topic—and winds its way through (a) the nucleus of organisation, dealing with the prestige of the Bank of England, (b) the rise of the modern Money market, the main theme of the book, (c) the struggle towards consolidation, and finally the great test of the strength of the foundations laid. We congratulate the author on the skill with which he tells an absorbing story, skilfully co-related, and the details of which give evidence of an expenditure of no small labour and thought.

*Rubber Producing Companies.* (*Financial Times*, 72, Coleman Street, E.C. Price 3s.)

In view of the reawakening of interest in rubber shares induced by the promising outlook for the commodity, the new edition of this reference work which has just been issued by the *Financial Times* is welcome. The book has again been compiled by the Mincing Lane Tea and Rubber Share Brokers' Association and contains particulars of 526 companies, with an issued capital of £57,361,000—figures which require no addition to indicate the importance of the industry. In their preface the editors point out that plantation rubber is rapidly forging ahead and ousting the wild article from the market. The war has demonstrated that as a munition rubber has, if anything, become as essential as coal, iron, or even explosives, and the consumption is therefore bound to be on a very much larger scale than hitherto, while the production will remain more or less stationary owing to the fact that practically no further areas have been planted out during the last three or four years.



Steady progress has been made with the reduction of the "all-in" cost, which in some cases has been brought down to under 1s. per lb., and it is confidently expected that the well-managed companies will be able to produce at 9d. per lb., so that even if the price should not exceed 2s. there would be a very handsome margin of profit. Prospects like these are bound to attract the attention of many investors, to whom this book would prove invaluable.

## The Week in Mines.

The dulness which has dominated Stock Markets generally ever since the issue of the War Loan prospectus, the generous terms of which have effectually pushed almost all other securities into the background, has gradually spread over the Mining departments. Business has been on a very restricted scale, but here and there a bright feature has relieved the dreary monotony of lower prices. Amalgamated Zincs have risen sharply on news of fresh sales of zinc concentrates to French and American smelters, and Ferreira Deeps have been in demand on Cape account, and have advanced appreciably.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

There has been little business in the South African market, but interest in the Far Eastern Rand has been stimulated by a statement by Mr. Mellor, of the Geological Survey, declaring that the main reef series extends to the Far Eastern Rand. The section of the body styled Main Reef on the Van Ryn and Kleinfontein mines represents, in his opinion, the leader of the central section, while the black bar of the central section is metamorphosed into the shale footwall in the eastern section, the main reef proper disappearing in the eastern section. Ferreira Deep came into good demand on Wednesday, and rose from 2½ to 2½, while Simmer and Jacks, after being strong and rising to 12s. 6d., reacted to 10s. 9d. New Modders have been dull, falling from 14½ to 14½, and Modder Deeps and Modder "B's" fell back to 4½ and 5½ respectively. Crowns have dropped to 4½, East Rands to 1½ and Gold Fields to 24s. 6d. Diamond shares have been weak, especially De Beers deferred, which declined further to 10½ owing to sales on an unwilling market. Jagers, however, recovered from 2½ to 2½ on some support. Chartereds have been very dull at 9s. 9d., and Falcons were down to 8s. on the progress report. West Africans have been featureless.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have relapsed owing to the irregularity and uncertainty of the metal market, but the price keeps high. Amalgamated relapsed from about 79 to 77½, Anacondas from 7½ to 7½, and Rio Tintos from 59½ to 58½. Hampdens have reacted to 31s. 6d. Tin shares have been fairly steady. In the Broken Hill group, Amalgamated Zincs were bought, and rose 4s. to 25s. on news that the company had made a further sale of concentrates in the United States, and that a contract had also been made to deliver 6,000 tons of concentrates in France. Proprietaries have continued to meet with a fair amount of support, but are a shade easier at 45s. 9d. Russian shares have been depressed and difficult to sell, owing to the continued advance of the Austro-German forces in Galicia. Russo-Asiatics have dropped to 4½, and Kyshtims and Tanalyks to about 2½. West Australian shares have been on the dull side with, however, very little business passing. Golden Horseshoes fell ½ to 2½, and Great Boulders 1s. 3d. to 14s. 6d. Indians have been on offer, Mysore falling to 4½, while Ooregums and Nundydroogs also show slight declines.

## MINING NEWS.

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.—Last year the revenue amounted to £45,657, against £43,801, and the gross profit was £18,221, against £18,456. Adding £6,056 brought in, the total available is £24,278, which has been disposed of as follows:—£12,806 written off for development

and depreciation, £326 for taxes, £1,255 for interest, and £9,889 is carried forward.

BLACKWATER MINES.—The gross revenue for 1914 increased from £83,239 to £100,386, and the gross profit is raised from £34,932 to £42,544, to which is added £9,027 brought forward, making £51,571. Of this amount £3,810 has been written off for depreciation, &c., £10,618 for development and shaft-sinking, £4,335 is added to gold reserve, and £12,499 is again paid in dividend, equal to 1s. per share, leaving £16,361 to be carried forward. Reserves of ore show a tonnage of 104,564, practically the same as last year, of an average value of 15.52 dwts., over a stopping width of 32.15 ins., an increase in value of 5.63 dwts. In the report of last year mention was made of the reef having been struck in the main shaft at a depth of 1,081 ft., assaying £7½ per ton. Since then the shaft has been sunk to a depth of 1,139½ ft., and driving begun on the 7th level, with very satisfactory results, the average assay value north being 33.21 dwts., and south 25.55 dwts., over widths of 26 and 32 ins. respectively.

PROGRESS MINES OF NEW ZEALAND.—This company, which, like the Blackwater, belongs to the Consolidated group, had a smaller revenue and profit last year. The gross revenue declined from £55,261 to £53,450, and the profit from £18,493 to £16,064. Of this latter amount £15,419 is allowed for development, £3,576 for depreciation, £4,490 is placed to gold reserve, and after making other deductions a debit of £9,549 is shown, thus increasing the debit carried forward from £24,033 to £33,582. The south reef is now in process of being opened up, and it is expected, will supply a large tonnage of milling ore. Working costs increased from 19s. to 19s. 10d. per ton. The general manager estimates that the approximate tonnage to be milled may be placed at 80,000 tons.

SOUTH KALGURLI CONSOLIDATED.—In the year ended March 31 the tonnage treated was 116,159, the total revenue being £137,682, the figures for the previous 13 months being 124,670 and £133,831 respectively. After deducting £4,978 for depreciation, the nett profit comes out at £9,634, against £7,330. The dividend is raised from 6d. to 9d. per share, and the balance carried forward is increased from £446 to £706. Ore reserves have declined from 173,383 tons to 165,146 tons, but the value has been increased from 5½ dwts. to 6.05 dwts. In addition, there are 85,310 tons of probable ore, averaging 5.12 dwts., against 92,120 tons averaging 5½ dwts. It is hoped to resume the declaration of interim dividend this year.

ST. JOHN DEL REY.—In the year ended February 28 the tonnage crushed increased from 174,000 tons to 191,500 tons, the increase of 17,500 tons being due to an improvement in the labour supply. The yield per ton crushed was the same as that for 1913-14, roundly 47s. 7½d. Expenditure was increased under various heads, but the company derived compensation from the lower rate of exchange at which the company's drafts were negotiated, and which averaged 14.459d. per milreis, against 16.088d, the rate for the preceding 12 months. The total yield was £457,427, against £414,410, and the profit increased from £115,349 to £144,092, to which is added £7,196 brought in, making £151,288. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, making 2s., or 10 per cent., for the year, the same as for 1913-14; £30,000 is transferred to capital works account, in addition to the £20,000 allocated in December to that account, £10,000 is placed to reserve fund, and £8,174 is carried forward.

PRESTEA BLOCK A.—The accounts for 1914 show a profit of £82,536, against £83,921 for 1913. Experimental work and interest on loans absorbed £10,137, and £43,567 is allowed for depreciation, leaving £28,832 against £38,340 to be carried forward. The loan from the Central Mining and Investment Corporation and the Fanti Consolidated Mines was reduced by £55,000 to £70,000 during the year, but in the current year it has been further reduced to £25,000. The gold recovered amounted to £427,776, equal to 31s. 7.2d. per ton milled. Working expenses were again slightly reduced, the figure being 25s. 6d., against 25s. 7d. in 1913. The reserves of ore have declined from 691,670 tons to 646,610 tons, valued at 38s. 6d. per ton. The plant has been gradually speeded up to the maximum capacity, and is now running at over 25,000 tons per month against an average of 22,561 in 1914 and 19,166 in 1913, but last year's average yield was 39s. 6d. against 41s. 6d.

CANADIAN MINING CORPORATION.—The profits of this company, which controls cobalt silver mines, amounted to £92,132. Dividends amounting to 5 per cent. have been paid, and £13,867 is carried forward. One-third of the preliminary expenses has been written off. At the end of December the Canadian Co. carried forward \$492,731, representing about 24 per cent. of its issued capital. In considering the results of the year's operations it should be remembered that the price of silver has fallen considerably, and had declined at the beginning of the year to a figure that had not been touched since 1903.

BUENA TIERRA.—Nett profits for 1914 amounted to £5,909, and £20,733 was brought forward. After deducting income-tax £25,145 is carried forward. Operations have been conducted under very great difficulties. A second dividend of 1s. per share was paid in February, making the total distribution to date £33,000. Reserves of ore are again estimated at 300,000 tons.

ROBINSON DEEP.—At the meeting of this company Mr. D. Christopherson said that negotiations had been reopened for the acquisition of certain claims south of the mine, and that it was hoped to place a definite proposal before the shareholders at an early date.



**RUSSIAN MINING CORPORATION.**—Last year's receipts, mainly derived from interest and dividends, were more than sufficient to cover the whole of the administration expenses in Russia and London, also expenditures on properties abandoned, and the debit balance of £4,851 brought forward is reduced to £2,681. The war has, of course, seriously affected the company's operations, and the prosecution of the drainage and water scheme at Petrograd, in connection with which large sums have been expended, has been deferred. The corporation's option to take up one-half of the capital of the Russian anthracite collieries has been extended on terms until after peace is declared.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**A. and S. Henry and Co.**—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended May 31, same as a year ago.

**Alexanders and Co.**—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

**Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates.**—15 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year, against total of 20 per cent.

**Australian Agricultural.**—5s. per share, free of tax, making 10s. per share, free tax, for 1914, against 10s. 6d.

**Bakap Rubber.**—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary, payable July 12.

**Court Line.**—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for first six months of 1915, against 6 per cent.

**Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway.**—Ad-interim for half-year ended March 31 of 4 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., or 5 per cent. in all, on the ordinary, free of Indian, but subject to English tax, same as a year ago.

**Employers' Liability Assurance.**—Interim of 5s. per share, free tax, payable July 28, same as a year ago.

**Esperanza.**—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, 1915, payable July 31; for the whole of 1914 1s. per share was paid.

**General Life Assurance.**—Half-yearly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, now payable.

**Globe and Phoenix Gold.**—First interim of 1s. per share, less tax, in respect of 1915, payable July 29, against 1s. 6d.

**Harrisons and Crossfield.**—On the "old" cumulative preference at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for three months ending July 15, and at the same rate on the shares of the new issue on the amount of capital paid up for the time being, calculated from date of allotment; payable July 14.

**Imperial Colonial Finance and Agency.**—Final at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended July 1 on the stock, less tax, making 6 per cent. for the year, against 7 per cent.

**Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance.**—Interim of 7s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 3, against 6s. per share, free tax.

**John Knight.**—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended May 31, payable July 15, same as a year ago.

**Kaministiquia Power.**—1½ per cent. or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the common for quarter ending July 31, payable Aug. 15, same as a year ago.

**Liebig's Extract of Meat.**—Additional of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, both free tax, on the ordinary for year ended March 31, payable July 22, making 22½ per cent., free tax, for the year, same as a year ago.

**Linggi Plantations.**—Interim on the ordinary of 15 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, equivalent to 3 3-5d. per share, same as a year ago.

**London and Hanseatic Bank.**—Interim for first half of 1915 at the rate of 5s. per share, or 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 6s. per share.

**London and South-Western Bank.**—Interim at the rate of 17 per cent. per annum, less tax, for past half-year, against 18 per cent. per annum last year, but is at the same rate as that paid for the whole of the year 1914, payable 9th inst. The directors state that the bank's investments have been written down to, or below, their lowest ascertainable value, and all other usual and necessary provisions made. The total of current and deposit account balances now exceed £24,000,000.

**London City and Midland Bank.**—Interim for past half-year at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 15th inst.; same as a year ago, but tax free.

**National Discount Co.**—Interim for half-year ending June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 17th inst., against 11 per cent. a year ago.

**New Investment.**—Final at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year to July 1, less tax, against 7 per cent.

**North's Navigation Collieries.**—The directors, with a view of giving the shareholders an opportunity of investing in the War Loan, should they so wish it, have decided to pay the usual half-year interim dividend somewhat earlier than in normal times, and accordingly they have declared the payment of interim dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the preference and a shilling per share on the ordinary shares on account of this year's working. Warrants will be posted on July 6. Last year the interim dividend on the ordinary shares was the same.

**Oregon Mortgage.**—For the half-year to May 31 at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 2 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

**Philadelphia Co.**—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 2.

**Scottish American Investment.**—Interim at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

**Second Industrial Trust.**—On the ordinary at the rate of 4 per cent., less tax, for year to June 15, with £4,371 forward, against 4½ per cent., with £4,363 forward.

**Stuttaford and Co.**—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary, payable July 15, same as a year ago.

**Telegraph Construction and Maintenance.**—Interim of 5 per cent. (12s.) per share, same as a year ago.

**Trustees, Executors and Securities Insurance.**—On the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year to May 31, making a distribution at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax, for the year, with £36,941 forward, against 5½ per cent., with £31,314 forward.

**Union Discount of London.**—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable July 24, same as a year ago, but free tax.

**United Tobacco Companies.**—Interim of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary (free tax), against 5 per cent.

## MINING OUTPUTS.

**Mashonaland Agency.**—Kimberley Reef: 4,400 tons, 949 ozs. fine gold; sands, 265 ozs.; slimes, 235 ozs.; value, £6,155.

**Oroville Dredging.**—Dredge returns week June 3, \$5,285.31, two dredges.

**Stratton's Independence.**—Production, 4,743 tons ore averaging 8 dwts. 13 grs. per ton. Low grade mine and dump ore milled 9,617 tons; net profit, \$9,000.

**Worcester Exploration.**—5,600 tons, 886 ozs.; profit, £320.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### JAMES EADIE, LTD.

Good progress was made by this company in the year ended March 31, nett profits being £5,337 up at £63,462, making, with £12,259 brought in, £75,721 available, an increase of £6,377. The ordinary dividend, however, is maintained at 3 per cent., but £15,000 is transferred to a special fund for contingencies, against £13,000 to reserve, and £4,565 more at £16,824 is carried forward. The balance-sheet shows small decreases in freehold and leasehold properties, brewery, &c., and in additional properties purchased, &c., which now total £879,919 and £226,914 respectively, or together £1,106,833, against a paid-up capital of £500,000 and a debenture debt of £500,000. Debtors owe £7,976 more at £31,681, cash is £8,490 up at £30,593, and stock has risen £9,747 to £63,211, compared with increases of £10,467 to £44,600 in mortgages and loans and of £9,140 to £44,952 in sundry creditors.

### CROMPTON AND CO., LTD.

The reorganisation of this company's business two years ago continues to give good results, and together with economies in manufacture is responsible for the improvement of £9,239 in the gross profits for the year ended March 31, bringing them up to £57,911. Administration and general charges were £4,760 lower at £20,261, so that the nett profits, after providing for debenture interest, &c., were no less than £12,909 up at £26,460, making with the £2,189 against nothing brought in, an available total of £28,649, or £15,098 more. It is therefore possible for the directors, in addition to transferring £6,500 against £2,500 to general reserve and £3,500 against nothing to special depreciation account, and writing £1,608, or £108 more, off preliminary expenses, to increase the preference dividend from 5 per cent. to 7 and still have £5,502 more at £7,691 to carry forward. During the year £12,719 was added to freehold land, premises, plant, &c., but, less depreciation, the account is only £8,818 higher at £196,757. Stock and work in progress are £9,943 up at £75,226, and cash has risen £3,954 to £16,226, but other changes in the balance-sheet are of little importance.

### STAR ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

In the 15 months ended March 31 this company did very well. Profits in the motor section, less £3,513 for depreciation, mortgage interest, &c., amounted to £34,151, or £23,644 more than in the previous year, and although there was a small loss in the cycle section the nett profit, including £6,264 from rents, dividends, &c., and after paying £6,276 for bank charges, directors' commissions, was £32,817. This compares with £16,906 for the preceding 12 months, and represents an increase on the yearly average of over £9,000. Adding £1,720 brought in there was an available surplus of £34,537, out of which the ordinary shares get a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum against nothing, while £13,500 is written off goodwill and £5,000 is placed to reserve. In 1913 the directors proposed to write £10,000 off goodwill, but they evidently changed their minds, for that sum was used to form the nucleus of a reserve fund, goodwill remaining at £48,500. With the present addition the reserve fund will amount to £15,000, while goodwill, patent rights, &c., will now be reduced to £35,000. Plant, machinery, tools, &c., have risen £4,694 to £50,544, and stock and works in progress £9,580 to £57,217, while the company's liability to sundry creditors comes to £4,810 less at £55,881.

### JOHN BLAND AND CO., LTD.

Partly owing to the heavy stock which they held in 1914 and were able to dispose of at an enhanced price, the directors are able to present very satisfactory results for the year ended March 31 last. Including £1,572 more at £7,377 brought in the clear surplus showed an increase of £10,838 at £26,715, and, in addition to the maintenance of the bonus on the ordinary shares at 2½ per cent., the dividend is increased from 5 per cent.



to 10. Moreover, an extra £4,000 at £5,000 is written off capital expenditure account, which still leaves a balance of £9,215 to be carried forward, a figure larger by £1,838 than the amount brought in. The balance shows reductions of £10,803 at £17,781 in the amounts due from sundry debtors and of £25,556 at £15,580 in stock, but cash is £44,558 up at £60,099 and bills receivable have risen £3,477 to £11,792.

#### ASPREY AND CO., LTD.

For the first time in 17 years the business done by this company has suffered a set-back, but the reduction in profits is due largely to the refusal of the directors to cut down salaries, and there is, therefore, no reason for grumbling. The report for the 12 months ended March 31 says that the efforts of the directors to adapt themselves to war conditions by employing both their factories on officers' equipments and War Office contracts prevented the reduction in turnover from being as considerable as might have been expected. It was, however, impossible to effect a corresponding reduction in expenses without reducing salaries, and "this course, out of regard for the merits of your staff, your directors declined to pursue." The result was a decrease of £8,539 to £22,969 in profits, a diminution "in greater ratio than the loss of turnover." Accordingly the dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced from 15 per cent. to 11½ and nothing is transferred to reserve against £10,000, but £6,725 is carried forward against £4,912 brought in. Cash shows an increase of £8,500 at £23,810, but debtors owe £6,275 less at £24,853, and stocks are £15,246 lower at £86,901, while the liability to creditors also is £13,836 smaller at £17,556.

#### EDMUNDSON'S ELECTRICITY CORPORATION, LTD.

In 1914 the gross profits of subsidiary and other companies rose a further £8,377 to £169,605, 155,285 more lamps having been connected, but the nett profits of the corporation for the year ended March 31 were practically the same at £23,240. A sum of £2,125, however, against nothing, was brought in, so that, after paying the dividend on the cumulative preference shares and increasing the transfer to reserve from £9,000 to £10,000, the directors still have £1,240 more at £3,366 to carry forward. Investments in and advances to subsidiary and other companies, less the £366,900 written off, are £7,229 up at £1,154,638, and cash shows an increase of £19,672 at £34,040. Sundry liabilities have been reduced by £16,366 to £71,649, but against that the company has had to borrow £17,652, the loan being secured by a mortgage on Cromer undertaking and £25,000 first mortgage debenture stock.

#### COLUMBIA GAS AND ELECTRIC CO.

The gas supplied by this undertaking is, of course, natural gas, the company owning 153 wells with an open flow capacity of 147,000,000 cubic feet daily. Sales in 1914 amounted to 16,651,464,000 cubic feet, or an increase of 982,261,000 cubic feet, practically the whole of which was sold in the Cincinnati district. In the electric department important progress was also made, although it was less rapid than it might have been, owing to an electric rate investigation by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, which continued throughout practically the entire year. Gross earnings of the combined business, however, were \$353,577 up at \$5,851,537, and the nett earnings showed an increase of \$249,485 at \$3,644,384. Rentals and other charges took rather less, but interest payments were heavier, leaving a surplus of \$391,038, or \$171,916 more. Accompanying the report is a circular from Messrs. A. B. Leach and Co., Ltd., stating that a deal has been practically closed whereby the company secures control of the United Fuel Gas Co., thus making it the largest holder of natural gas fields in the United States of America.

#### AFRICAN ASSOCIATION, LTD.

No explanation is offered by the directors of the big set-back shown for the year ended December 31, but it may safely be assumed that the shrinkage was due to the war. Trading profits were £13,847 smaller at £51,086, and receipts from sale of investments, interest, &c., were £4,274 down at £13,206, giving a total of £64,292, or £18,121 less. The dividend on the ordinary shares, however, is again made up to 12 per cent., leaving a surplus of £12,210 to be divided between the ordinary and founders' shares. Out of the portion belonging to the ordinary shares the bonus of ½ per cent. is repeated, and £4,435 is added to the dividend fund, raising it to £184,574, but the distribution on the founders' shares is halved at £1 per share, which, however, means 100 per cent., and the balance carried forward to their credit is reduced by £1,483 to £928. A further addition of £11,962 has been made to the property account, increasing it to £201,982, against which the reserve stands at £130,620 and the insurance fund at £135,690, the two showing an aggregate increase of £14,331. Stocks of goods, produce, cash and debts in Africa, goods in warehouses, in Liverpool, and Manchester, and on the Continent are £28,698 down at £399,762, shipments in transit outward show a small decrease of £2,086 at £82,978, and cash, bills, and investments have been reduced by £42,777 to £305,818, but produce in transit homeward is £16,294 up at £195,108, and sundry debtors owe £7,211 more at £70,722. On the other hand, liabilities for acceptances and agents' drafts are £90,025 lower at £85,742, but £110,746, or £12,975 more, is due to sundry creditors, and the company has had to borrow £27,218 from its bankers.

#### BROOKE, BOND AND CO., LTD.

After providing an unstated amount for depreciation, nett profits for the year ended May 29 were £1,366 up at £20,490, and as the balance brought in was also £1,550 better at £3,521 it follows that the directors had £2,916 more at £24,011 to

distribute. What reason there exists for hiding up everything that might give any hint as to the work done during the year we cannot imagine, but no protest on our part seems to avail in moving what is apparently a fixed decision. Out of the above available total a dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid and £3,000, against £2,000, is transferred to insurance and contingencies fund, leaving £1,875 more at £5,396 to be carried forward. Freehold premises are much the same at £70,536, leasehold premises are £1,617 higher at £5,236 and plant, fixtures, &c., have risen £7,401 to £25,169, against which there is a reserve of £150,000. Investments in associated trading companies, partly owing to the disappearance of £2,550 Canada Atlantic bonds, have been reduced by £4,144 to £41,108, and cash is practically stationary at £16,806, but stocks have gone up no less than £109,049 to £399,699, and debtors owe £56,445 more at £75,352. On examining the liabilities side of the accounts, however, we find that the company has had to borrow a further £101,879 from its bankers, making the debt on that account £142,284, and that it owes £60,534 more at £167,200 to sundry creditors.

#### NIGER CO., LTD.

A circular has been issued stating that owing to causes arising out of the war it has not been possible to receive the accounts from Nigeria in time to submit the annual balance-sheet at the usual date, and that it is impossible yet to forecast the results of operations in 1914. Many old outlets for the company's products have been closed owing to their being declared conditional contraband, and although new outlets have been opened up, there has been a heavy increase in expenses. If it should prove that the results of 1914 would not permit of the payment of a dividend out of the profits of that year the directors will recommend that the preference dividend for the half-year ended December 31 last be paid out of the accumulated profits of previous years.

#### FORTUNA NITRATE CO., LTD.

Although this company closed one of its oficinas in August, it seems to have been the least satisfactory of the three owned, and to have made very little difference to the results for the year ended December 31. The other two were only closed in December, so that they were practically worked throughout the year, and profit was taken on 1,022,370 qtls., or 9,513 more than in 1913. Nett profits, after providing for London office charges, debenture interest, &c., were £1,614 smaller at £29,231, but £5,820 was brought forward, against nothing last time, and a dividend of 5 per cent. is again paid. A year ago £17,325 was taken from the available surplus to pay off the outstanding debentures at a premium, but nothing is required for any such purpose at this time. The directors, however, say that, in view of the uncertainty of the future, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the amounts necessary for amortisation and reserve, and they have therefore increased the balance carried out by £21,531 to £27,351. As the result of the redemption of the debentures, property account has been reduced by £12,886, and now stands in the books at £269,078, against which the reserves, including £66,000 from share premiums, amount to £132,770.

#### ALEXANDRIA WATER CO., LTD.

This company did quite well in the year ended March 31, as its total nett income was only £2,417 down at £108,082. Unfortunately, however, the value of the securities, based on the nominal market price at the date of the close of the accounts, showed a depreciation of £15,000, which the directors thought it prudent to write off at once. This appropriation absorbed some £10,000 more than in 1914, and as slightly more at £7,218 was set aside for depreciation on buildings, machinery, mains, &c., the surplus still remaining for division, after allotting various sums for compensation claims, staff gratuity, &c., and paying the statutory dividend of 10 per cent., amounted to £12,000 less at £57,000. Half of this is due to the municipality, and out of the remainder a further dividend of 1s. 9d. per share is paid, making a total distribution for the year of 11s. 9d. The length of new filtered and unfiltered water mains laid during the year amounts to 6,621 metres, and the length of high pressure mains to 1,207 metres. In consequence of the high price of coal, a trial plant, burning liquid fuel, has been ordered, for the purpose of ascertaining if there is any economy gained thereby.

#### DUMONT COFFEE CO., LTD.

Weather conditions were again adverse in the year ended December 31, and the crop showed a further shrinkage of 2,076 cwts. at 84,413 cwts., but otherwise matters were a little more favourable. In spite of the unsettled state of the market throughout the selling season the average price obtained was the same as in the previous year at 56s. 4d., while the laying down cost in London, thanks mainly to the drop of 2d. to 14.1d. in the exchange, worked out at 43s. 6½d., or 2s. 7½d. less. Receipts from the railway were lower, owing partly to coffee having been diverted through the failure of the Mogyana Co. to provide sufficient wagons to take delivery of it in Ribeirao Preto, and partly to delay in despatching before the end of the year. Gross profits from all sources, however, were £3,285 up at £62,893, but, with a big increase in income-tax, the London office expenditure took £1,986 more at £8,359, leaving a nett gain of £1,299 at £54,534. Unfortunately a very much smaller balance of £44,449 was brought forward, so that the disposable total was reduced by £8,486 to £98,983, and the directors are unable to repeat even the small dividend of 3 per cent. paid on the ordinary shares a year ago, but they carry forward £3,514 more at £47,962. The Fazenda current account is £19,513 down at £107,158, but cash is £6,088 higher at



£19,818, and another £3,139 has been added to the debenture purchase account, raising it to £40,509, while current liabilities have been reduced by £1,758 to £7,602. So far as output is concerned, the prospects for the current year seem rather brighter, as a crop of 100,000 cwts. is expected. Picking began on April 22, or a fortnight earlier than in 1914, and up to June 15 43,200 cwts. had been obtained compared with 32,320 cwts. at the same date a year ago.

### The Revenue.

#### I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the year ending March 31, 1916, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	Quarter from April 1 to June 30, 1915, compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.			
	Quarter ending June 30, 1915.	Quarter ending June 30, 1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs .. .. .	£ 9,796,000	£ 8,573,000	1,223,000	—
Excise .. .. .	13,374,000	8,530,000	4,844,000	—
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	9,064,000	7,971,000	1,093,000	—
Stamps .. .. .	1,332,000	2,096,000	—	764,000
Land Tax .. .. .	20,000	30,000	—	10,000
House Duty .. .. .	290,000	210,000	80,000	—
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax) .. .. .	10,819,000	5,939,000	4,880,000	—
Land Value Duties .. .. .	40,000	40,000	—	—
Postal Service .. .. .	3,240,000	4,030,000	—	790,000
Telegraph Service .. .. .	780,000	790,000	—	10,000
Telephone Service .. .. .	1,580,000	1,580,000	—	—
Crown Lands .. .. .	110,000	120,000	—	10,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans .. .. .	6,472	8,300	—	1,828
Miscellaneous .. .. .	845,664	593,377	262,287	—
	£ 51,297,136	£ 40,500,677	£ 12,382,287	£ 1,585,828
			£ 10,796,459	Nett Increase.

#### II.—AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Quarter ending June 30, 1915, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.		Quarter ending June 30, 1915.	Quarter ending June 30, 1914.
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER ON APRIL 1:—		£	£
Bank of England .. .. .		81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .. .. .		1,552,224	1,085,467
		83,450,952	10,434,519
REVENUE, as shown in Account I. .. .. .		51,297,136	40,500,677
ADVANCES REPAID—			
Bullion .. .. .		230,000	180,000
MONEY RAISED BY CREATION OF DEBT—			
By Treasury Bills for Supply .. .. .		20,687,000	5,500,000
By War Loan, 1925-1928 .. .. .		35,300,000	—
By Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. .. .		242,345	—
AMOUNTS TEMPORARILY BORROWED—			
ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—			
By Treasury Bills .. .. .		199,963,000	—
		£ 391,170,433	56,615,196
ISSUES.		Quarter ending June 30, 1915.	Quarter ending June 30, 1914.
EXPENDITURE—		£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt .. .. .		7,618,382	4,637,565
Interest, &c., on War Debt .. .. .		394,637	—
Road Improvement Fund .. .. .		281,038	261,731
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. .. .. .		1,027,398	1,194,887
Other Consolidated Fund Services .. .. .		535,730	437,585
Supply Services .. .. .		248,615,807	40,081,892
Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue		253,472,592	46,616,660
ISSUES TO MEET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—			
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .		700,000	800,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914 .. .. .		250,000	—
ADVANCES—			
Bullion .. .. .		320,000	195,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .		30,457	30,457
REDEMPTION OF UNFUNDED DEBT—			
Treasury Bills for Supply .. .. .		47,250,000	5,000,000
Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .. .. .		16,395,500	—
OLD SINKING FUND, 1907-8—			
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .. .. .		27,000	—
OLD SINKING FUND, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911:—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .. .. .		30,000	5,000
" " (c) .. .. .		—	53,000
		323,475,949	52,700,117
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER—			
Bank of England .. .. .	1915. June 30.	£ 66,942,560	£ 3,225,514
Bank of Ireland .. .. .		751,924	£ 89,565
Total Balance .. .. .		£ 67,694,484	£ 3,915,079
		£ 391,170,433	56,615,196

Treasury, June 30, 1915.

### COMPANY MEETINGS.

#### JOHN BROWN AND CO.

The annual meeting of shareholders of John Brown and Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, Lord Aberconway (chairman of the company) presiding.

Lord Aberconway, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and balance-sheet, said that the remarkable results that they had the satisfaction of presenting showed that in the great national emergency John Brown and Co. were fully prepared to meet the requirements of the country. The report would have been more ample in times of peace, and the remarks he would have had to make would have been fuller of interesting detail. They might, perhaps, think that the balance-sheet was exceptional as a war balance-sheet, but it was not so. The so-called war profits that they read so much about formed a very small proportion of the profits shown. Practically the profits accruing before March 31 were on ordinary commercial work and on ordinary Government contracts placed before the war began. Of orders placed before March 31 few had reached the profit-making stage. Last year, which was the jubilee year of the company, he explained the history of their developments. They would remember that then low prices were ruling and stocks of raw material were very low. They were fairly well placed for work, and took advantage of low and favourable prices to supply themselves with materials, and the result had been that they had shown this year the largest absolute profit in the history of the company. Shareholders now saw the fruition of the financial policy the directors had pursued for many years of strengthening finances and developing all the commercial resources of the firm. To-day the political crisis dominated everything, and he would say at once that if munitions were short it was not the fault of the armament firms; they had all done their duty, none more so than John Brown and Co. They were never encouraged by the Government to do more than they had done; on the contrary, they found themselves in advance of the Government demands. They foresaw that a great European crisis was more or less likely, and they determined to make every preparation to meet such a crisis. All the resources of the company were now placed at the disposal of the Government. Their only difficulty was a shortage of men. There had been great eagerness to enlist, and the various departments of the company had lost thousands of men who had volunteered for active service. Some of them were engaged on Government work, and they had had to ask the Government to refuse to enlist men required for munition work. The Government even had had to send back—or had promised to send back—skilled men who had joined the forces. A very foolish agitation had been got up against what were called war profits. A certain group of politicians had attacked armament firms in the House of Commons, and daily newspapers were holding them up to public obloquy, stating they were making unreasonable profits, and so their resources ought to be crippled. Could anything be more unfair? It was even alleged that they had encouraged a war programme. It was true of Krupp's. They had lived and worked for the war that had been brought about. British armament firms had tried to checkmate Krupp's, and hoped to go on doing so. Their plant even to-day was not equal to the demands of the country, but had it not been for John Brown's and similar firms he would like to know what would have become of the country. As to profits, if they examined the balance-sheet of the company they would find that the dividend for the last 50 years had averaged 8 per cent. Nobody would put money into a precarious business like an armament firm if they knew that 8 per cent. was all they were likely to get. A risky business demanded a fair profit, and nobody could say that their profit had been unduly large. No doubt it was true that in late years they had earned more profits than they used to do, but their capital was larger. The armament business was a precarious one, that might at any day come to an end; and he hoped he was not taking too gloomy a view of the future when he suggested it might be years after the war before firms like theirs would get orders of magnitude for big ships, guns, or armour-plate. For a few years they might be without profits at all. He maintained that other firms were making profits out of national requirements, and pointed to Army contractors and those who supplied meat; jam, india-rubber, and a thousand and one other commodities—they would still go on making profits after the war. If the Government took over the armament firms and ran them themselves, as was suggested, the cost to the country would be very much greater than it was to-day. Metallurgical developments, which had resulted in the improvements in the rifle, in ordnance and armour-plates, had been due to the private firms, the skill, energy, and enterprise of whose staffs were always at the service of the country. In times of peace about one man out of every seven in the firm was employed primarily on Government work. In times of stress like the present they could turn a very much larger proportion of men upon Government work. They were now perfectly ready to devote the whole of their resources to the service of the Government, and also the skill and energy of the high officials who had done so much to develop the resources. Lord Aberconway pointed out that their profits were in part also from colliery enterprises, which produced two and a-half million tons of coal a year. As an instance of their ship-building interests, they had now between 300,000 and 400,000 tons of merchant shipping either laid down or ready to be laid down in the yards at Clivedon, at Harland and Wolff's, and other yards. That would convince the shareholders that what-



ever people might say, John Brown's was a company dealing in products of peace on a larger scale than products of war.

The report and accounts were agreed to.

### J. G. WHITE AND CO.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of J. G. White and Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. J. Beaver White in the chair.

The Secretary, Mr. E. A. Borel, having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: It was not in the minds of any of us when we met a year ago that within a month from that time practically the whole of Europe would be engaged in war. At that meeting emphasis was laid on the depressed financial conditions then existing, and it was pointed out that the resources of the company were less liquid than we would have wished, also that new contracts were not being received as fast as old ones were being completed. The directors, nevertheless, anticipated a moderately good year for the company. The effect of the war has been very serious. When the war began in the early part of August the necessity of doing everything possible to conserve the resources of the company became at once evident. If the company was to withstand a possible long period of comparative inactivity, to meet promptly its commitments and obligations, when, on the other hand, it might not be able to secure the payment of accounts for materials furnished and work done on all contracts in hand, then not only would it be necessary to watch carefully over the liquid resources of the company, but also to institute economies wherever possible. It was for this reason that the directors decided not to pay an interim dividend at the end of December last. Economies were as early as August instituted by the directors responsible for the management of the company, starting by imposing upon themselves a large reduction in fixed salaries, although these salaries were already small in view of the fact that such directors are largely paid by participation in profits. The members of the staff also accepted reductions in their salaries, although a number of them also participated in profits. Other economies have been effected, so that, while the war has been in progress for seven months out of the total year covered by the accounts, yet expenses have been reduced by 32 per cent. of those for the preceding year. The expenses for the current year should show a reduction of about 50 per cent. over the year to February, 1914, and it would not seem wise to make any further reduction at the present time, as it is necessary to keep the organisation complete in outline. The work in some branches, especially in the operating department, which has charge of the various companies for whom we act as managers and engineers, has been increased, due to the difficulties of transportation, securing supplies, and staff. Turning to the balance-sheet, you will see that we have realised some of our investments, which has been done at a profit. This, with the reduction in cash, is largely accounted for by the reduction in sundry creditors. The financial stability and strength of the company really depends on the investments. The directors have gone over these most carefully, and, in their opinion, the value appearing in the balance-sheet is less than they are actually worth to-day, although under present conditions no appreciable amounts could be sold on the market. From this fact you will appreciate that the previous valuations placed upon the securities were conservative. With regard to the future, we believe that the business of the current year will meet all expenses and leave a substantial profit. As to anything beyond that period it is difficult to forecast, but the directors see no reason why the company should not continue its successful career.

Mr. William C. Burton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA.

The nineteenth annual ordinary general meeting of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the registered offices, King William House, 2A, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. F. T. Verner (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report shows that we have obtained very satisfactory results for the past year, the nett profit being £84,704, as against £70,783 in 1913, an increase of £13,921. The compulsory regulation of sales on the London market, due to difficulties in connection with freights at a critical period, was, no doubt, of great benefit to many, and perhaps more especially to this company. This would tend to show the great advantage likely to be obtained by producers coming to some mutual arrangement for the regulation of tea sales on the London market when required in the autumn and winter months. I said at our general meeting last year that "the demand for Indian tea is steadily increasing throughout the world." In November last, I must confess, I took a very different view. I thought the large increase in the duty from 5d. to 8d. per lb. and the stoppage of all exports of Indian tea to Russia and elsewhere would greatly reduce the consumption. Happily, my forebodings did not come to pass. A great and steady rise in prices set in from November, and the demand for Indian and all other teas has been far in excess of any previous period, and the average market price of Indian tea to-day is 18. 1d., as compared with an average for the season 1913-14 and 1914-15 of 9.25d. and 9.85d. per lb. This is the

great feature of the present situation, and, I think, justifies our taking a very hopeful view of the company's prospects for the current season. I will give you a short analysis and comparison of the working of our three groups of estates. The Assam group's results show a still further advance on the good profits obtained in 1913. The total crops is 4,998 maunds in excess of 1913; the average price is 0.89d. higher, the cost per lb. 0.46d. higher, and the profit per lb. is 0.42d. higher. These results, you will agree, are very satisfactory. As regards the individual gardens, Borjuli shows an increase in crop of 2,224 maunds, and an increase in profit of £4,301, which would have been further increased by £1,399 had it not been for the loss of the *City of Winchester*. The profit per lb. is 3.33d., as against 2.92d. in 1913, and the profit per acre is £10 9s. 7d., as compared with £8 7s. The increased profit on the year is over 25 per cent., which is a large advance and a good recovery on 1913. The Sonajuli garden shows an increase in crop of 913 maunds, an increase in profit of £2,977. The profit per lb. is 3.69d. against 3.23d. in the previous year, and the profit per acre is £12 5s. 8d., as compared with £9 17s. 3d. in 1913. These results, following as they do on the large improvement in 1913, are remarkably good. On Namgaon the crop increase is 964 maunds. There is an increase in profit of £1,587, which would have been further increased by £435 but for the loss of the *City of Winchester*; the profit per lb. is 3.10d., as against 2.57d. in 1913; the profit per acre is £7 12s. 4d., as compared with £5 6s. 8d. in the previous year, and the increased crop per acre is 108 lbs. The directors note with satisfaction the recovery in this garden's results, as compared with the previous year. Sessa shows an increase in crop of 317 maunds. There is an increase in profit of £374, which would have been further increased by £398 had it not been for the loss of the *City of Winchester*. Coming to Dhulapadong, the crop increase is 804 maunds. There is an increase in profit of £1,133, which would have been £1,602 had it not been for the loss of the *City of Winchester*. The profit per lb. is 2.56d., as against 2.28d. in 1913. I am sure the shareholders will fully appreciate the excellent results obtained by our staff in Assam. The Dooars group show a total crop in excess of 1913 of 1,335 maunds. The gross proceeds were larger by £9,240. The average price is 0.54d. higher, the cost per lb. is 0.57d. higher; the profit per lb. is .03d. lower, the cost per acre has increased by £1 11s. 3d., the profit per acre was £9 12s. 4d., against £9 10s. 6d., and the yield per acre is 714 lbs., compared with 702 lbs. in the previous year. Bearing in mind the very large increase in crop and profits in 1913, a further improvement of 1,335 maunds and £1,688 profit for 1914 is satisfactory, more especially as the season was a poor one for crop in the Dooars district. The individual gardens of this group show the following features:—Good Hope: A reduction in crop of 221 maunds, a decrease in profit of £841. The profit per lb. is 2.36d., as against 2.69d. in 1913; the profit per acre is £5 6s. 11d., as against £6 5s. 9d. in the former year; there is a small falling off in the yield per acre of 19 lbs., and the increased expenditure is £1,178. Hahaipatha shows an increased crop of 1,113 maunds. The profit per lb. is 3.69d., against 3.33d. in 1913; the profit per acre is £11 6s., as compared with £9 14s. 9d. in the previous year; the yield per acre has increased by 73 lbs. As to Dunga Jhar, there is a decrease in crop of 199 maunds. The profit per lb. is 1.22d., against 1.32d., and the profit per acre £2 2s., as compared with £2 19s. 8d. in the previous year. As to Tasati, the crop increase is 788 maunds, the profit per lb. is 4.03d., as against 3.92d. in 1913, and the profit per acre is £13 12s. 1d., compared with £13 10s. in the previous year. This garden makes the largest profit per lb. and per acre of any garden in the company, and slightly exceeds the remarkably good results shown in 1913. The Ceylon group shows an increase per lb. of 0.42d., a decrease of 0.22d. in the cost per lb., an increase in the profit per acre of £1 9s. 2d. There is also an increase in crop of 1,163 maunds, and an increase in the production per acre of 62 lbs. We have applied for and taken up 7,500 shares of £1 each in the British Malay Rubber Co., Ltd., and shall ask for your confirmation of our action. Looking back at the past history of this company, especially since 1904 (when the heavy duty on tea hit us badly), I think you will find good reason for the continued success of the company. During the last three years our profits have risen from £56,717 to £84,704, and, as I have already stated, I think we are justified in taking a very favourable view of our prospects for the current year.

Mr. G. F. Moore seconded the adoption of the report, and it was carried unanimously. The formal business was then transacted.

An announcement is made by the London Foreign and Colonial Securities, Ltd., of 24, Throgmorton Street, that holders of the 3½ per cent. war loan, 2½ per cent. Consols, 2¼ per cent. annuities, and 2½ per cent. Annuities who wish to convert their holdings into the new 4½ per cent. Loan (1925-45), will consider applications for advances on these securities at a rate of interest not exceeding Bank rate, repayment to be made at a date agreed upon, and on transfer of the present holding to the Charter Trust and Agency, Limited, of the same address. This agency is to hold the stock as trustees for the applicants upon repayment of the advances made by the London Foreign and Colonial Securities, Ltd. It is intended in this way to help those who desire to convert into the new stock, and have not got the cash. Apparently it is also hoped to contribute to starting a market for the new War Loan, and creating a demand for it as a "floater."



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down..	June 25	5,107	+	516	+	86,107	+	9,501
Grand Canal ..	" 18	1,135	—	151	—	32,254	—	1,589
Great Northern ..	" 25	24,135	+	235	+	550,090	+	19,320
Gr. Southern and Western..	" 25	32,932	+	111	+	788,001	+	89,150
Midland Great Western ..	" 25	14,964	+	1,100	+	315,776	+	13,376

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira ..	Apl. *	32,402	—	9,662	—	16,846,300	—	5,342,000
Canadian Northern ..	June 21	\$278,900	—	\$127,200	—	\$95,915,000	—	\$30,359,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	\$1,619,000	—	\$566,000	—	26,884	—	14,892
Egyptian Delta ..	" 10	3,584	—	2,147	—	3,545,800	—	374,452
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	162,035	—	12,290	—	674,280	—	2,820
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	29,630	+	452	+	232,348	+	3,634
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	11,569	+	694	+	333,501	+	149,852
Gr. Trk. Pacific Prairie	" 21	11,546	—	9,794	—	148,255	—	101,203
Sect. & Lake Supr. ..	" 21	41,170	—	19,355	—	87,986	—	40,031
Mashonaland ..	Apl. *	41,170	—	6,077	—	42,949	—	335
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	7,147	—	167	—	228,714	—	111,238
New Cape Central ..	June 5	5,613	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodesia ..	Apl. *	59,464	—	34,732	—	—	—	—
W. Pass & Yukon ..	" 30	84,854	—	—	—	—	—	—

§ 9 days. \* Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. || 10 days. α April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	May 29	1,24,000	+	3,009	+	11,25,000	+	38,839
Barsi Light ..	June 5	18,100	—	600	—	2,52,200	—	76,900
Bengal & N.W. ..	May 29	4,34,060	—	40,821	—	34,14,770	—	6,74,440
Bengal Nagpur ..	June 26	11,78,000	—	19,000	—	1,62,49,000	—	8,44,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	" 19	1,54,600	+	51,000	+	1,50,71,000	—	8,25,000
Burma ..	May 29	4,47,738	—	43,812	—	36,02,280	—	6,94,765
Delhi Umbaila ..	June 26	72,000	—	18,031	—	8,32,772	—	102,748
East Indian ..	" 26	20,17,000	—	66,000	—	2,76,81,000	—	6,07,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 26	13,38,000	—	1,13,100	—	2,47,55,869	—	12,11,545
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	May 29	45,547	—	1,978	—	3,45,805	—	27,409
Madras and S. ..	June 5	9,70,000	—	35,103	—	90,85,000	—	72,791
Mahratta ..	May 29	1,21,879	—	2,325	—	10,18,532	—	1,49,434
Nizam's Guarante'd ..	" 29	41,624	—	213	—	3,34,170	—	258
Rohilkund and ..	June 5	5,86,682	—	22,717	—	53,83,680	—	3,79,749
Kumaon ..	Dec. 8	4,43,877	—	89,758	—	12,86,836	—	1,78,685
South Indian ..	" 29	4,43,877	—	89,758	—	—	—	—
Southern Punjab ..	" 29	4,43,877	—	89,758	—	—	—	—

† April 1. § Month. || October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		\$	+	\$	+	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	June 7	682,000	—	74,000	—	13,285,000	—	471,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 14	304,000	—	1,000	—	13,226,000	—	771,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 7	207,000	—	1,000	—	21,217,000	—	1,733,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 2	419,000	—	15,000	—	225,500	—	8,160,000
Inter. of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	42,400	—	138,900	—	49,333,000	—	106,900
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	June 14	964,000	—	48,000	—	3,552,700	—	524,100
Mexican ..	Nov. 21	103,600	—	102,900	—	3,405,200	—	7,200
Do. ..	Oct. 2	262,500	—	126,300	—	25,672,000	—	1,315,000
Do. ..	"	905,600	—	84,200	—	32,068,899	—	909,873
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	May 21	615,000	—	20,000	—	17,894,408	—	6,798,370
Missouri Kansas ..	June 21	526,120	—	9,706	—	2,287,000	—	18,540,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 21	1,040,000	—	50,000	—	59,086,000	—	8,378,000
National of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	628,408	—	395,370	—	—	—	—
Do. ..	June 4	74,000	—	197,000	—	—	—	—
Southern ..	June 7	1,080,000	—	161,000	—	—	—	—

4 1914. || Ten Days. \* Nett. § Includes Wisconsin Central.  
† From July 1. ‡ Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atchison T. & S. F.é	Apl.	2,837,000	—	10	30,239,000	—
Atlantic Coast Line	"	955,000	—	10	6,005,000	—
Baltimore & Ohio ..	May	3,133,000	—	11	24,707,000	—
Canadian Northern ..	"	322,900	—	11	4,493,400	—
Canadian Pacific ..	"	2,443,000	—	11	30,897,000	—
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Apl.	1,172,000	—	10	9,628,000	—
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,303,000	—	10	18,681,000	—
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Mar.	1,637,000	—	9	25,132,000	—
Chicago G.W. ..	Apl.	1,430,000	—	10	2,884,000	—
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	1,544,000	—	10	20,198,000	—
Colorado & Southern ..	"	185,000	—	10	3,143,000	—
Cuba ..	"	545,701	—	10	4,282,266	—
Do. ..	"	245,612	—	10	142,555	—
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	842,000	—	4	2,162,000	—
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	514,000	—	4	5,271,000	—
Erie ..	"	948,000	—	4	3,683,000	—
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	May	£215,950	—	11	£756,650	—
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£1,200	—	11	£7,000	—
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£7,300	—	11	£26,400	—
Gt. Northern ..	Apl.	953,000	—	10	26,636,000	—
Illinois Central ..	"	535,000	—	10	9,717,000	—
Kansas City Southn. ..	May	267,000	—	11	2,845,000	—
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,210,000	—	11	9,899,000	—
Louisville & Nashv. ..	Apl.	776,000	—	10	8,389,000	—
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	"	283,000	—	10	5,080,000	—
Miss. K. & Texas ..	May	593,259	—	11	1,742,556	—
Missouri Pacific ..	Apl.	887,000	—	11	11,184,000	—
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	761,000	—	4	6,857,000	—
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	1,450,000	—	10	14,112,000	—
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	197,000	—	10	1,781,000	—
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,228,000	—	10	8,222,000	—
Northern Pacific ..	"	1,429,000	—	10	18,105,000	—
Pennsylvania East ..	"	5,661,000	—	4	13,527,000	—
Reading ..	"	555,480	—	4	5,653,110	—
St. Louis & San F. ..	Mar.	1,101,000	—	9	9,407,000	—
Seaboard Air Line ..	Apl.	621,000	—	9	4,425,000	—
Southern ..	"	1,300,000	—	11	10,922,000	—
Southern Pacific ..	May	2,653,000	—	11	32,091,000	—
Union Pacific ..	"	1,827,000	—	11	17,354,000	—
Wabash ..	"	399,000	—	10	5,397,000	—

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. ‡ Loss.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	June 26	Ps. 13,000	—	21	Ps. 340,900	—
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 27	21,270	—	21	541,575	—
Arauco ..	May *	6,150	—	21	32,625	—
Argentine N.E. ..	June 26	5,931	—	21	246,097	—
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Mar. *	5,088	—	21	13,806	—
Bolivar ..	May *	8,750	—	21	77,948	—
Brazil ..	Feb. *	M3,018,000	—	21	M6,116,000	—
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	"	Mis. 28,250	—	21	M35,750	—
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	June 26	72,000	—	21	4,522,000	—
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 27	88,000	—	21	4,915,941	—
Do. Western ..	" 27	40,000	—	21	2,491,000	—
Central Argentine ..	" 26	128,000	—	21	5,737,500	—
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 26	11,401	—	21	566,758	—
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 26	4,278	—	21	191,249	—
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 26	1,694	—	21	90,287	—
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 26	1,869	—	21	84,571	—
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	—	21	37,900	—
Cordoba Central ..	June 26	35,900	—	21	1,676,670	—
Costa Rica ..	Feb. 27	7,608	—	21	224,179	—
Cuban Central ..	June 26	8,124	—	21	640,995	—
Dorada Extension ..	May *	8,400	—	21	36,800	—
Entre Rios ..	June 26	9,500	—	21	448,000	—
Gt. South. of Spain ..	" 19	Ps. 66,168	—	21	Ps. 1,385,166	—
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 26	5,400	—	21	276,200	—
Havana Central ..	" 12	6,090	—	21	273,181	—
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May *	16,233	—	21	80,959	—
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	6,250	—	21	42,250	—
Leopoldina ..	" 26	21,869	—	21	727,364	—
Manila ..	" 26	4,727	—	21	156,000	—
Midland Uruguay ..	May *	12,987	—	21	102,219	—
Mogiana ..	Feb. *	M1,768,000	—	21	M3,135,556	—
N.W. of Uruguay ..	May *	£8,400	—	21	£209,928	—
Nitrate ..	June 30	13,700	—	21	126,721	—
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	21	8,634	—
Paraguay Central ..	June 26	£340,000	—	21	£14,116,000	—
Paulista ..	Feb. *	M1,800,000	—	21	M4,200,000	—
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	May *	£737,166	—	21	£7,600,331	—
Puerto Cab. & Vlen. ..	Apl. *	3,415	—	21	16,121	—
Salvador ..	June 26	£19,500	—	21	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 20	20,726	—	21	10,240	—
Sorocabana ..	Feb. *	M1,326,000	—	21	M2,837,000	—
Taitai ..	May *	8,243	—	21	122,386	—
United of Havana ..	June 26	23,919	—	21	1,674,225	—
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 6	£64,400	—	21	£403,900	—
Uruguay Northern ..	May *	1,749	—	21	16,330	—
West'n of Havana ..	June 26	5,256	—	21	280,844	—
Zafra and Huevla ..	May *	7,553	—	21	36,187	—

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. || 15 days.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£		£		£		£
Bath Electric ..								
Bristol ..	June 25	9,802	+	255	†	23,081	+	20,601
British Elec. Fed.								
Dublin United ..	June 25	6,766	+	109	†	149,892	+	6,989
Gearless Motor Bus								
Hastings and Dist. ..	June 24	1,010	—	69	†	20,515	—	1,025
Isle of Thanet ..	" 26	433		581	†	12,426	—	4,628
Lancashire United..	" 23	1,830	+	127	*	41,317	+	422
London Cnty. Cncl.	" 23	44,897	+	171		485,863	—	46,641
London General ..								
London United ..		—		—		—		—
Metropolitan Elec.		—		—		—		—
Nat. Steam Car ..		—		—		—		—
Provincial ..	June 26	2,461	+	91	*	78,186	+	8,143
South Metropolitan								
Sunderland District	June 23	558	—	2	34	18,631	—	1,159
Tramways (M.E.T.)								
Yorks. (Wst. Rding.)	June 27	1,567	+	124	26	40,002	+	2,208



# THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(Registered in the Transvaal.)

(With which are Incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., Established 1879, and the National Bank of the Orange River Colony, Ltd., Established 1877, and the Natal Bank, Limited, Established 1854.)

Bankers to the Union Government in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Natal, and to the Imperial Government.

<b>Subscribed Capital</b>	<b>£2,782,420</b>	<b>Paid-up Capital</b>	<b>£2,782,420</b>
<b>With power to increase to</b>	<b>£4,000,000</b>	<b>Reserve Fund</b>	<b>£525,000</b>

LONDON OFFICES, CIRCUS PLACE, LONDON WALL, E.C., AND 117, CANNON STREET, E.C.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st March, 1915.							
LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
Subscribed Capital—		£	s d	Cash on hand and with Bankers, £3,470,797 17s 8d; Remittances		£	s d
278,242 Shares of £10 each (fully paid)	.. .. .	2,782,420	0 0	in Transit, £833,914 10s 2d; Native Gold on hand and in			
Reserve Fund	.. .. .	525,000	0 0	Transit, £128,591 15s 0d	.. .. .	4,433,304	2 10
Notes in Circulation	.. .. .	1,163,741	0 0	Money in London at call and short notice against securities	.. .. .	2,957,725	0 3
Deposit, Current and other Accounts	.. .. .	20,223,422	5 4	British and Colonial Government and other Securities (in-			
Drafts issued on Branches and Agents outstanding at date	.. .. .	577,464	11 6	cluding Stock lodged with the Government of the Union of			
Rebate on Bills not yet due	.. .. .	31,735	9 8	South Africa), written down to 27th July, 1914, quotations	.. .. .	1,378,527	1 6
Bills Receivable on Account of Customers	.. .. .	2,886,581	4 4	Bills of Exchange	.. .. .	2,293,874	3 1
Profit and Loss Account—Balance undivided at 31st March,				Bank Premises and other properties in South Africa	.. .. .	836,719	8 1
1914, £28,184 15s 4d; Net Profit year ended 31st March,				Bills Discounted, Loans, etc.	.. .. .	13,406,666	10 7
1915, £156,373 4s 10d.—£184,558 0s 2d; Less Interim Dividend				Bank Furniture and Fittings, Stationery and Stamps	.. .. .	111,025	0 4
declared 7th December, 1914, £70,500.		114,058	0 2	Bills for Collection	.. .. .	2,886,581	4 4
Natal Bank, Ltd., in Liquidation—							
For Reserve Fund, etc. (as per contra)	.. .. .	400,000	0 0	Natal Bank, L'd., as per Agreement	.. .. .	400,000	0 0
Contingent liability in respect of Loans guaranteed and				Loans guaranteed and secured (as per contra)	.. .. .	252,330	18 7
secured	.. .. .	252,330	18 7				
		£28,956,753	9 7			£28,956,753	9 7

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Rebate on Bills not yet due	.. .. .	£	s d	Gross Profits (including Balance undivided at 31st March, 1914,		£	s d
Expenditure, including Rents, Rates, Salaries, Remunera-	.. .. .	31,735	9 8	p. £28,184 15s 4d), after deducting Interest due on Fixed			
tion to Directors and Auditors, and all other expenses at				Deposits, Income Tax, Duty on Note Circulation, other Govern-			
Head Office and Branches	.. .. .	466,266	17 1	ment Taxes, Appropriation to Bank Premises, Furniture and			
Balance carried forward	.. .. .	184,558	0 2	Fittings, and Stationery, making provision for losses & contin-			
		£682,560	6 11	gencies,* & depreciation in the value of Investment Securities	.. .. .	682,560	6 11
				* Including provision for estimated Losses			
				in Assets taken from Natal Bank, Ltd.	.. .. .	£682,560	6 11

We hereby certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with and that we have examined the above Balance Sheet and have found same correct according to the Head Office Books and the certified Returns received from the Branches and Agencies of the Bank. We have also examined certified statements showing the securities representing the Investments of the Bank, and find that they agree with the Balance Sheet. We are of opinion that the above is a full and fair Balance Sheet properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the said Books and returns.

Pretoria, 21st May, 1915.

ROBERT BAIKIE, Incorporated Accountant } Auditors.  
JOHN DOUGALL, Incorporated Accountant }

## APPROPRIATION.

Dividend of 6 per cent. (of which the Interim Dividend paid for		£	s d	Balance of Profit and Loss Account	.. .. .	£	s d
the 6 months ended 30th September, 1914, absorbed £70,500)	.. .. .	153,972	12 0			184,558	0 2
Balance to be carried forward	.. .. .	30,585	8 2			£184,558	0 2
		£184,558	0 2				

## NOTICE.

### BRITISH PROPERTY IN ENEMY COUNTRIES AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

In reference to the recent announcement in the Press that the Public Trustee will accept and record particulars of British Property in Enemy Territory, the attention of the public interested in the matter is called to the following points:—

- (1) An additional form, Registration Order "J," has been prepared for recording particulars of Personal Luggage left behind in Enemy Territory by British Subjects returning to this country.
- (2) Returns of British Property in Territories occupied by Enemy Forces are now requested, and should be made on Occupied Territory Forms G. H. and J. respectively.

The necessary forms may be obtained from the Public Trustee Office (Trading with the Enemy Department), Foreign Claims Section, 2, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C., and are as follows:—  
Registration Order G, for Debts and Bank Balances.  
Registration Order J, for Personal Luggage.  
Registration Order H, for other property including Securities.

C. J. STEWART,  
Public Trustee.

30th June, 1915.

## FARROW'S BANK

Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Acts. LIMITED

Authorised Capital, £1,000,000. Shares Issued, 700,000.  
Shareholders, 4,010.

Chairman - - - - - Mr. Thomas Farrow.

### EVERY DESCRIPTION OF JOINT STOCK BANKING TRANSACTED.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest paid where approved Credit Balances are maintained.  
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS. Interest paid according to notice of withdrawal.

Write or call for Special Booklet to

HEAD OFFICE:

1, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

73 Branches throughout the United Kingdom.

A.H. & CO.

## ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	.. .. .	£1,078,875	0 0
Paid-up Capital	.. .. .	539,437	10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	.. .. .	539,437	10 0
Reserve Fund	.. .. .	350,000	0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

## BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. .. . £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	.. .. .	£1,000,000
75,000 "A" Preference Shares of £6 13s. 4d.	.. .. .	500,000
150,000 Ordinary Shares £3 6s. 8d. Paid up	.. .. .	100,000
Uncalled on Ordinary Shares, £3 6s. 8d. per share	.. .. .	500,000
Shares issued 1st April, 1914, when Fully Paid up	.. .. .	750,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	.. .. .	2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

mittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager

## NOTICES.

### THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

MEMBERS of the STOCK EXCHANGE are NOT ALLOWED to ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue Circulars or Business Communications to persons other than their own Principals. Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are Not Members of the Stock Exchange, or in any way under the control of the Committee. Members Issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature. A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.



# £4 10s. % WAR LOAN, 1925-1945.

## ISSUE OF STOCK OR BONDS,

Bearing interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  per annum, payable half-yearly on the 1st June and the 1st December.

Price of Issue fixed by H.M. Treasury at £100 per Cent.

A full half-year's Dividend will be paid on the 1st December, 1915.

The Stock is an investment authorised by "The Trustee Act, 1893," and Trustees may invest therein notwithstanding that the price may at the time of investment exceed the redemption value of £100 per cent.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent., will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and may be forwarded either direct, or through the medium of any Banker or Stockbroker in the United Kingdom. Applications must be for even hundreds of pounds.

Arrangements are being made for the receipt of applications for smaller amounts than £100 through the Post Office.

Further payments will be required as follows:—

£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 20th July.  
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 3rd August.  
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 17th August.  
£15 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 31st August.  
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 14th September.  
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 28th September.  
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 12th October.  
£10 per Cent. on Tuesday, the 26th October.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive applications for this Loan, which will take the form either of Inscribed Stock or Bonds to Bearer, at the option of the Subscribers.

If not previously redeemed the Loan will be repaid at par on the 1st December, 1945, but His Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the right to redeem the Loan at par at any time on, or after, the 1st December, 1925, on giving three calendar months' notice in the *London Gazette*. Both Capital and Interest will be a charge on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The books of the Loan will be kept at the Bank of England and at the Bank of Ireland. Dividends will be paid half-yearly on the 1st June and 1st December. Dividends on Stock will be paid by Warrant, which will be sent by post. Dividends on Bonds will be paid by Coupon.

Inscribed Stock will be convertible into Bonds to Bearer at any time without payment of any fee; and Bonds to Bearer will be exchangeable for Inscribed Stock on payment of a fee of one shilling per Bond.

The instalments may be paid in full on or after the 20th July, 1915, under discount at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  per cent. per annum. In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and the instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer, with Coupon attached for the dividend payable on the 1st December, 1915, will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts. As soon as these Scrip Certificates have been paid in full they can be inscribed (i.e., can be converted into Stock); or they can be exchanged for Bonds to Bearer (as soon as these can be prepared) in denominations of £100, £200, £500, £1,000, £5,000, and £10,000. Inscribed Stock will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny.

### CONVERSION OF

£3 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1928.  
£2 10s per Cent. Consols.  
£2 15s per Cent. Annuities.  
£2 10s per Cent. Annuities.

Holders of £4 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, will have the additional right, in respect of each £100 Stock (or Bonds) held by them, and fully-paid in cash, to exercise one or other of the four following options of conversion, provided application for conversion is made not later than the 30th October, 1915.

#### OPTION 1. Conversion of £3 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1928.

To exchange Stock (or Bonds) of £3 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1928, to an amount not exceeding £100 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £100 of the former, with a cash payment of £5 per cent. thereon, for £100 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the dividend of £1 10s 11d per cent. payable on the 1st September, 1915, in respect of the £3 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1928, surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

#### OPTION 2. Conversion of £2 10s per Cent. Consols.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 10s per cent. Consols to an amount not exceeding £75 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £75 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 12s 6d per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 10s per cent. Consols surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s per cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

#### OPTION 3. Conversion of £2 15s per Cent. Annuities.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 15s per Cent. Annuities, to an amount not exceeding £67 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £67 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 13s 9d per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 15s per Cent. Annuities surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

#### OPTION 4. Conversion of £2 10s per Cent. Annuities.

To exchange Stock (or Stock Certificates) of £2 10s per Cent. Annuities, to an amount not exceeding £78 nominal, for fully-paid Stock (or Bonds) of £4 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, at the rate of £78 of the former for £50 of the latter.

Persons who exercise this option will receive the usual quarter's dividend of 12s 6d per cent., payable on the 5th October, 1915, in respect of the £2 10s per Cent. Annuities surrendered, and a full half-year's dividend of £2 5s per cent., payable on the 1st December, 1915, in respect of the £4 10s per Cent. War Loan, 1925-1945, issued in lieu thereof.

In the event of future issues (other than issues made abroad or issues of Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, or similar short-dated Securities) being made by His Majesty's Government, for the purpose of carrying on the War, Stock and Bonds of this issue will be accepted at par, plus accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscriptions to such issues.

A commission of one-eighth per cent. will be allowed to Bankers, Brokers and Financial Houses on allotments made in respect of cash applications for this issue bearing their Stamp; but no commission will be allowed in respect of applications for conversion.

Application Forms for Cash Subscriptions may be obtained at the Bank of England and the Bank of Ireland; at any Bank or Money Order Office in the United Kingdom; of Messrs Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13 George street, Mansion House, E.C.; and of the principal Stockbrokers.

Application Forms for Conversion will be forwarded with each Letter of Allotment.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be CLOSED on or before SATURDAY, the 10th July, 1915.

Bank of England, London, 21st June, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVI.—No. 914.  
New Series.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1915.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

## PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

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One Year, £1 1s. 0d. Six Months, 11s. Three Months, 5s. 9d.

For the Colonies and Abroad the charge is

One Year, £1 4s. 0d. Six Months, 12s. 6d. Three Months, 6s. 6d.  
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"*Investors' Review*,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,  
London, W.C.

Telephone No.:  
Gerrard 9132.

Telegraphic Address:  
"Unveiling, London."

*The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.*

*Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.*

*The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.*

## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

**Telegrams** advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

**Private Letters** in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

## Passing Events.

Those who give intelligent attention to the news from the seat of war ought to be fortified in mind against the pessimism diligently inculcated by so many guides of mob opinion in this country. To-day's (Friday morning's) news is satisfactory from, one may say, every point where the hosts are in contact. All eyes, however, turn first towards the great issues now pending in Poland, and surely the Petrograd information last to hand is encouraging. It shows us that the Russians are not only capable of making a stand to delay the advance of the enemy at this spot and the other, but of shoving back sections of his line in disorder. And every day must increase the power of the Russians for offence, while that of the Germans is diminishing. German arrogance—wedded to political stress and the approach of economic impotence—has dictated the advance of millions of men into a position of daily increasing danger. It is impossible for the Prussian mind to regard the enemy as an equal. A prudent general would not have hurried forward, far away from their supply bases, millions of troops in the manner von Mackensen has done. Had he paused to weigh his chances, he would have gone slower. Having advanced with a scorning dash literally into the jaws of the bear, the work of the Russians in destroying the invader should soon begin to prove easier every week, and enable them to fulfil before very long that prediction of a colonel of Cossacks, uttered in London some fortnight ago, to the effect that very few of these Austro-German troops would ever see their homes again. Consider also how success on the part of the Russian armies led by the Grand Duke Nicholas will affect the position in the West. There strenuous fighting is going on day and night, all along the hundreds of miles of trenches, fighting which demands an unceasing supply of instruments of death in unexampled quantity; but with that supply assured, we have the growing certainty of a victory not to be long delayed. It is a horrible conflict, and the Germans are fighting with the despairing fury of wild boars at bay; but the spirit of victory is with the Allies, and the confidence of their troops engaged in the deadly strife rises higher and higher with every onset or each attack upon the foe. The men in the field know nothing of "slackness," craven betrayals, meannesses of the mere

politician type. They fight and fight to win. Italy, too, is winning her new frontier, beating the Austrians down. The news from Gallipoli and Constantinople is likewise most encouraging, but the need of ammunition is great. From all points the impression is conveyed that such a fury of strife as now rages must soon bring the war to an end by the destruction of Germany's supply of human "gunfodder."—Just as this goes to the printer two pieces of good news come. General Botha announces the end of his war. He has "accepted the surrender of the entire German forces in South-West Africa," and will now bring back the whole of the citizen army as quickly as possible. Bravo, well done, Louis Botha, once manly foe, now brave comrade in the fight for the liberation of mankind! The other piece of good news is a Russian victory in Poland over the Austrians under the command of a Habsburger Archduke Joseph. Dreaming of an easy conquest, that personage led his hosts into an ambush, and has received a satisfactory licking, losing 11,000 prisoners and many guns. "We are pursuing him," says the bulletin of the Grand Duke Nicholas. This is not the end in Poland, far from it; but it encourages us to look forward with resolute confidence to the final victory. It, be sure, is not so far away. On without hurry, then, on without stop to the goal! But there must be no slackening here at home because we have such good grounds for this hope. On the contrary, every energy must be summoned to the task of making the blows struck against the aggressor heavier and heavier in every fight yet to come. It is loathsome, but the Prussian beast has made it necessary.

A considerable amount of time was wasted in the House of Commons on Monday evening over that Registration of the People Bill, or whatever this imitation of Saul's "numbering of the people" is called. The debate was not wholly useless, but, like the Bill, nearly so. When it becomes law, the Act will be found to be unworkable. Like Sir William Byles, we disapprove of the measure, but should not have voted against it any more than he did, because nothing must be done at present to weaken the hands of the Administration. And it is not because we dread the measure as a precursor of conscription that we object to it. It may be that it fulfils the demands of the Harmsworth news-



papers in this and other respects, and nourishes the hopes of the *Morning Post* and other reactionary and politically purblind journals, but there is no real danger. When this war ends, all the nations engaged in it will have to confront problems infinitely more complex and threatening to their existence as civilised societies than anything contained in reactionary intrigues for universal compulsory military service. We shall all, from kings and princes downwards, be engaged in fighting to keep alive. That this prospect should be overlooked by the thick-and-thin advocates of Protection and conscription—for the two inventions of the devil run together—is not surprising when we remember the prejudices by which they are governed, behold the "blinkers" they voluntarily wear; and yet for any sane human being to become an advocate of compulsory universal military service by conscription at a time when the effects of that horrible blood-tax as expressed in the fate of the Austro-Hungarian and German Empires is unfolding itself upon the world is a spectacle productive of speechless amazement. What is conscription doing for Germany? Blotting it out as fast as possible from among the great peoples of the world. The Prussian-ordered war has to go on because the German conscripts have to be destroyed in millions before peoples who have been moulded under the Prussian military régime can be brought to understand that it is self-immolation to try to build up power by cruelty, oppression, lawlessness of the most brutal type, and that a swinish scorn for all human feeling, a contempt for righteousness, render real victory impossible. This Numbering of the People measure will become law, and a great deal of money and human energy will be wasted in collecting particulars about, perhaps, between 20 and 30 millions of human beings in these islands, and we have neither the men nor the women, nor the time, to collate and digest the statistics. Hence the whole project leads to waste of energy. That is the ground of our objection to it.

Several benefits ought to flow from that gathering in the National Liberal Club on Monday evening, "the most remarkable one ever held within its walls," the Marquis of Lincolnshire, who presided, declared. It was held to do honour to Lord Haldane, and elicited from him a speech of high value to all truly patriotic minds, as also a letter from the Prime Minister which serves to dissipate more than one popular legend. No—misconception of facts, let us say—has been more diligently drummed into us by the newspapers of the Harmsworth trust than the yarn that Lord Northcliffe ordered the Government to kick out Lord Haldane from the post of War Minister and put in Lord Kitchener, and that it obeyed—as usual. Kitchener, all newspapers echoing of the Harmsworth group have been telling us, was Lord Northcliffe's nominee. Mr. Asquith writes, "Nothing of the sort." It was never in contemplation that Lord Haldane should return to the War Office, although, Mr. Asquith himself being Secretary of State for War at the time the conflict was thrust upon us by Germany, Lord Haldane gave assistance for a few days at the office to enable him to cope with the overwhelming pressure of business. Lord Haldane was from the first "a strong advocate of Lord Kitchener's appointment." That is a very satisfactory piece of news, and should make a few noisy journalists ashamed of themselves, if there is any capacity left for that feeling in the journalistic breast. For the rest, Mr. Asquith's testimony to the zeal and ability of Lord Haldane was most cordial and emphatic, and, let us add, well deserved. For no man living has done better work for his country in his generation than the late Lord Chancellor when Minister of War. He created our new army on lines so broad and reliable that it has expanded within less than a year to nearly 3,000,000 of men, 600,000 of whom are, he told his audience on Monday, now in France—ready to let Prince Ruprecht know where they are when he gives them the chance. That the man who did this great work and who superintended the despatch of the first part of that army to the Continent, landing it without a hitch ere Lord

Kitchener had got into harness, should have been hounded out of office by a pack of newspaper jackals is something to be amazed at.

As for Lord Haldane's own speech at the gathering, it was perfectly frank, perfectly loyal—as how could it be else?—and most illuminative on one or two points hitherto obscured by printers' ink. There is this ammunition question, which is undoubtedly a puzzle, whose elucidation is yet incomplete, since we are not told why Mr. Asquith went to Newcastle-on-Tyne to utter the words he did. But it is at least clear that the Harmsworth trust was not necessary to wake the Government up to a sense of its duty and responsibilities, and that is a most comfortable piece of knowledge. As long ago as last October there was a Committee of Armaments formed, a Committee of Imperial Defence, and it occupied itself with this question of munitions. Large orders were given to the armament firms, which they undertook to fulfil, and could not quite by reason of the troubles with labour. This shows that there was no such thing as slackness on the part of the late Government. Nor is any blame attachable, Lord Haldane declares, to General von Donop, the head of the Ordnance Department, whose name has been bandied about in the Commons debates of late, and designed by the same Press outside to fulfil the office of scapegoat. "He is one of the best men that could be found," said his lordship, who may be trusted to know what he is talking about, for when he himself was War Minister he had to find a director of artillery, and searched the British Army to pick out the best man in it. Of all the generals who stood out unrivalled for technical knowledge and for the directness and firmness of his mind, as well as the sanity of advice, General von Donop was the one. "I would like to know before he goes," added Lord Haldane, "on what grounds it is alleged that he ought to go." So would everybody, but then would it not be a simple matter to clear him and free him from all danger if we had the whole truth about the misleading of Mr. Asquith at Newcastle? We should all begin to understand that this "shortage of ammunition" outcry, whatever the basis for it, makes no allowance for the unprecedented strain put upon the whole producing power of State and armament firms because of the enormous increase suddenly made in the size of our armies.

At the end of his speech Lord Haldane uttered some words of warning that must be preserved here, because peace may not be so far away as sometimes looks likely, and when it comes the problems the nation will have to face are infinitely more danger-laden, more exacting in their imperiousness, than even those relating to the overwhelming manufacture of munitions now demanded with which to beat the enemy down:—"Let us take care that we are not as badly prepared for the advent of peace as we were in some of the exigencies of this war. What will happen to us? We shall have very little capital available, there will be a tendency to transfer business to the United States. Our manufacturers will find it hard to develop their industries to the old level, and we shall have thrust back upon us a vast number of soldiers back from the war who will have to be employed. Let us see that we do not become a huge discontented island in the North Sea as the result. Much can be done by taking thought, and if we begin to think now a great deal can be done. We shall have to build up again the ramparts of wealth and prosperity."

Lord Fisher's return to duty should serve two useful purposes—(1) stop the mud torrent of Press laudation, depreciation, adulation and anathema, of innuendoes, accusations, hero worship and detraction, by which the public has been domineered ever since his lordship "put on his hat and left the Admiralty without saying goodbye," when—it is assumed—the divergence between him and Mr. Churchill became too acute to be longer endured. (2) Inventors of all kinds should now have hope. Lord Fisher and his new committee ought to be in a position to examine all inventions, even the most



useless-looking, without prejudice, solely with a view to their utilisation in the work of national defence—if they prove utilisable. Hitherto the universal complaint has been that special influences of bureaucratic participations or inertia blocked the way to inventors and made it almost impossible to get any new thing looked at. Occasionally there was doubtless truth behind the insinuations, but too often the inventor was himself the cause of the scant courtesy he received. We can imagine no occupation more thankless or wearisome than that assigned to the official or officials who have to test and pronounce upon the quality of hobbies or cranks' abortions called inventions—for most inventors are cranks of the most wearisome, sometimes insane, type. But all should now get a free field and no favour—real inventors and self-deluders—even the inventor who is not on the spot. We have, for instance, heard of an inventor, a plain diligent man, in Johannesburg who has put together a shield for machine guns so well-adapted to its purpose as to be a handy and always available protection to the men behind the gun, but he complains that no one here will pay any attention to it. "It can be used with others of the usual construction in forming a mobile fort," writes an admirer, and adds, "The pity is that — has not the money to go to England and to make a full-sized shield and demonstrate it himself." Money will do it and merit be turned away as usual is the inference, but we hope that Lord Fisher will end all cause for that kind of talk. Has the War Office got a good, easily movable gun-shield? If not, the new authority might hunt up the working model of this invention and test it.

How the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, otherwise the Japan Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., contrived in the half-year ended March 31 last to increase its profits is not explained in the report. The sources of gain, however, may be guessed at, at least to some extent. For one thing, this company must have fallen heir to a considerable portion of the Eastern Asiatic traffic formerly in the hands of the Germans, and in some directions there may have been more goods to carry, owing to the war, but into that we need not inquire, lest we might stumble upon some facts that would give hints to the foe. Dealing with the figures, we find the gross profits amounted to 5,229,280 yen, being an increase of 184,977 yen on the corresponding half-year. Almost the whole of this gain was added to the allowance for depreciation on the company's fleet and property, which was consequently 183,293 yen up at 1,308,565 yen. Additional amounts were also allocated to the insurance fund, and the ships' structural repair fund, the one getting 64,581 yen more at 732,246 yen, and the other 112,693 yen more at 800,198 yen. Thus out of the gross profit no less than 2,841,009 yen, or 360,567 yen more than for the same half of the previous year, was set aside, and these liberal-looking assignments reduced the nett profit by 299,962 yen to 3,212,869 yen, a sum including 824,598 yen, or 124,392 yen less brought forward. A small reduction of 8,779 yen is shown in the amount of 119,413 yen assigned to the reserve fund, and the fund for extension of services and improvement of the fleet gets only half what it did a year ago at 200,000 yen, but the reserve for construction and repairs of buildings gets 500,000 yen, and the special reserve 300,000 yen, just as a year ago. From the balance remaining, 2,093,456 yen, the directors get 110,000 yen, and the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum is provided, leaving a balance of 883,456 yen, or 91,184 yen less, to carry forward. From the balance-sheet it is seen that the book value of the fleet has risen by 9,033,000 yen on the year's comparison to 43,262,016 yen. Payments on account of new ships are 1,876,810 yen less at 2,691,848 yen, but the value of other property, such as the buildings and land and ships' stores in stock, is somewhat higher, while public loans and other securities possessed by the company show a reduction of 830,232 yen at 9,251,440 yen, and cash is 384,983 yen lower at the still handsome figure of 13,098,945 yen. Sundry debtors also owe 830,232 yen at 1,106,211 yen. No increase is

shown in the share capital, nor has the company gone into debt to meet the cost of any of these added values in its assets; all the money has been provided from its various reserves and from the reduction in its cash and securities. The total of the reserves now comes to 48,834,972 yen, an increase of 5,747,389 yen on the figure of this time twelve months. The book value of the fleet per ton is only 98.6 yen.

Some idea of crop prospects in Canada may now be obtained from the bulletin received by the High Commissioner for Canada from the Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa. According to the reports received up to May 31 weather conditions in our great North American Dominion have not been all that could be desired, except in Alberta and British Columbia, where the state of the grain crops was generally favourable. In the maritime provinces cold and rainy weather during May delayed farm work, and at the end of the month a good deal of seeding still had to be completed. In Quebec and Ontario cold winds and frosts retarded growth, and in the North-West provinces growth was checked by cold and frosty nights, while in some parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan the need of rain was felt. Wheat estimates show that a total area of 12,896,000 acres will be under grain this year, the largest area ever sown to wheat in Canada. Of this gigantic total no less than 11,659,700 acres are covered by the three North-West provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the case of the first of these three the acreage sown shows an increase of 21 per cent., while Saskatchewan, which contains more than half the wheat area of Canada, has increased its acreage by 24 per cent. and Alberta by 35 per cent. Next in acreage comes oats with a total area of 11,427,000 acres, or 1,365,500 acres more than in the previous year, representing an increase of 13 per cent. Hay and clover occupy 7,788,400 acres against 7,997,000, while there are 1,518,400 acres against 1,495,600 under barley, and 453,000 acres against 463,300 under mixed grains.

With the London Money Market practically closed to it the Province of Ontario has had to look elsewhere for the money it needed, and during the past few weeks has succeeded in placing \$7,000,000 of securities on very favourable terms. Of this total \$1,000,000 is in five-year 5 per cent. bonds at 100½, \$2,000,000 is a nine months' loan at 3½ per cent., and \$4,000,000 is in ten-year 4½ per cent. bonds at \$96.58. A considerable portion of the five-year bonds was sold privately and locally, but the \$4,000,000 loan will be placed chiefly in the United States by the Ontario brokers who purchased the entire amount, and the nine months' loan was taken by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Co. of New York. The short term of the last-named is accounted for by the fact that it is a war loan, and the municipal taxes which will be used to meet it will be paid in at the expiration of nine months.

For the second year in succession no sales of real estate were made by the Investment Corporation of Canada, Ltd., but the outcome of the operations during the 12 months ended April 30 was fairly satisfactory considering the conditions which prevailed in Canada. The realised proportion of the profit on previous sales of real estate was £6,442 down at £11,470, and the nett surplus, after providing for administration charges and debenture and other interest, was £6,497 smaller at £40,149. A dividend of 7 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary stock, but £10,000 less at £5,000 is transferred to reserve, while £4,000 is put to a special reserve against arrears of interest, and £2,500 is written off investments. Expenses of renewal of notes and issue of promissory notes only amounted to £79 compared with £3,732 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is therefore increased by £1,069 to £2,518. On March 1 £81,500 of terminable notes matured, of which £30,000 was paid off, £21,500 was renewed for a further period of one year, and £30,000 was exchanged for promissory notes payable on March 1, 1916. In the balance-sheet the terminable



notes show a reduction of £60,541 at £47,101, and loans against securities of £13,627 have disappeared, while promissory notes for £28,699 appear as a new item. Liabilities to sundry creditors on real estate are £10,240 down at £9,825, and profit held in suspense pending realisation has been reduced by £10,600 to £11,033. On the other hand, debtors for instalments owe £31,457, or £26,394 less, and cash has been reduced by £23,309 to £4,155.

In May, 1914, the prospects of the British Canadian and General Investment Co. appeared to be so favourable that, in order to provide funds for the extension of the business, an issue of £80,000 5 per cent. convertible first debenture stock was offered at 97, of which £55,000 was taken up. Unfortunately, however, matters soon took a turn for the worse, mainly owing to the war, and the year ended December 31 closed with a substantial drop in the revenue. Part of this was due to the distribution of surplus profits by affiliated companies having been deferred, together with the interest on some of the holdings in fixed-interest bearing securities, and part to the retention of some of the new debenture money in hand. The gross income was £6,045 smaller at £15,625, and after providing £1,367 for debenture interest and meeting other charges the nett surplus, including £3,030, or £745 less, brought in, was £7,555 smaller at £10,759. A year ago a dividend of 4 per cent. was paid, £1,000 was written off underwriting commission and £6,000 was transferred to reserve, but this time the whole balance is carried forward, as the directors say that in view of the business conducted by the company it is not permissible to distribute the profits unless they are satisfied that there is no depreciation in the capital value of the securities. Although it is impossible to make any reliable valuation they evidently believe that there is a serious depreciation, and in order to get rid of this and to wipe out the items of £8,000 for underwriting commission and £4,960 for debenture stock discount and issue expenses they propose that the issued capital should be written down from £205,463 to £154,097 by writing off 5s. per share.

The accounts of the Neuchatel Asphalte Co., Ltd., now presented, cover the calendar year 1914, the reason for their late appearance being the delay in obtaining returns from abroad. Unfortunately for the company the outbreak of war occurred at a time when it usually carries out a large portion of its contracts, and consequently there was a curtailment of work combined with the disorganisation of transport facilities and the advance in freight charges. Further, the branches of the company in enemy countries are now regarded as "enemy" undertakings, and the supply and movement of material are prohibited except under a very restrictive licence. Fortunately the company's mines are situated in friendly countries, while the directors believe that the property in enemy countries will remain intact. It is, however, impossible to withdraw funds therefrom during the war, and we are not surprised therefore to find, after providing £3,832 for income-tax, a reduction of £21,224 in the nett profits, bringing them down to £27,445. The ordinary dividend is accordingly reduced from 10s. to 6d. per share, while the bonus of 4s. per share and the allocation of £8,000 to reserve made in 1913 are not repeated, but £6,948 is added to the amount brought in, making £32,029 to be carried forward. Landed property and buildings at mines and agencies show an increase of £13,430 at £69,646, but stocks, stores &c. there are £9,601 lower at £105,229. Debtor balances also are £112,662 down at £218,685, the caution money deposited with the Government of Neuchatel and with municipalities, &c., abroad comes to £6,025 less at £97,981, and investments have fallen £11,759 to £81,373. Against these cash is £56,418 up at £89,657, bills receivable have risen £4,145 to £7,806, and a municipal loan issue accepted in payment for work executed forms a new entry of £29,279. The company has also reduced its credit balances by £27,540 to £68,444, but has had to

borrow a further £24,612 from its bankers, making the total overdraft £60,005. Reserves of all kinds now aggregate £264,397. Owing to the superiority of the company's asphalt for modern conditions of traffic the directors are confident that the company will eventually regain its former activity.

Had there been no drawbacks it looks as if the profits of Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., Ltd., for its 49th year would have been most dazzling. In South America its year closes on September 30, in South Africa on December 31, and in London on March 31, and during the South American twelve months there was a great scarcity of fat cattle, but it must have been largely offset by the high prices ruling for stock, and as pastures were favoured by weather the profits from that branch of the business were good. As for Rhodesia, the directors say that the "keynote" of their work during the year has been "to limit capital expenditure and to consolidate and protect existing interests." This must surely have been successfully done, for the profit shown by the whole business is £10,265 larger at £276,729. Out of this the board has been able again to make up the dividend on the ordinary shares to 20 per cent., tax free, and also to repeat the tax free 2s. 6d. bonus, the two together absorbing £135,000. A year ago £10,000 was added to the reserve, but this time it gets nothing. It, however, shows a total of £600,000, notwithstanding the fact that £100,000 was withdrawn from it a year ago. A contribution of £2,000 is, however, again made to the employees' provident fund, and the directors' percentages come to £19,587, or just £983 more. After this £70,142, or £19,282 more than was brought in, will be left to carry to the new year. The war has done nothing to weaken the company's sound financial position, thanks to the care with which its affairs appear to be managed. A certain amount of dislocation ensued, but the solidity of the business brought it through without hurt. From the balance-sheet we see that the liabilities have been increased by £400,000 in 5 per cent. redeemable notes, but the bills payable have been reduced by £437,372 to £90,590, and sundry creditors are owed £27,169 less at £510,292. The company is strong in cash, whose total is £160,953 up at £260,623, and the stock has risen in value £71,448 to £1,610,886. The creation of a separate company to deal with the Liebig meat products in the British Empire and in the United States, an arrangement now carried out, may perhaps account for the decline of £241,409 in the item shipments abroad for drafts issued, &c., brought down now to £404,851. There is also a decline of £121,746 in the land, factories, and plant, &c., owned, making that aggregate £447,138. Investments in subsidiary companies have risen £50,800 to £643,541, and sundry debtors and advances on cattle, &c., show an increase of £74,868 at £266,640, so that the total of the balance-sheet is £3,635,727, quite a handsome figure, representing a solid British interest chiefly in Argentina. No detailed information is given in the profit and loss account.

Often has the editor of this journal compared himself to the mole. All the week he works in obscurity and at its end throws up his heap—the week's number of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. Sometimes though gleams of light may reach even moles, and surely a little note like the following is calculated to warm the heart of the burrower:—"I have much pleasure in sending cheque for renewing my subscription to the REVIEW. This makes the 24th year of my subscribing, as I began in February, 1892, and I think I have read with interest the great majority of all the articles in them. I especially read the articles on the war now written with extreme interest." The sight of this note brought back the face and aspect of a man we have known for well-nigh 40 years—a man keen of mind, upright of soul, ever eager to fight in a just cause, and always loyal in his fighting. Few of all the men encountered during what has now grown to be a long working day occupies a place in this writer's memory more vivid and pleasant than the writer of this note. May his old age be calm and



happy, and may he live long to subscribe to and read THE INVESTORS' REVIEW.

It was announced some time ago that, as a result of the conditions prevalent in Mexico, the Puebla Tramway, Light and Power Co. could not meet the coupon due on its first mortgage bonds on July 1. A funding scheme is now put forward by the directors, under which the interest on the first mortgage bonds for a period of five years from January 1, 1915, shall be payable only out of nett earnings, after providing in each year for the service of the prior lien bonds. The company may satisfy any part of such interest as it cannot pay in cash by the issue of 5 per cent. non-cumulative income warrants, and the scheme imposes the obligation to do so if required in respect of any arrears of interest which may still remain at the end of the five years. These warrants will be payable to registered holders, and will contain a promise to pay out of subsequent nett earnings, but will constitute no charge on the company's properties. They will be redeemable by the application of nett earnings in purchase by tenders at or below par, or in the redemption at par by drawings, and unless so redeemed will be payable only in the event of winding up or an unwaived default in payment of the principal of the bonds. No distribution will be made on the common stock until the whole of the warrants have been redeemed. Good reason for this scheme is given in the statement that the nett revenue for 1914 only amounted in Mexican currency to \$660,000, which, even at the par rate of exchange, would have been nearly £8,000 short of the £75,000 required for the service of the prior lien and first mortgage bonds. Actually, however, the rate of exchange was less than half par, or under 1s. per peso, so that the earnings converted into sterling have realised very little more than the amount required for the prior lien bonds alone. At present, moreover, the peso has a purely nominal value of between 4d. and 6d., and a further fall is possible.

Thanks to the reduction in the cost of materials, the directors of Barclay, Perkins and Co. were able to make a very good display for the year ended March 31, in spite of a further decrease of 62,738 barrels, or 11½ per cent. in the sales. After providing £74,784 more at £313,816, or 69 per cent. of the gross profits, as against 64 per cent. in the previous year for beer duty, increased licence duties, &c., the nett profits, including £31,694 brought in, were £7,073 larger at £171,142, but the uncertainty with regard to the future has influenced the directors in allotting this amount, and they reduce the dividend from 7½ per cent. to 5, which is equal to 2 per cent. on the old preference shares, and covers the arrears to June 30, 1912. Out of the balance, £40,000, or double last year's appropriation, is transferred to the general reserve, leaving £36,767, or £5,073 more, to be carried forward. The amount written off brewery property was slightly in excess of the expenditure for the 12 months, leaving that item £1,111 down at £679,934. Freehold and leasehold, public and other houses, &c., however, show an increase of £28,547 to £818,595, while loans to publicans, including houses in hand, were reduced by £22,606 to £811,150. Investments are £14,361 higher at £210,328, owing to the additions made to sinking fund policies, and cash is £45,973 up at £113,688, while stocks have been reduced by £14,100 to £196,173. On the other hand, liabilities on mortgage of public-houses are £12,848 lower at £242,291, publicans' trade and other deposits have been reduced by £6,624 to £66,479, and sundry creditors owe £9,317 less at £54,006, but the amount of beer duty for the months of February and March is £55,765 up at £74,196. With the present addition, the reserve will stand at £282,704, or within £2,000 of the value put upon the goodwill.

At the outset it looked as if the drastic reorganisation of its business which had been undertaken by the

new board of Spiers and Pond, Ltd., was likely to be productive of good results, but all calculations were completely upset by the war. The effect was felt in all branches of the business, and the nett profits for the 12 months ended March 31, after providing £31,892, or £6,025 less, for loss on realisation, depreciation, &c., showed a decrease of £21,842 at £29,007. Debenture interest and administration charges, however, required £48,816, so that the nett result was a debit of £19,809, compared with a small profit of £2,392 in the previous year. This deficiency is written off out of general reserve, together with £5,875 required for the amortisation of the leasehold properties, bringing that fund down to £1,725. The item of plant, furniture, &c., has been reduced by £13,656 on the year, but still stands at £446,622, and although the directors state that the true value as fixed by Messrs. Edwin Fox, Burnett and Baddeley is only £298,681, they make no suggestion as to the method it is proposed to adopt for dealing with this or with the £24,375 of reorganisation expenses which are carried in suspense.

With a good part of its property in German territory the Pacific Phosphate Co. was naturally very badly hit by the outbreak of war. Intercourse with the island of Nauru was at once prohibited, and all work there was practically suspended until the island came under British administration in November and the resumption of shipping was officially sanctioned. Shipments from Ocean Island and Nauru to Germany had also to be discontinued, while, owing to the severe drought in Australia, shipments were further curtailed, and the total output from the two islands for the year ended December 31 fell short by about 40 per cent. of what had been expected. Altogether the trading profits showed a reduction of £74,007 at £134,486, and as in addition to writing off £5,244 more at £29,436 for depreciation the directors set aside £25,000 to a war contingency fund and wrote off £4,210 for new capital issue expenses the nett surplus was £108,195 smaller at £58,699. The dividend on the second preference shares, issued in March, 1914, absorbs £3,849, and the distribution on the ordinary shares is reduced from 25 per cent. to 7½ per cent., while the additional remuneration to the directors takes £2,109, or £4,922 less, and nothing is written off development account compared with £4,000 a year ago, leaving the amount carried forward £1,697 down at £9,280. Buildings and fixed plant account, after deducting the depreciation reserve hitherto shown on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet and the further sum now written off, is £14,064 higher at £221,141. Stocks have risen by £40,043 to £180,507 and debtors owe £25,781 more at £164,619, but cash has been reduced by £6,852 to £16,371, while, on the other hand, a reduction of £12,898 to £158,125 in sundry creditors is neutralised by a new item of £10,000 for loan from bank.

In times that for the majority of us have been full of embarrassment, Lovell and Christmas, Ltd., have managed to do an exceedingly profitable business, their turnover for the year ended June 30 being larger than that of any previous year, in spite of the unprecedented difficulties of shipment and transport. After providing for all contingencies the sum available for distribution, including £6,484 less at £31,270 brought in, was £7,439 up at £122,517, which means that the nett profit was nearly £14,000 larger than in 1914. From this £3,200 is again deducted for employees' bonus account, as well as £10,000 for reserve, leaving £7,365 more at £38,635 to be carried forward, the dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares having been repeated. The balance-sheet shows increases of £43,750 to £163,986 in stock, of £161,050 to £594,396 in sundry debtor balances, and of £5,798 to £87,668 in cash, but investments are £7,300 down at £107,658. Liabilities to creditors have risen £176,374 to £324,886, but the company possesses a reserve of £154,276, and altogether seems to be in a good position.



On the whole, the accounts presented by the directors of the Tatem Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., for the year ended June 30 make quite good reading. In that period there was a tremendous fluctuation in freights, which, rising at the outbreak of war from a low point to a very high level, fell off in June last in some cases from 30 to 40 per cent. These high freights, however, were naturally discounted by war risk insurance, increased working expenses, and the general port congestion, but, for all that, profits showed a recovery of £83,091 from the slump of £242,492 in 1914, and amounted to £203,739. Nothing was deducted for income-tax against £6,377, and £8,139 less at £12,344 was provided for classification and general repairs, but £65,200 more at £84,700 was written off cost of steamers, leaving an amount available for distribution, including a rather larger balance of £23,818 brought in, greater by £39,205 at £130,523. The directors, however, are content merely to maintain the dividend at 15 per cent., and after doubling the transfer to reserve for income-tax at £30,000, and setting aside £10,000 for war risk calls, carry forward £14,205 more at £38,023. During the year the nett expenditure on steamers amounted to £134,700, the aggregate, less the amount written off this time, being £50,000 up at £350,000, or exactly the total of the issued capital. Debtors owe £32,862 more at £53,829 and cash has risen £28,331 to £476,447, but the liability to creditors is £75,374 higher at £132,337, while the company owes £11,661 on pending voyages against £5,946 owing to it on that account a year ago.

For some reason best known to themselves the directors of the Empire Transport Co. have chosen to make any real comparison of the results in the year ended June 30 impossible by adding in a credit for the sale of the "Argentine Transport," the amount of which is not disclosed. Taking the figures as they stand, the profits, including £1,480 brought forward, were £78,553 larger at £187,434, and after providing for management's expenses and debenture interest and writing off £17,408, or £11,833 more for maintenance, repairs, &c., the nett surplus of £126,600 was £62,277 higher. Of this £58,000, or £53,658 more, is written off debenture issue expenses, eliminating this item from the balance-sheet, £35,000, or £5,000 less, is transferred to depreciation account, but £5,000 is added to the insurance fund and £10,000 set aside to survey repair reserve, after which the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 10 per cent., leaving only £100 to be carried forward. The book value of the fleet has been reduced by £54,054 to £897,101 as the result of the above-mentioned sale, and the proceeds, together with the detention moneys received from the underwriters with regard to the "Victorian Transport," which is interned at Stettin, amounting in all to £79,119, have been deposited with the bank in the joint names of the trustees for the debenture-holders. Bills payable on account of new tonnage have been reduced by £50,000 to £147,200, but current liabilities are £26,266 higher at £117,807, against which sundry debtors owe £67,127, or £6,020 less, and cash is £4,460 up at £16,880. The company has invested £20,000 in the new War Loan.

### Our Desperate Foes.

One of the most hopeful symptoms emerging from the welter of battle is the fury with which the middle empires are assaulting on every hand. We take that to mean that the two Kaisers and their officials are becoming desperately eager to bring the war to the culminating point of peace, their crime to completion. And if from one point of view it is the case, as a friend of ours puts it, that "the only information of real use to the Allies is the number of the enemy BURIED," on the other hand it is of the highest interest to see how far the fury of the onslaughts indicates approaching exhaustion. That Heidelberg professor who has been calculating the cost of the war to Germany at £140,000,000 per month may be a little out, but he

cannot be very far wrong, because we know from our own experience what a civilisation-devastating waste of capital the strife involves. And when we take note of the reliance of the Teutons upon a preponderance of machinery—from the man machine to the machine-gun and rifle, poisoned gas cylinders, the monster cannon, the giant submarine, and other manifestations of demoniac ingenuity—as well as count up the numbers engaged, the conviction is forced in upon the mind that no nation on earth, however thoroughly organised and disciplined, could possibly endure the strain long, or be able to meet the demands made upon it for more than a few more months. The fury of battle therefore everywhere, in our opinion, precedes a German collapse, and that inference should brace all of us up to unite in determined and never-ceasing efforts to finish the business. It has been for some time rumoured from Holland and Switzerland, as well as other places, that immense masses of German human gun-fodder, with their murder apparatus, are being gathered in Belgium to make one more lava-flood effort to seize Calais, and we fervently hope the news is true. We are ready for these masses, and the more of them that are hurled against the lines of the Allies, the more speedily will they be destroyed.

It is finance, however, that will paralyse German efforts before very long, come of the slaughter what may. However brutally determined the German military leaders may be, they cannot live on air themselves—have no intention of doing so—nor can they suffer their men to go half-fed. Contemptuous though their attitude is towards the civilian population, even that must be kept alive if possible, and none of the bellies can be filled without money. But the hour is near when both Teutonic empires will be without even the semblance of money. It is proclaimed through the news agencies that Austria has succeeded in raising another £110,000,000 by her Government's latest efforts at borrowing. The amount would be paltry measured by necessities, but as it is in paper, and as the paper is enormously depreciated, the real sum said to have been wrung out probably represents little more than a month's expenditure, if that, Austria now having Italy on her hands as well as Serbia and Russia. As for the Hohenzollern Kaiser and his talk of no winter campaign, "peace in October," that is now declared by a correspondent of the *Financial Times* to have been a prophecy forced out of the miserable man by representations from the bankers. For months past, says that writer, the great financial interests in Berlin have viewed the situation with increasing alarm, but were afraid to approach the august presence of the War Lord individually. At last a deputation was arranged and summoned up courage to go and see the miserable lunatic. They actually mustered up courage to tell him that even were the Allies defeated, no indemnity payable by them could adequately compensate Germany for the sacrifices she had been called upon to make since the end of July last. Should the Prussian armies, on the other hand, be defeated, "the Fatherland would not regain its economic independence for half a century." That, if the truth, is the most welcome piece of news we have lately had from Berlin, because it shows that an apprehension of the truth is beginning to spread there. What could the Kaiser do in reply but call a council of his backers and promise peace? Money the man has none. Victory he can no longer promise—it has long been beyond his grasp—but to avert dire consequences to himself a little longer he must promise peace and continue to throw the male population of the empire he has wrecked in front of the Allied lines to feed Russian, French, Italian, British and Belgian guns with German carrion. It is a revolting spectacle, and again we say that such a spectacle in this twentieth century put before us at the bidding of one man—essentially a caddish nonentity in mind and body—backed by a clan of savages as cruel and inhuman as any that ever cumbered the earth, is so horrible as to lay upon all civilised peoples the stern necessity to so punish the diabolical aggressors for their crimes as if possible to extirpate the breed for ever.



There is admiration and wonder to be found in some of our newspapers over the "unrivalled capacity" shown by German and Austrian manufacturers to turn out instruments of death for the service of their armies, and "patriots" among us twit us with our backwardness. They forget altogether that, as often insisted upon by us, we provide for other armies besides our own. Where would Belgium be without the help of British ammunition manufacturers? Germany, as was recently pointed out in a report presented to the German Ironworkers' Union and quoted in the *Petit Journal*, has not only seized all the iron and steel works in Belgium, forcing their workmen to make arms for her troops, but—by the rapid onslaught upon France and the obstinate stand made behind entrenchments in the northern regions of the Republic—has got into her hands 68 per cent. of the French coal production, 78 per cent. of her coke production, 90 per cent. of her iron ore, 86 per cent. of her cast iron, and about 70 per cent. of her output of steel. As the *Morning Post* summarises, "the occupation of the Nord, Pas de Calais, Ardennes, and Meurthe et Moselle Departments has deprived France of 1,102,636 horse-power out of 3,235,115 horse-power of its total machinery, or 34 per cent." Is it any wonder that assisted thus the German should be able to waste ammunition to an unexampled extent? But even that ammunition, though in part stolen, costs money, much money, and Germany has none, is ruined.

Will readers please bear this aspect of the turmoil of war in mind when they read about this trench having been retaken near St. Mihiel or that other abandoned by the Germans because of the enemy's guns? Incidents of that description look petty beside the great hosts engaged and the infinitely important issues at stake. But every day's cannonade, every assault, no matter at what point in the far-ranging lines, helps towards the complete exhaustion of the assaulting brigands. Not even in their campaign against Russia are the German armies making any substantial headway towards a victory. Surely it is unnecessary to insist further upon that fact. There has been no break up of any Russian army, no defeat therefore, and should the Russian armies be driven out of Galicia altogether, out of Warsaw also, and forced across the frontier of Poland, there will still be no victory for the Kaiser, for the two self-destroying empires. Their position was exactly hit off the other day by one of Sir Carruthers Gould's cartoons in the *Westminster Gazette*, depicting the two Kaisers pushing their hardest against a spring try-your-strength bear-head, such as one sees at country fairs or fêtes. The spring is compressed by the weight of their shove, but they cannot let go because it would at once shoot out again. Some weeks ago—with that callous indifference to the ridicule its victims may suffer from—the *Daily Mail* spread over one of its pages a lugubrious warning from the Rev. Sir Robertson Nicoll—most deft amongst renderers of the average mind—about the imminent danger of our position in Flanders from the backflow of German troops to be almost immediately released in the Eastern war area by the defeat of Russia. What a pity it is that shrewd and, in their own line, excellent men like this reverend Scotch Presbyterian divine should be so unconscious of the ridicule to which they lay themselves open when they leave tea and cake gossip for strong meat of the camp. No such backflow of troops can come from the East, because Russia grows every week more able to hold up, and probably to account for, the whole of the forces the two empires can fling against her troops. And what a ruin to the Teuton all the fury foreshadows! Centuries to come will be needed to reap the harvest of the bullets scattered by him in such demoniac profusion.

Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd.—The directors, anticipating that certain of their shareholders might wish to invest at once all available capital in the War Loan, have decided to distribute forthwith a larger interim dividend than was contemplated when they prepared their estimate of profit for the half-year up to June 30. The dividend has been sent to the shareholders in ample time for them to apply it to patriotic purposes.

## Light Behind the Red Curtain.

Is there any good reason to look forward with encouragement across the vast field of battle to the beyond? Surely there is. Behind the armed masses of men battling for liberty or striving to enslave we do begin to observe forces growing up that we confidently hope will reshape the world into something better when the killing has ended. As we have all along insisted, Russia is playing a stupendous part in the fight for liberty, and Russia in the conflict is winning her own freedom. The retreats of her armies are in no sense defeats, as the public too readily imagines, never have been; they are in the main lures, and already there are indications that the millions of Austro-Germans flung into Galicia, with offshoots in the Baltic Provinces, are going to be ground to powder. But it is not the fighting in Poland or near or in the Baltic, or in the campaign in the Caucasus, nor even the splendid assaults of the French in Champagne and the Vosges, or the British stands and assaults, helped by the French and Belgians, in Flanders that arrest our attention most at the moment. We seek to penetrate the red haze of carnage, and note what is going on behind. Are not streaks of light here and there visible? At a banquet given in Paris on July 4—the United States "Independence Day" celebration—M. Viviani, the Prime Minister of France, wound up a stirring speech to the guests of the American Ambassador in these words: "I drink to the future, to the independence of nations, to their liberty to dispose of themselves, to the generations freed by the courage of so many heroes, and to the great Republic which is the symbol of strength—strength the servant, not the mistress, of right." There is the aim of the Allies, there is the goal towards which they and we all work. We are none of us fighting for territory, none fighting even to destroy Germany, but to set her peoples free from the military tyranny that has degraded, one might say almost extinguished, the soul of the race, made force its god. "They are a brutal people who love murder," says Mr. Wile in the *Daily Mail*, and it is true, alas! too true—but they were not always that, and once they are freed from the Prussian domination, with its brutal cast-iron thoroughness and ruthlessness, its blind faith in mechanics as capable of overcoming souls, they may again rise to the dignity of manhood. Except that we shall compel them to work out their salvation, certainly we shall do nothing to hinder them in toiling upward to light and purity again, any more than to hinder the liberated States of the Balkans from living their own lives in perfect freedom once we have delivered them from the withering curse of Turkish rule or Habsburg domination.

And turn again to Russia. The same spirit of the free works to prevail there, as Mr. Harold Williams, the Petrograd correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, does well to remind us. The Duma is soon to be called together, according to the Rescript of the Tsar quoted last week, and already a conference of representatives of Russians and Poles is discussing, under Government auspices, reforms in the administration of Poland—discussing the real liberation of Poland we hope and believe. At the same time, the Russian peoples as one man have been roused to fight this fight to the triumphant end. Russia defeated! Never! The Prussian and Austrian empires but hasten onwards to judgement.

And what are we doing? To the outside world we seem to be wrangling; a large section of the Press keeps telling us that we are all "slackers," decadents, and it sets the example of jabbering for jabber's sake, or to gratify spite and petty malignities. But we are not yet so base as all that, nor so futile, as will presently begin to appear. Only at present the nation is just rousing itself up and becoming conscious that it must bend its whole energies to carry this war to an early and triumphant conclusion. That job has got to be completed before we can undertake those domestic



reforms which as soon as peace returns will clamour for execution. And we *are* working with a will, have, most of us, been resolute to do our duty all through. The "hang-backists" are in a despised and lessening minority; even the gilded futilities of fashion amongst us have their uses, and are finding out that they can do something, are willing to do more than they can. A strenuous output of murder appliances, then, without stint, without pause, for ourselves and our Allies—oh! the labour is gigantic, unparalleled, but it will be accomplished—a determined, well-ordered, unceasing offensive in Flanders, as in the Dardanelles, and the Kaiser may indeed find that, for once in his career, he has been a true prophet—there will be no need for any second winter campaign.

Why did the Kaiser venture on such a prophecy (if he did venture on it; the story comes through Paris)? Because the nations cursed and blighted by the Moloch-militarism he and Francis Joseph represent shrink with dread from the prospect of another winter in the trenches is the offered explanation, and it may well be the true one. If true, it is almost the only sign the Germans have yet given of a return to sanity. The weeping of their wives and mothers must be at last beginning to plough furrows in the war paint, but dread of another winter's agony will not alone open the German mind to a sense of the hideousness of the Prussian crime, the bestiality of the Junker ideal, or the imminence of defeat. As to defeat, the very thought that it could be possible is repelled with scorn and contempt to this hour by all Germans. To tell them that they are already defeated and ruined for generations is to excite indignant denial and splutters of rage. We have heard not a little during the past week of a Socialist manifesto subscribed by leaders of all segments of the motley, soul-debased materialist swarms who dub themselves by that epithet, and are asked to take this as a sign that the German peoples are beginning to discover the truth about the war. Read carefully, it rather comes to wear the aspect of one more specimen of the earth-spirit cunning of German officialism, a rigmarole concocted as a means to an end. And that end? Not improbably it is designed to prepare the way for an offer of peace to the Allies on the basis of the surrender of Belgium, the return of Alsace-Lorraine, and some vague offers of more liberal treatment of Prussian Poland in exchange for a share in the development of Asia Minor, a readmittance within the Chinese comity of nations and the *status quo ante* in Africa. The duped people would be asked to regard this as the generosity of a victorious Kaiser.

Whatever the manifesto may be, it is not an indication that sanity is returning to the German race. It boasts of the support given by the Socialists to the war at the outset, and justifies that support on the ground that German "homes" were in danger through Russian aggression; and the repudiation of all schemes of territorial aggrandisement at the expense of the enemy—whose defeat is taken as a matter of course—is accompanied by the cock-crowing of conceit-blown insolence to the effect that "the German armies have proved themselves invincible." It is by this assumed invincibility that the Socialists of the Fatherland have been moved to unite to memorialise the Kaiser's Government to make the first move towards a peace. This may be cunningly ingenious on the bureaucrat's part, but it is no proof of returning wisdom in the nation. The vanity and pride generations of mis-education have instilled into the German mind are as visible in the language of the Socialists as in the cock-a-doodle-dooing harangues and letters of the mad Kaiser; and their "peace talk" *à la* W. J. Bryan will have to take another tone ere we can listen. But it is something, perhaps, that the word "peace" should be mentioned at all in Germany—and by both Kaiser and Socialist simultaneously. It is going to be our peace, though, that they will get, not theirs, and therefore ere the light of a better day dawns beyond the Rhine and west and south of the Carpathians some millions of Teutons have yet to be destroyed. Such is the fate they invited, such their self-pronounced doom—

the pity of it! To the task, then, in all courage, with unalterable resolution to conquer and make the peace secure.

### "Daily Mail" Malignity.

Last Wednesday's *Daily Mail* contained another of those "leaders" which strike a chill at the heart and excite feelings of nausea. Apparently hitherto the effusions of this description have not appreciably affected the circulation of the paper. Its owners were able to boast, on Monday, that in spite of the solemn public burning and other signs of disgust, the number actually sold at the latest date given considerably exceeded a million a day, and was greater than at the beginning of the war, although not up to the highest watermark. None the less articles of this description are at the core the reverse of patriotic, so much so that they often read as if they might be inspired and written by the scribbling slaves of the Wilhemstrasse Press Bureau, or the Wolff Agency in Berlin. This is how the article is headed: "How to Win the War. Nearly a Year Wasted." This last phrase gives the motive of the howl, and the writer proceeds: "Are we winning, are we losing, are we 'muddling through,' or merely muddling?" Everything that we have done hitherto has been bad, of no avail, according to this *Daily Mail* snarler—except what has been done at the Harmsworths' bidding. So now, of course, if we take that oracle's advice, get to work, "remove the incompetents, and urgently push forward our supplies, we can win this war." Even Sir Ian Hamilton's most inspiring narrative of events attending the opening of the land campaign in the Dardanelles is sneered at. Sir Ian "does not seem to have expected that the Turks would be provided with 'those inventions of the devil'—machine guns! Our politicians did not know that by talking so much in London about the expedition before it started, and stirring up so much excitement in Alexandria and Cairo, they were also warning the Turk and the German to turn a naturally difficult country into a veritable series of fortresses." Oh dear no, nothing of that kind was known here. The *Daily Mail* was a model of discreet silence, always, especially about Pekin, and had apparently no information either, else it would surely have had the kindness to tell us to take care. But grumble and misrepresent it must. Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch has been kept back for months. The story of the Dardanelles fighting has been hidden. "We can win this war," the article winds up, "but unless the British public takes the matter into its own hands, and insists upon the dismissal of inefficient bunglers among the politicians and at the War Office, we shall lose the support of our Allies, the enthusiasm of the Dominions; we shall waste the magnificent efforts of our soldiers and sailors, and, eventually, we shall lose the war."

Was there ever such drivel—read daily by more than a million of people too! British public take things into its own hands—and such a public! What does it, what can it, know beyond what Lord Northcliffe tells it? What does he know? What is the meaning of this fustian and fury? It seems to mean that Lord Northcliffe has not yet succeeded in turning Lord Kitchener out of the War Office. It means that he has, in common parlance, his knife into some public servants whose names he does not yet give—or only hints at, by putting forward a string of possible misinformers by whom Mr. Asquith was misled at Newcastle. This is both mean and cowardly, also unpatriotic, for what could be more pernicious than the malignant innuendo which spreads distrust?

It is not true that we have "wasted" nearly a year. One has but to look around and count up what we have done to see the nakedness of this falsehood and its malignity. In this 11 months of war have we not prevented the Germans from gaining anything that could be described as a conclusive victory at any point? We may have failed to do all that we intended to do, and there may have been, doubtless was, a shortage of guns and ammunition, at certain moments, in certain



places, but we none the less helped to roll back the German hosts from Paris, and we have hitherto effectually stopped their attempt to seize Calais or even Dunkirk. Was all that nothing? Although it may be true that we began the Dardanelles campaign too early, is that fact a proof of our bungling leadership? Is it not also true that the then Greek Government had promised in February to send 200,000 troops to second the efforts of the allied Anglo-French fleet? Even without that help, is it not the fact that the combined fleets alone at once drew off the Turkish armies from Egypt, from the Suez Canal, and thereby removed all danger of hostile attacks upon one of the most vital arteries of our commerce? Have we not helped the Russians in their Caucasian campaign by diverting troops the Turks could ill spare into the Euphrates Valley, who have been severely handled by our Indian soldiers there? And coming back to Flanders, is it not the case that throughout the winter it would have been impossible for an army of millions of men equipped as perfectly as the Prussians are to make much progress—still less to “win”—in a sodden, water-drowned land? One has but to call to mind a few facts to see how unscrupulous and altogether abominable is the spirit which prompts the publication of such articles as this. And it is all, Army, the War Office cloaked attacks, we should infer, upon people against whom the head of the Harmsworth clan has a spite. Of the Navy and its glorious work there is never a word. Oh, no! we are fools governed by incompetent bunglers, and in eleven months have done nothing!

It may be that the *Daily Mail* will continue to prosper in after days because during this war innumerable people have to read it for the variety and usually deftly sub-edited quality of its general news, and so grow accustomed to it. Multitudes also purchase it just to see how far it can go as a mischievous, anti-patriotic and vitriolic would-be political guide, but that it can ever be a real, a trusted, power in our public life looks impossible, unless we are, indeed, on the way to perdition as a great nation. A secondary, but always congenial, exercise of the conductors of this lurid journal in these days of stress is mud-slinging at Lord Haldane, and the remarkable speech delivered by him at the National Liberal Club, together with the demonstration of loyal appreciation and support afforded him there, is accordingly used as a pretext for raking up damaging looking extracts from his past speeches, the selection being all of one hue, and headed with, amongst other phrases, these: “No warning to his country. His rebuke to Lord Roberts.” How would Lord Northcliffe like to have what his journals have said in the past about Germany and the Kaiser, about France and her Republic, about Russia or the United States, gathered together in a carefully sub-edited hash of this description, and paraded to show their utter inconsistency, their perfect disregard of principle, the absence of anything except the most rudimentary knowledge of the subjects upon which judgment is habitually given after the style of Sir Oracle? That Lord Haldane laboured for peace, for accord with Germany, like the rest of us, everybody knows; that he, in his anxiety to promote concord, a *rapprochement* which would avert war, said in public courteous things about the German Emperor and the German people is also true enough of him as of the majority of people, but what does all that mean? Merely that he clung to the hope of peace to the last hour, fearing all the time that his hope would be blighted. Lord Northcliffe would have it that Lord Haldane was, and is, disloyal. He preaches that doctrine, and is not ashamed. Therefore, be he as rich as “Jawn D.,” or his papers as good sellers as “Tupper’s Proverbial Philosophy” used to be, he will, we fear, continue to find it beyond his capacity to be a gentleman.

## Bank Dividends and Reports.

We abstained at the half-year’s end from putting forth any estimates about bank dividends for several reasons, the strongest of which was that we could not form any distinct idea. In several directions business has been good, both foreign and domestic, but credit has been in such a peculiar position as to defy the most expert in attempting to reach conclusions about bank earnings. We are now getting the actual declarations as a guide to what has been going on, and may say at once that the dividends announced are remarkably good. They might have been reduced further without anybody having just ground to complain, and all bank shareholders will have to make up their minds to share in the deprivations of income which are now beginning to narrow the means of investors all over the kingdom. Such an enormous consumption of capital as the war involves cannot take place without affecting credit at its source, and we as a nation and empire will have profound cause for thankfulness if, when this war is over, reductions in bank dividends are the only vexations we shall have to face. Most of the dividends now declared are lower in reality if not in the round. Perhaps the discount companies have stood up best to adversities because money has been cheap, and they have had a fine field in the abundance of Treasury paper which they have been called upon to handle, but the Union Discount now pays at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, less tax, whereas a year ago the same rate was paid, tax free. The National Discount pays a 10 per cent. rate against 11 per cent., both less tax, and Alexanders maintain their 10 per cent. rate, taxed presumably in both years.

Amongst the London banks, the South-Western reduces its rate by 1 per cent. to 17 per cent., less tax, as before, but the London City and Midland continues its 18 per cent. per annum, only deducting the tax this time whereas a year ago the distribution was made tax free. Of all the large London banks, the London County and Westminster has so far made the most drastic cut, paying 9 per cent. against 10½ per cent. in both instances less tax, but it by no means follows that this bank has suffered from bad business more than its neighbours. It has been for years the most rigorous of all banks in husbanding resources. The Union of London and Smiths Bank, Ltd., which continues to issue half-yearly reports, again announces a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to tax, but there is no mention of any bonus this time, whereas a year ago one of 2 per cent. was paid. Profit is stated to have amounted to £241,638, making with the £201,561 brought forward £443,199 available. As the dividend still leaves nearly £300,000 to be disposed of, the directors prudently apply £150,000 to depreciation of securities, leaving £133,616 to be carried forward. Parr’s Bank is going to pay at the rate of 18 per cent., as against 20 per cent., all less tax; distributed 12 months ago, but the rate now declared is the same as that paid for the second half of last year. As for the Joint Stock Bank, it reduces its dividend by 1 per cent. to 10 per cent. per annum, and Barclay’s is giving 4s. on the “A” and 7s. on the “B” shares, which means 10 per cent. on the one and 17½ per cent. on the other for the year, less tax. This compares with 18½ per cent. paid on the “B” shares for the bank’s previous year, its accounts being always made up to June 30. A 9½ per cent. rate is announced by the London and Provincial Bank, or the same as last year. A reduction of 2 per cent. per annum, making the rate 14 per cent., as against 16 per cent. per annum paid a year ago, is announced by the directors of the Capital and Counties Bank, whose report will be issued presently for its year completed on June 30. The preliminary notice also states that £20,000 is set aside to premises account and £100,000 written off the value of investments. This will leave £74,906 to carry forward. A year ago premises got £20,000, the officers’ pension fund £10,000, and £103,451 was left to carry forward. Lloyd’s Bank maintains its interim distri-

Mr. John Edward Humphery has been elected a director of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation.

Marine and General Mutual Life Assurance Society.—Sir Frederick Green has accepted the office of chairman, in succession to Mr. H. W. Forster, M.P., who has recently joined the Government and has vacated his seat at the board.



bution of 14s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 18½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, the same as was paid for the corresponding period. No figures accompany the announcement.

As for country banks, the Bradford District appears to maintain its real rate, while nominally paying ½ per cent. per annum more at 13½ per cent. It will be paid less tax, though, whereas a year ago the shareholders got a dividend at the rate of 13½ per cent., tax free. In both years the Lancashire and Yorkshire deducted the tax, and this time it knocks 1s. per share off the distribution bringing it down to 16s. taxed. The United Counties, on the other hand, pays 13½ per cent., less tax, on both occasions. No change is found in the dividend to be paid by the Union Bank of Manchester. It is 12½ per cent., less tax, the same as a year ago, and was made available on Thursday for laudable patriotic reasons. In addition £3,000 was applied in reducing cost of premises, £2,000 added to the pension fund, and £15,000 set aside to meet depreciation of investments, putting them down to actual market or official prices. A balance of £10,572 will then remain to carry forward. No change has been made in the dividend payable by the West Yorkshire Bank, which is 10⅔ per cent. per annum, less tax, as before. The Irish National Bank notifies the same, 10 per cent., less tax, rate paid by it a year ago.

Under this heading we may deal with the report of the London and South-Western, Ltd., the only one out in time this week. It deserves special mention because of the promptness with which the dividend is released. It became payable at the head office and branches this (Friday) morning, and the board has thus put it in the power of shareholders to subscribe for the new War Loan. In the north the Union Bank of Manchester, as noted above, has followed the same course. It may be added that the 17 per cent. per annum dividend of the London and South-Western Bank is equivalent to 6s. 9 3-5d. per cent. gross per share. No profit and loss account is issued in the middle of the year, but the abstract balance-sheet shows the bank to be very strong in cash, its total in hand and at the Bank of England being £1,724,158 larger at £5,127,174. Its money lent at call and short notice is down £301,157 to £2,925,409. In the matter of investments the assets also show up well with an increase of £1,537,390, making the total £5,287,258, of which £3,178,000 is in Consols and other British Government securities. The bills discounted are £410,354 down at £2,544,678, but that is not to be wondered at in the present state of business, and against that decline acceptances show an increase of £556,139, making the cross entry £1,587,408, and loans and advances are £86,180 up at £10,601,155. Liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts show an increase of £2,509,548 at £25,038,814, notwithstanding a decrease of £354,422 in the oddments, including outstanding advices, letters of credit, circular notes, and the balance at credit of profit and loss. Altogether the balance-sheet shows a total of £29,176,223, or £3,065,688 more than it stood at a year ago.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### SECOND INDUSTRIAL TRUST, LTD.

Like all undertakings relying on investments for their income, the revenue of this company for the 12 months ended June 15, showed a fairly heavy shrinkage. Including £4,344, or £479 more brought forward, the nett profit was £6,162 smaller at £23,633, and in addition to reducing the dividend on the ordinary shares from 4½ per cent. to 4, the directors make no provision for depreciation compared with £4,000 set aside for that purpose a year ago, and carry forward £4,371, or practically the same as that brought in. A sum of £6,235 was obtained on realisations, of which £1,274 was used to wipe out the balance of preliminary and issue expenses, and £4,961 has been written off for depreciation. Liabilities on loans have been reduced by £50,000 to £15,000, and, on the other hand, investments are £28,614 lower at £655,597, this figure, however, being the book value, owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable quotations for many of the securities, of which a full list accompanies the report.

### WELSBACH LIGHT CO., LTD.

Good progress was made by this company in its year ended March 31. Trading profits were £6,673 up at £20,134, and £3,513 more at £7,041 was received as dividend on shares in B. Cars, Ltd., but nothing, against £7,358, was received from the company's holdings in the Austrian Incandescent Light and Electric Co., Ltd., Vienna, although it has been ascertained that a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared last December. The total income, therefore, was only £2,207 better at £28,920, while repairs and depreciation of property, &c., took £4,496 more at £9,457, but, as nothing was written off preliminary expenses, compared with £4,780 in the previous year, nett profits were still £1,320 larger at £5,097. This is added to the £612 brought in, making £5,708 to be carried forward. A year ago £3,165 was used to extinguish the debit balance then existing. Freehold property shows an increase of £10,731 at £58,842, but leaseholds, plant, &c., have been reduced by £4,116 to £29,287. Stock is £9,073 lower at £25,638, but investments, owing to the purchase of £5,000 of War Loan at a cost of £4,721, have risen £3,146 to £33,233. During the year £5,606 of debentures was redeemed, bringing the amount outstanding down to £212,522.

### MIDDLE WEST UTILITIES CO.

Owing to the unsettled conditions prevalent during the year ended April 30, all the subsidiary companies suffered from a general curtailment of business, particularly in those parts of Illinois which depend largely for their prosperity on the coal industries. Over 150,000 customers, however, are now being furnished with public utility service, and the report says that any improvement in the general business of the country will be reflected in an increase in the earnings. Said earnings amounted in the period under review to \$7,634,745 gross and \$2,757,729 nett, leaving \$1,139,672 to accrue to the holder company, after meeting bond interest, &c. Of this sum, \$437,123 has come in as interest on bonds and debentures, \$269,774 as interest and brokerage on money advanced, and \$354,270 as dividends on stocks. A balance of \$78,504 then remains as the company's proportion of the surplus carried in the accounts of the subsidiary properties. The entire income of the Utilities Co. amounted to \$1,528,855, the nett income, after meeting administration expenses, interest, &c., being \$981,317. Out of this the preferred stock dividend is paid and \$80,000 written off the discount on the company's own securities, leaving a total surplus, including the sum just mentioned, of \$381,773. Securities, plants, goodwill, &c., are valued at \$23,164,477, against preferred and common stock of \$18,468,100, and collateral gold notes, bonds and collateral loans aggregating \$6,244,661.

### YORKSHIRE "EVENING NEWS."

Despite the material increase in the cost of paper during the last nine months of the company's year, which ends on April 30, and the heavy fall in advertisement revenue, the available surplus, including £1,346 more at £1,939 brought in, was £3,329 up at £18,418. This satisfactory result, the report says, was due to the enormous increase in the paper's circulation. After writing down the outlay on plant by £1,996, a dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, while £1,500, against nothing, is added to reserve, and slightly more, at £2,421, carried forward. During the year 5,000 ordinary shares of £1 each were offered to existing shareholders at a premium of £1 7s. 6d., and were at once fully subscribed, the new capital being required to provide for new offices and for the accommodation of additional printing presses. The cost of operating the company's line of private telegraph wire between Leeds and London was £2,605. No idea can be given of the paper's position, as the report includes neither balance-sheet nor profit and loss account.

## Answers to Correspondents.

\*. A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Mithra.—Almost every promising company of the kind you want has already caught the market eye, and prices have risen. You mention three, and the shares of the first can be had under 7s., but are a lock-up. The second and third cultivate no tea. You might look at Lanka Plantations, price ¼, Deviturai ¾, and Kepitigalla ⅞. This last is, perhaps, the best.

S. H. P.—We think there is no cause for alarm. The company is doing very well, we understand.

T. B. H.—It seems hardly worth while keeping the scrip. There seems no prospect of any great improvement for a long time to come.

C. R. M.—The company does not publish its figures, but we believe this company is sound. It has a good business, well managed.

S. N. L.—If you intend holding as a permanent investment, convert. Both are equally good, but the old can still be pawned at its issue price with the bank, a privilege which might be useful for business purposes.

Nolle.—Hold on. The dividends are safe as possible. There may be some little recovery in price, but the level of investments has naturally been upset by the War Loan.

M. D.—Dennistown.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	July 2	£	+	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down..	2	5,699	+	1,214	91,806	+ 10,715
Grand Canal..	2	1,080	+	287	1,080	+ 287
Great Northern..	2	27,305	+	773	577,395	+ 20,095
Gt. Southern and Western..	2	34,805	+	345	822,808	+ 89,495
Midland Great Western..	2	9,160	+	4,006	324,936	+ 9,370

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	£	£
Beira..	Apl. *	32,402	+	9,662	—	—
Canadian Northern	June 30†	\$379,300	+	\$133,000	\$17,225,600	— \$5,475,000
Canadian Pacific..	30†	\$2,103,000	+	\$884,000	\$98,343,000	— \$31,472,000
Egyptian Delta..	10†	3,584	+	2,147	26,884	14,892
Gr. Trk. Main Line	30†	254,523	+	3,773	3,800,323	378,225
Gr. Trk. Western..	30†	40,141	+	2,436	714,421	5,256
Detroit G. H. & M.	30†	14,840	+	1,726	247,188	5,360
Gr. Trk. Pacific Prairie	31†	15,973	+	10,430	349,474	160,281
Seot. & Lake Supr.	Apl. *	41,170	+	19,355	148,255	101,203
Mashonaland..	10†	7,147	+	6,077	87,686	40,031
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	June 12	1,517	+	125	44,466	211
New Cape Central..	Apl. *	59,464	+	34,732	228,714	111,238
Rhodesia..	30†	8,484	+	—	—	—
W. Pass & Yukon..	30†	—	+	—	—	—

§ 9 days. \* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. a April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal..	May 29	1,24,000	+	3,009	11,25,000	+ 38,839
Barsi Light..	June 5	18,100	+	600	2,52,200	+ 76,900
Bengal & N.W..	5	3,87,290	+	42,742	38,02,060	+ 7,17,182
Bengal Nagpur..	26	11,78,000	+	19,000	1,62,49,000	+ 8,44,000
Bombay, Baroda..	July 3	1,001,000	+	69,000	1,72,50,000	+ 9,13,100
Burma..	May 29	4,47,738	+	43,812	36,02,280	+ 6,94,765
Delhi Umballa..	July 3	55,800	+	7,442	8,98,572	+ 1,10,100
East Indian..	3	20,19,000	+	57,000	2,97,00,000	+ 5,50,000
Gt. Indian Penin..	3	11,77,600	+	1,78,000	2,29,33,469	+ 15,17,383
Lucknow-Bareilly..	June 5	42,139	+	7,954	3,97,844	+ 35,363
Madras and S.	5	9,70,000	+	35,103	90,85,000	+ 72,791
Mahratta..	5	1,11,142	+	3,398	11,29,674	+ 1,65,284
Nizam's Guarante'd	5	37,276	+	484	3,71,446	+ 226
Rohilkund and	5	5,66,682	+	22,717	53,43,680	+ 3,79,74
Kumaon..	5	4,43,877	+	89,758	12,86,836	+ 1,78,68
Southern Indian..	5	—	+	—	—	—
Southern Punjab..	Dec. 3	—	+	—	—	—

† April 1. § Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		\$	+	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio	June 21	848,000	+	98,000	38,138,000	+ 7,10,000
Chicago G.W..	21	319,000	+	17,000	13,618,000	+ 442,000
Colorado & South'n	17	207,000	+	1,000	13,226,000	+ 771,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	14	421,000	+	1,000	20,798,000	+ 1,790,000
Inter. of Mexico..	Aug. 7	42,400	+	138,900	225,500	+ 683,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	June 21	950,000	+	86,000	50,283,000	+ 3,861,000
Mexican..	Nov. 21	103,600	+	102,900	3,852,700	+ 106,900
Do..	Oct. 7	262,500	+	126,300	1,149,000	+ 524,100
Do..	9	905,600	+	84,200	3,405,200	+ 7,200
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M.	June 7	470,000	+	8,000	26,142,000	+ 1,323,000
Missouri Kansas..	June 30†	603,267	+	65,631	32,795,890	+ 877,966
Missouri Pacific..	14	1,040,000	+	50,000	—	—
National of Mexico.	Aug. 7	628,408	+	395,370	17,894,408	+ 6,798,37
Do..	June 4*	74,000	+	197,000	2,287,000	+ 18,840,000
Southern..	June 21	1,068,000	+	120,000	60,673,000	+ 8,323,000

a 1914. † Nine Days. \* Nett. † Includes Wisconsin Central.  
† From July 1. † Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	May	2,842,000	+	285,000	33,101,000	+ 3,561,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	565,000	+	64,000	6,630,000	+ 1,953,000	
Baltimore & Ohio..	"	3,133,000	+	1,247,000	24,707,000	+ 1,410,000	
Canadian Northern	"	328,900	+	158,700	4,493,400	+ 1,395,000	
Canadian Pacific..	"	2,443,000	+	520,000	30,897,000	+ 8,193,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,215,000	+	208,000	10,843,000	+ 542,000	
Chicago & N.W..	"	1,562,000	+	552,000	20,393,000	+ 791,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q.	Mar.	1,637,000	+	714,000	25,132,000	+ 601,000	
Chicago G.W..	May	208,000	+	15,000	3,092,000	+ 51,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	Apl.	1,544,000	+	230,000	20,198,000	+ 2,332,000	
Colorado & Southern	"	185,000	+	33,000	3,143,000	+ 704,000	
Cuba..	"	546,701	+	829	4,282,266	+ 62,220	
Do..	†	245,912	+	32,781	1,422,595	+ 32,312	
Delaware & Hud..	"	842,000	+	149,000	2,162,000	+ 477,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	514,000	+	152,000	5,271,000	+ 240,000	
Erie..	May	1,100,000	+	250,000	4,787,000	+ 330,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line..	"	£215,950	+	£9,050	£756,650	+ £38,250	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£1,200	+	£8,700	£7,000	+ £5,500	
Detroit G.H. & Mil.	"	£7,300	+	£1,200	£26,400	+ £13,050	
Gt. Northern..	Apl.	953,000	+	43,000	26,630,000	+ 982,000	
Illinois Central..	May	681,000	+	153,000	10,398,000	+ 479,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	267,000	+	36,000	2,845,000	+ 313,000	
Lehigh Valley..	"	1,220,000	+	108,000	9,899,000	+ 780,000	
Louisville & Nashv.	Apl.	776,000	+	14,000	8,889,000	+ 2,501,000	
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M.	"	283,000	+	39,000	5,080,000	+ 285,000	
Miss. K. & Texas..	May	593,259	+	50,205	1,742,556	+ 1,187,462	
Missouri Pacific..	Apl.	887,000	+	93,000	11,184,000	+ 909,000	
New York Cent. & H.	May	3,716,000	+	1,463,000	13,477,000	+ 4,953,000	
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	Apl.	1,450,000	+	333,000	14,112,000	+ 2,047,000	
New York Ont. & W.	May	176,000	+	21,000	1,957,000	+ 130,000	
Norfolk & Western.	Apl.	1,228,000	+	137,000	8,222,000	+ 293,000	
Northern Pacific..	May	1,341,000	+	41,000	19,446,000	+ 58,100	
Pennsylvania East	"	—	+	—	—	—	
and West Lines..	Apl.	5,661,000	+	479,000	13,527,000	+ 283,000	
Reading..	"	555,480	+	5,382	5,563,110	+ 57,089	
St. Louis & San F.	Apl.	915,000	+	591,000	10,273,000	+ 1,045,000	
Seaboard Air Line..	"	621,000	+	50,000	4,425,000	+ 1,434,000	
Southern..	May	1,338,000	+	382,000	12,260,000	+ 3,277,000	
Southern Pacific..	"	2,653,000	+	141,000	31,091,000	+ 2,573,000	
Union Pacific..	"	1,827,000	+	227,000	27,354,000	+ 1,711,000	
Wabash..	Apl.	309,000	+	126,000	5,397,000	+ 303,000	

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Lc

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia..	July 3	Ps. 14,000	—	Ps. 5,000	Ps. 354,900	+ Ps. 1,950
Antofagasta (Chili)	4	24,670	—	7,360	566,245	+ 397,689
Arauco..	May *	6,150	—	2,700	32,625	+ 9,662
Argentine N.E..	June 3	6,633	—	367	250,752	+ 87,387
Bilbao R. and Canta	June *	3,655	—	70	26,573	+ 5,921
Bolivar..	May *	8,750	—	1,109	77,948	+ 24,021
Brazil..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	—	M239,757	M12,681,000	+ M787,540
Brazil Gt. Southern	Feb. *	M18,28,250	+	M6,250	M55,750	+ M10,250
B. Ayres & Pacific	July 3	75,000	—	9,000	32,000	+ 13,000
Do. Gt. South'n	" 4	80,000	—	4,000	4,952,033	+ 518,831
Do. Western..	" 4	43,000	+	3,000	18,000	+ 7,000
Central Argentine..	" 3	126,300	+	1,200	5,786,500	+ 275,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 3	11,789	+	1,537	573,452	+ 76,502
Do. East'n Ex.	" 3	3,791	+	736	193,568	+ 37,329
Do. North'n Ex.	" 3	1,945	+	627	91,563	+ 29,843
Do. West'n Ex.	" 3	1,281	+	32	85,545	+ 13,999
Colombian National	Apl. *	9,700	—	500	37,900	+ 1,733
Cordoba Central..	July 3	36,600	—	25	1,697,570	+ 271,450
Costa Rica..	Feb. 27	7,608	—	5,050	224,179	+ 85,033
Cuban Central..	July 3	9,141	+	1,480	3,728	+ 178
Dorada Extension..	May *	8,400	—	2,000	56,800	+ 2,000
Entre Rios..	July 3	10,100	—	400	3,800	+ 2,600
Gt. South. of Spain	June 26	Ps. 62,890	—	Ps. 5,535	Ps. 451,056	+ Ps. 340,792
Gt. West. of Brazil..	July 5	6,900	—	2,700	283,100	+ 91,700
Havana Central..	June 12	6,090	+	1,215	273,181	+ 251
Inter. of C. Amer..	May c*	16,233	—	13,356	80,959	+ 52,090
La Guaira and Car.	June *	6,250	—	1,750	42,250	+ 17,250
Leopoldina..	July 3	25,197	—	9,401	752,561	+ 81,446
Manila..	3	4,985	—	1,796	160,985	+ 31,092
Midland Uruguay..	June *	10,532	—	580	113,751	+ 14,636
Mogiana..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	—	M125,225	M6,570,000	+ M 517,804
N.W. of Uruguay..	June *	£22,300	—	£333	£232,228	+ £66,325
Nitrate..	30†	13,700	—	13,397	126,721	+ 226,342
Ottoman..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	12,627	8,634	+ 12,627
Paraguay Central..	July 3	£372,000	—	£106,000	£14,339,000	+ £1532,000
Paulista..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	—	M59,123	M7,350,000	+ M 239,662
Peruvian Corp'n.	June *	£759,374	—	£244,044	£8,359,705	+ £471,249
Puerto Cab. & V'len.	Apl. *	3,415	—	585	16,121	+ 879
Salvador..	June 26	£19,500	—	£3,750	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	20	20,726	—	10,240	—	—
Sorocabana..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	—	M132,722	M5,440,000	+ M 94,558
Taita..	May *	8,243	—	17,850	122,386	+ 162,467
United of Havana..	July 3	23,839	—	4,829	10,438	+ 1,160
United of Yucatan..	Feb. 6	£64,400	—	£6,200	£403,900	+ £54,300
Uruguay Northern	June *	1,936	—	132	18,266	+ 7,862
West'n of Havana..	July 3	4,994	—	679	4,694	+ 679
Zafra and Huelva..	May *	7,553	—	6,981	36,187	+ 36,520

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Nett. † 15 days

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£		£		£	
Bath Electric ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol ..	July 2	10,371	—	118	†	240,453	+ 20,484
British Elec. Fed.		—	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin United ..	July 2	6,834	—	888	†	156,725	+ 6,091
Gearless Motor Bus		—	—	—	—	—	—
Hastings and Dist.	July 1	1,024	—	264	†	21,539	+ 1,230
Isle of Thanet ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	474	—	674	*	12,900	+ 5,304
Lancashire United..	June 30	2,041	+ 248	†	†	43,375	+ 675
London Cnty. Cncl.		—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	44,534	—	1,094	§	530,397	— 37,735
London General ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
London United ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Elec.		—	—	—	—	—	—
Nat. Steam Car ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Provincial ..	July 5	2,447	+ 66	*	*	80,633	+ 8,231
South Metropolitan		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunderland District	June 30	604	— 35	35	—	19,235	+ 1,414
Tramways (M.E.T.)		—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorks. (Wat. Rdng.)	July 4	1,542	+ 116	27	—	41,544	+ 2,294



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Doubts as to the effect which will be produced by the payments in full on the War Loan on the 20th inst. have again been the principal influence governing the Money Market. For the present credit remains very abundant, supplies having been increased by the disbursement of Government dividends, and in the early part of the week a very large proportion of the business in overnight loans was arranged at 1 per cent. Yesterday there were signs that funds were being called in by some of the joint-stock banks in connection with their own applications for the War Loan, which they had postponed sending in until to-day, and the withdrawals were sufficient to reduce the amount of very cheap money available. Borrowers, however, could still get as much as they wanted at  $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. without any difficulty, and this afternoon 1 per cent. was again mentioned. For weekly fixtures the joint-stock banks continued to charge 2 per cent. for renewing existing loans, but any fresh advances required were obtainable at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The market is quite prepared to see money become very much dearer, whatever agreement is come to between the Government and the banks. It was believed quite early in the week that one part of the arrangement was that not only will the Bank lend on the new War Loan at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but that it will also make advances on bills at the same rate at which it would discount them in the ordinary way, i.e., at 5 per cent. instead of its usual charge of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for loans, while the original arrangement for loans on the old War Loan at 1 per cent. under Bank rate still holds good. More assistance than could be provided by these means will probably be needed, and a further meeting was held to-day to make final arrangements as to the procedure to be followed. No details have been allowed to transpire, but it is understood that the joint-stock banks are perfectly satisfied. The market being kept in ignorance of what actually happened, has put forward on its own account the theory that the application money is to be redeposited with the banks, who will pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for it.

Whether or not their surmise is correct it is certain that, while the period of stringency which will be caused by the huge turnover may not be of long duration, there is very little prospect of the value of money falling back to the recent low level for a very long time to come. With this prospect in view the discount houses have been very unwilling to buy bills, and quite early in the week they began to raise their rates. This screwing up process was steadily carried on until to-day, and quotations were firm at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for sixty-day paper,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for three months',  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for fours,

and 5 per cent. for sixes, and the supply of bills was said to be rather larger than it was at the beginning of the week. October Treasury bills changed hands in the early part of the week at less than 4 per cent., but they have since been dealt in at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. Applications for the £500,000 Birmingham Corporation yearling bills to be issued in replacement of a like amount falling due amounted to £1,207,000, and tenders at £95 os. 1d. received about 15 per cent., the average rate being £4 16s. 11.82d.

Among foreign exchanges the Paris cheque fell during the week to 26.90, and it was suggested that arrangements had been made to provide fresh credit here on French account, but it has since hardened again to 27.05. The Petrograd rate further hardened to 130, or the highest point yet touched, and the Italian also moved in favour of this country, but the Dutch exchange has again moved against us. The increase in the value of money here is at last having an effect on the New York exchange, which shows a welcome recovery.

Interest in the Bank return was principally directed to the decrease of £14,996,000 shown in "Other" Securities, and it was generally assumed that the movement was due to the Government taking over a further block of the "cold storage" bills according to its promise. Revenue must have come in very freely, or it has been supplemented by some of the new War Loan money, as after providing for war expenditure and the dividend payments, Public Deposits are only £13,615,000 lower at £67,899,000. During the week £1,950,000 in gold came from abroad, of which £1,172,000 was added to the stocks of coin and bullion, raising them to £53,264,000. The note circulation, however, expanded by £437,000, so that the increase in the reserve was only £735,000 at £36,641,000, the proportion to liabilities being  $1\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. better at  $17\frac{1}{8}$  per cent.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended July 7 £2,115,324 in £1 notes and £658,968 10s. in 10s. notes were issued. In the same period £1,008,785 in £1 and £283,160 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £1,482,347 10s., leaving a total of £48,059,148 10s. outstanding, made up of £35,791,726 in £1 and £12,267,422 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £302,236 5s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £10,137,557 3s. 4d. at the Bank of England, while £139,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue.

The Grand Trunk Railway Co. of Canada announces that the £2,000,000 one-year bills, due on July 15, will be paid by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C., on and after that date.

#### SILVER.

A moderate amount of support from the Far East helped to keep the price of silver steady at 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. until Tuesday morning. Selling orders, however, then came from that market, and as the bazaars were doing little or nothing the quotation fell back to 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz., or the lowest point touched since the beginning of February. To-day India showed rather more inclination to buy, and a recovery of  $\frac{1}{8}$ d. to 22 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. was recorded.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 50,000 in bills and Rs. 4,30,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these the bills and Rs. 1,80,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers were allotted, tenders at 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. and 1s. 3 31-32d., receiving in full. A special sale was afterwards made of Rs. 2,50,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 6th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,69,21,978, realising £1,792,508, compared with Rs. 4,19,73,332 for £2,802,854 to July 7 last year.

United Tobacco Companies, Ltd., have subscribed £50,000 to the new War Loan.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the  
Week ending on Wednesday, July 7, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued .. ..	£ 70,676,965	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	52,226,965
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 70,676,965		£ 70,676,965

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital .. ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities .. ..	£ 51,043,491
Reserve .. ..	3,235,733	Other Securities .. ..	137,918,307
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) .. ..	67,898,980	Notes .. ..	35,603,830
Other Deposits .. ..	139,859,352	Gold and Silver Coin .. ..	1,037,182
Seven Day and other Bills .. ..	55,745		
	£ 225,602,810		£ 225,602,810

Dated July 8, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared  
with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the  
corresponding return last year:—

Last year, July 8.		June 30, 1915.	July 7, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,414,435	Rest .. ..	3,087,078	3,235,733	148,655	—
12,580,196	Pub. Deposits .. ..	81,514,428	67,898,980	—	13,615,448
43,788,365	Other do. .. ..	140,654,115	139,859,352	—	794,763
20,379	7 Day Bills .. ..	55,187	55,745	558	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
11,005,126	Gov. Securities .. ..	51,043,491	51,043,491	—	—
34,932,469	Other do. .. ..	152,914,703	137,918,307	14,996,396	—
28,518,780	Total Reserve .. ..	35,995,614	36,641,012	—	735,39
				15,145,609	15,145,609
				Increase.	Decrease.
29,531,190	Note Circulation .. ..	34,656,280	35,073,135	436,855	—
39,599,970	Coin and Bullion .. ..	52,091,894	53,264,747	1,172,853	—
508 p.c.	Proportion .. ..	162 p.c.	170 p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate .. ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,950,000 in.

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3 1
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3 9
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6	2 13 1 1 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5 1
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
* 178,084,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1 1
230,584,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January .. ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February .. ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March .. ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April .. ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May .. ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June 2 .. ..	233,285,000	306,206,000	—	72,921,000
" 9 .. ..	231,525,000	285,464,000	—	53,939,000
" 16 .. ..	225,460,000	329,729,000	—	104,269,000
" 23 .. ..	216,425,000	275,105,000	—	58,670,000
" 30 .. ..	266,789,000	445,419,000	—	178,630,000
July 7 .. ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
Total .. ..	6,552,155,000	9,147,088,000	—	2,598,533,000

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken  
place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday—Bars .. ..	Friday—Foreign Coin .. ..
Tuesday—Sovs. (released) .. ..	" Bars .. ..
Egypt .. ..	
Wednesday—Sovs. .. ..	
Bars .. ..	
Thursday— .. ..	
	Nett Influx .. ..
£ 1,741,000	£ 1,741,000

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	July 3, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 117,772,000	£ 116,114,000	£ 115,312,000	£ 114,595,400
Specie .. ..	9,796,000	9,820,000	9,842,000	8,630,600
Deposits .. ..	120,474,000	118,860,000	118,000,000	115,134,800
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,892,000	1,950,000	1,858,000	1,977,400

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 18, 1915.	June 11, 1915.	June 4, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates— Settlement Fund, &c. .. ..	£ 5,872,000	£ 5,790,000	£ 48,503,000
Held by the Banks .. ..	43,432,200	43,456,200	43,456,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c. .. ..	9,783,200	8,926,400	7,067,400
Total reserves .. ..	59,087,400	58,172,600	55,570,400
30-day bills and loans .. ..	2,876,600	2,944,200	2,810,800
60-day bills and loans .. ..	1,996,000	2,163,600	2,294,000
Others .. ..	2,245,200	2,093,600	1,836,600
Total .. ..	7,117,800	7,201,400	6,941,600
Investments— U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,441,600	1,437,400	4,987,600
Municipal Warrants .. ..	1,932,800	1,999,200	—
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.— nett. .. ..	1,629,000	2,975,600	1,426,400
Federal Reserve notes—nett. .. ..	1,550,600	1,240,800	—
All other assets .. ..	1,306,600	1,220,200	2,580,200
Total assets .. ..	74,065,800	74,256,200	71,506,200
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,840,200	10,839,000	10,839,000
Reserve deposits—nett. .. ..	59,872,200	59,930,600	57,656,600
Note circulation—nett. .. ..	2,420,000	2,419,600	2,283,600
All other liabilities .. ..	933,400	1,067,000	730,600
Total liabilities .. ..	74,665,800	74,256,200	71,506,200

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	July 3, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 503,236,000	£ 493,086,000	£ 494,716,000	£ 424,442,000
Reserve held in own Vaults .. ..	89,904,000	91,044,000	90,932,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. .. ..	25,562,000	25,942,000	25,278,000	95,152,000
Reserve held in Other Depos. .. ..	5,964,000	5,648,000	6,328,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits .. ..	496,316,000	486,862,000	481,100,000	408,562,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	27,724,000	27,558,000	27,638,000	—
Circulation .. ..	7,576,000	7,582,000	7,588,000	8,258,000
Excess Lawful Reserve .. ..	35,608,000	39,006,000	39,300,000	3,668,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the  
Time Deposits.

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 8, 1915.	July 1, 1915.	June 24, 1915.	June 17, 1915.
Gold in hand .. ..	£ 157,799,450	£ 157,262,000	£ 157,186,850	£ 156,848,800
Silver in hand .. ..	14,766,360	14,862,840	14,911,200	14,959,160
Bills discounted .. ..	10,442,600	10,820,440	10,347,200	10,298,080
Advances .. ..	24,598,640	24,972,880	24,987,280	25,043,720
Note circulation .. ..	493,129,000	488,633,880	484,166,640	481,745,840
Public deposits .. ..	2,654,040	3,280,560	2,173,080	5,278,040
Private deposits .. ..	95,356,360	94,609,720	90,997,200	88,625,880
Foreign Bills .. ..	68,760	65,520	46,400	65,440

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35 per cent. against 35½ per  
cent. last week. Advances to the State £48,000,000; unchanged. The  
adjoined payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted  
to £43,925,400, decrease £809,520, and at the branches to £44,433,600, decrease  
£532,600.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 30, 1915.	June 23, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 30, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion .. ..	£ 121,737,200	£ 121,813,750	£ 121,673,400	£ 81,530,000
Treasury Notes .. ..	22,000,000	13,559,850	13,183,450	2,492,950
Bills discounted .. ..	245,887,650	211,005,850	214,705,950	60,637,300
Advances .. ..	782,950	751,300	808,350	3,581,600
Note circulation .. ..	292,016,700	261,245,300	262,800,900	180,320,000
Public deposits .. ..	89,664,800	80,692,200	75,400,750	42,914,800

Clearing House returns during June £235,431,975 against £208,056,720 in  
May.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 21, 1915.	June 14, 1915.	June 5, 1915.	June 21, 1914.
Notes in reserve .. ..	£ 7,722,300	£ 9,265,800	£ 6,833,000	£ 6,703,900
Cash in reserve .. ..	157,280,200	157,351,100	157,379,500	159,252,900
Gold in reserve abroad .. ..	10,922,700	12,431,000	13,781,300	18,309,500
Circulation note issue .. ..	359,500,000	357,000,000	352,000,000	170,000,000
Treasury deposits .. ..	39,263,200	49,096,100	44,121,700	47,501,300

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	July 4, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 27,395,344	£ 27,582,547	£ 27,293,370	£ 21,333,896
Silver .. ..	29,685,677	29,884,627	29,753,304	29,055,365
Foreign Bills .. ..	4,976,171	4,938,710	4,998,249	7,117,326
Discounts and Short Bills .. ..	27,269,837	27,070,339	27,147,740	28,251,508
Treasury Account, &c. .. ..	32,670,941	32,540,154	32,080,689	26,441,437
Notes in Circulation .. ..	79,875,577	79,679,911	79,679,911	76,763,063
Current Accounts, Deposits .. ..	27,533,073	26,916,681	27,742,811	19,121,104
Dividends, Interests, &c. .. ..	2,411,173	1,439,761	1,334,847	1,975,512
Government Securities .. ..	2,892,680	5,477,643	3,498,325	5,636,941

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	May 31, 1915.	May 20, 1915.	May 10, 1915.	May 31, 1914.
Total cash .. ..	£ 56,240,600	£ 52,166,240	£ 52,218,760	£ 48,875,480
Inland Bills .. ..	38,555,960	36,947,640	34,695,360	16,736,040
Foreign Bills .. ..	1,623,800	1,466,720	694,480	3,252,520
Advances .. ..	10,564,040	11,016,880	11,805,360	3,167,320
Government securities .. ..	8,373,960	8,425,360	8,425,360	8,228,400
Circulation .. ..	114,189,360	104,050,600	98,099,520	62,277,440
Deposits at notice .. ..	12,071,560	11,585,800	10,597,920	4,906,680
Current accounts .. ..	19,591,680	16,878,440	15,576,240	2,813,160



## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	June 30, 1915	June 23, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 30, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	11,772,328	11,759,228	11,722,864	7,745,240
Bills ..	5,961,540	5,024,360	4,918,084	4,017,768
Note circulation ..	16,902,272	15,877,572	16,035,372	11,411,236
Current and deposit accounts ..	2,976,412	3,011,861	2,992,776	1,567,628

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	June 12, 1915.	June 27, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	6,302,000	6,302,000	6,303,000	5,823,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	4,533,000	4,009,000	3,875,000	6,050,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,769,000	2,803,000	2,787,000	1,803,000
Discounts and Loans ..	7,479,000	7,134,000	6,784,000	5,791,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,073,000	15,017,000	15,178,000	12,086,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,367,000	4,175,000	3,393,000	3,659,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	June 30, 1915.	June 22, 1915.	June 15, 1915.	June 30, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	3,531,000	3,969,222	3,410,000	2,905,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,211,000	3,167,778	3,190,000	1,501,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	638,000	642,778	637,000	486,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,327,000	4,252,500	4,279,000	4,669,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,662,000	7,677,222	7,545,000	6,832,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,137,000	1,357,944	1,464,000	355,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 6, 1915.		July 8, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Belgium ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
Do. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	—	—	—	—
Holland ..	Three months' bills ..	12.2½	12.3½	12.2½	12.3½
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.93	11.96	11.89	11.92
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	29.35	29.55	29.50	29.70
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	28.95	29.15	29.10	29.30
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	37	36	37	36
New York ..	Cable transfers ..	4.76½	4.77½	4.76½	4.77½
Do. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	4.78	4.79	4.78	4.79
Paris ..	Three months' bills ..	27.30	27.40	27.40	27.50
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	26.90	27.00	27.02½	27.07½
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	128½	130½	129½	132½
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	18.12½	18.27½	18.05	18.28
Spain (Bnk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	45½	44½	45½	45½
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.70	25.95	25.50	25.65
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	26.10	26.30	26.10	26.25
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.70	25.90	25.70	25.85

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	chqs.	27.10	26.92½	Antwerp ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy ..	sight	29.27½	29.30
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.95	11.85	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres.	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	128	132	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York ..	sight	4.77½	4.77½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/9½d.
Lisbon ..	sight	36½	36½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/2½d.
Madrid ..	sight	25.55	25.55	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	2½	2½
Six months ..	3½	3½
Nine months ..	3½	3½
Twelve months ..	3½	3½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4	4½
Three months ..	4½	4½-48
Four months ..	48	48
Six months ..	42-5	5
Three months five inland bills ..	42-5	5
Four months ..	5-5½	5½-58
Six months ..	58-52	58-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
short loan rates ..	5½	5½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2	2
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	2½	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	2	1½-2
" for call loans ..	1½-1½	1-1½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

It is still War Loan and nothing else on the Stock Exchange, but this week should see the end of that disturbing influence, so far as the general public and large subscribers are concerned. The lists close on the day this journal appears, and up to now nobody can guess what amount of money has been gathered in by the most ingenious, bold, and persistent advertising ever directed towards the attainment of any financial end. Wild estimates float around the City, some going as high as a total of £750,000,000, but there is nothing authentic known, and all we can really say with safety is that the subscriptions have been magnificent. All classes of individuals and corporations have come forward in a manner that makes success assured, and the total to be revealed next week will certainly be the largest ever got together in any single financial operation. We hope the amount may be sufficient to end the war, and grow more and more confident that it will. Certainly this country, the Allies in a body, should now be guaranteed for the rest of the active fighting of the present year against any embarrassment through want of means, and that is more than half the victory. For there is truth in the saying that "silver bullets will win the war," quoted in that circular issued to further thrift by the Parliamentary War Savings Committee, of 12, Downing Street. So please crowd up in the closing hours and overwhelm the Bank of England with work.

An interesting sidelight on the satisfactory way in which the small investor has been coming for the War Loan is provided by the experience of the Bank since the lists opened. The stream of applicants has flowed in steadily in such volume that even the porters from the bullion department have had to be pressed into service as guides in the matter of filling up the forms. Clerks have been drawn away from the various departments to the full extent that they could be spared, and after business hours the whole staff, from the principals downwards, have had to take their share of the work. With all this the organisation of the Bank, experienced as it is in such matters, has been unable to cope with the flood, and for the first time in its history it has had to appeal for outside assistance.

To-day's applications for the War Loan included £21,000,000 each from the London City and Midland and Lloyds, £20,000,000 from the London County and Westminster, and £8,500,000 from the Union of London and Smiths, while the National Bank of India applied for £500,000 on behalf of its constituents, in addition to £1,000,000 on its own account. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank had already applied for £1,250,000.

Of ordinary Stock Exchange business there has been none, at least none requiring much examination, but next week we should expect to see a certain revival of activity. The dividends now being declared by the banks should have a steady influence on the prices for bank shares, and presently the Home Railway dividends will begin to make their appearance—but whether they are going to harden the market or not it is quite impossible to say. No basis on which to found forecasts is available; all we do know has been told us by Mr. Runciman in his letter to the stewards of the Jockey Club. Never before in the whole course of their experience, said the President of the Board of Trade, have the railways been so busy. "The companies are dealing with an abnormally heavy traffic for naval, military, and civil purposes, a traffic which I may say exceeds in volume anything previously experienced," and they are conducting this traffic with a considerably depleted staff. Can that information be interpreted to mean an increase in the interim dividends? We do not think so, are sure that it would be a mistake to indulge in any such hope. What seems probable is that stockholders will get interim payments on much the same scale as last year. It would be a mistake to cut the dividends down much, almost as great a mistake as to raise them—although some may have to be shorn of one or more fractions per cent. But it is useless to speculate, and happily the market is not allowed to.

The Imperial Tobacco Co. of Great Britain and Ireland has subscribed for £1,000,000 of the War Loan.

The North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., through its various departments, has applied for over £500,000 of the new War Loan, and after conversion of existing investments in Consols will hold £1,000,000 of the two War Loans.



American Railroad securities have been pressed down by British sales to release means for investment in the War Loan, and business in the United States, apart from what may be created by the war necessities of Europe, is not particularly active. Still, prices are now getting to a level in Wall Street which, once our pre-occupations of the moment are thrown off, should tempt buyers. Only we hope there will be no systematic effort to push these securities before the public here until we

Business in the old War Loan has continued to overshadow everything else, but the Stock Exchange has been much healthier in appearance this week, and in some of the markets, notably those for Home and South American Railways, a fair amount of support has been forthcoming. Offerings of the old War Loan by sellers anxious to raise the means for converting the balance of their holdings have again been numerous, and although the greater part of these were readily enough absorbed, the pressure sent the price down to 93. The stream of selling orders, however, slackened towards the end of the week, and it has recovered to 93½. Consols have been very little dealt in, but there has been some inquiry for the colonial short-dated scrips, with the result that Victoria has improved to 97½, and Union of South Africa, Queensland, and New South Wales all show recoveries. Foreign bonds have been less active than other sections, but in them also there were signs of improvement. Russian issues, after giving way in the early part of the week, have rallied again, and a fair business has been done in Japanese loans, but Chinese were a shade easier. Spanish 4 per cent, was marked down 2 on the failure of the internal loan. In South American things, Brazil, 1914, Funding Loan, relapsed, and Chilean 5 per cent. (1914) was also lower, but Uruguay 5 per cent. (1896) improved.

Home Railway stocks have met with strong support, which came mainly from the provinces. North-Western was most in favour, and rose from 105½ to 109½, but Midland preferred and deferred and Great Western also showed substantial improvements, and Great Central preferred and deferred, Great Northern preferred, and Great Eastern were ½ to ¾ up. South-Western deferred was substantially higher, and North-Eastern, after being dull, rallied to 108½, but Lancashire and Yorkshire lost ½. Canadian Pacific shares have fluctuated between 148½ and 150½, closing at 149½, and the notes have been dealt in up to 107½. Grand Trunks have been firm, with steadily rising quotations, which on balance left gains of 3 in the first preference and 5 in the guaranteed. A further large business has been transacted in American Railroad bonds, Wall Street readily taking all that were offered, but dealings in the common stocks have been on the usual small scale. Prices were depressed all round under the lead of Milwaukee, which fell heavily on dividend fears. Missouri, Kansas was marked down to 8½ on the drastic reorganisation scheme, involving the creation of over \$212,000,000 of new securities. The plan provides for a cash assessment of 50 per cent., and holders of common stock will be given par value in new common and 50 per cent. in new 4 per cent. mortgage bonds. Argentine Railways were in demand from the North, and although the rise was checked by the traffic returns proving less satisfactory than had been expected,

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	99½	98½
69½ India 3%.....	69½	69½	95 New Zealand 4%.....	95	95
80½ " 3½%.....	80½	80½	92 Queensland 4%.....	92	92
— War Loan.....	93½	93½	— " 4½% new	96	96½
92 Canada 4%, 1940-60	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	—	—
— " 4½%, 1920-5	95½	96½	4½%, 1920-5.....	96½	97
92 N.S.W. 4%.....	95½	95½	— Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	96	97½
66 Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes.....	70½	69½
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½% (1st)	84	83½
— " New Funding	70½	69½	83 " (2d)	83½	83½
— Chinese 1896.....	95	94½	— Russia 4%.....	74½	73
— " 1913.....	82½	82½	— " 4½%.....	82½	80½
— Egypt Unified.....	85	85	— " 5%.....	91½	91½
Brighton defd.....	52½	52½	London and S.-W. dfd.	22½	24
Caledonian defd.....	8½	8½	Do. new pf.	100½	100
Chatham ord.....	7½	7½	Metropolitan.....	26	25½
Gt. Central pf.....	15	15½	Do. 5% New pf.	100	100
— " dfd.....	7	7½	Met. District.....	13	13
Gt. Eastern.....	38	38½	Midland dfd.....	59	61
Gt. Northern dfd.....	38½	39½	Nth. British dfd.....	16	16
Gt. Western.....	100½	102½	Nth.-Eastern.....	108	108½
Lancs and Yorks.....	72	71½	Nth.-Western.....	105	109½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	23½	23½
Canadian Pacific.....	148½	149½	Chesapeake.....	39½	39
Do. 6% Notes.....	107½	107½	Erie.....	27½	26½
Grand Trunk ord.....	8½	8½	Milwaukee.....	94	83½
Do. 3rd pf.....	21½	21½	N. Y. Central.....	91½	91
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	101	97½	Southern.....	16	14½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	95	95½	Southern Pacific.....	91½	89
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	94	93½	Union Pacific.....	132½	131
Atchison.....	104½	103	U. S. Steel.....	62½	61½
Baltimore.....	79½	78½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	112½	111½	Cent. Argentine ord.....	78½	80½
Do. 6% Notes.....	99½	99½	Do. 5% Notes.....	98	98½
Brazil Com.....	8	8	Do. 6% ".....	100½	101½
B. A. & Pacific.....	41	44	Leopoldina.....	31	30
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	79½	81	Mexican ord.....	10½	16
B. A. Western.....	83	84½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	175	170
			United of Havana.....	68½	69
Bank of Australasia.....	115	110½	London City & Midland.....	78	72
Barclay & Co. "A".....	8½	8½	London County & West.....	15½	16½
Do. "B".....	10	10½	London Joint Stock.....	22	23
Capital & Counties.....	24	24	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd)	28	28
Chartered of India.....	57½	56	Do. (£12 pd)	30	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	75	75½	Parr's.....	30½	30½
Lloyds.....	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.....	9½	9½
London & Provincial.....	16½	17	Union & Smiths.....	23	24
London & S.W.....	12½	12½			
Apollinaris ord.....	28	28	Forestal Land.....	34/9	34/6
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	35/6	35/6	Furness, Withy.....	30/6	30/6
Associated Cement.....	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay.....	4½	5
Birmingham Small Arms	51/3	51/6	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	25/6	23/6
Borax dfd.....	26/9	26/9	Do. dfd.....	39/	39/
Bovril.....	21/3	20/3	Kynochs.....	32/	32/
Brazil Traction.....	50½	52	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20/x	20/3
British Amer. Tobacco.....	68/6	70/	Lyons, J.....	3½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.....	28/	27/6	Marconi.....	11½	11½
Brunner, Mond.....	31½	31½	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	22/	22/
Cammell-Laird.....	5	5	Mond Nickel ord.....	31½	31½
Castner-Kellner.....	59/	59/	National Steam Car.....	12/3	12/3
Coats.....	4½	5	Nobel Dynamite.....	16	16
Cunard.....	2½	2½	Pears, A. & F.....	2	2
Dennis Bros.....	27/6	27/6	P. & O. dfd.....	250	255
Dorman, Long.....	20/6	20/	Royal Mail.....	66	72
Eastmans.....	7/6	7/6	South Durham Steel.....	26/	26/
English Sewing Cotton.....	32/3	31/	Underground Inc. Bds.....	71	72½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	25/3	25/	Vickers.....	32/	33/
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	10/	7/9	Mexican Eagle pf.....	1½x	1½x
Baku.....	3/	2/10½	North Caucasian.....	25/6	28/
Burmah.....	34x	38½x	Roumanian Cons.....	15/	15/
Lobitos.....	28/9	28/6	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3/6	3/6	Shell.....	4½x	4½
Maikop Pipeline.....	3/6	3/6	Spies (10/-).....	14/6	14/6
Mexican Eagle.....	18x	18x	Ural Caspian.....	1½	32/6
Anglo-Malay.....	8/	8/3	Linggi.....	13/6	14/
Batu Caves.....	12½x	12½x	London Asiatic.....	5/9	6/3
Bukit Mertajam.....	2/4½	2/7½	Malacca.....	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang.....	2/4½	2/6	Malayalam.....	20/9	21/
Damansara.....	2½	2½	Merlimau.....	4/	4/3
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (12/6 pd.).....	11/9	11/10½
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	8/9	9/
Johore Rub. Lands 19/- pd.	10/6	12/9	Vallambrosa.....	11/9	11/10½
Abbottiakoon.....	8/	7/9	De Beers dfd.....	10½	10½
Brakpan.....	2½x	2½x	East Rand.....	1½x	1½x
Broken Hill Prop.....	45/6	44/3	Gt. Boulder.....	14/6	14/6
Cam & Motor.....	14/3	13/6	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½x	5½x
Central Mining.....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	5½x	5½x
Chartered.....	9/6	9/6	Do. Deep.....	4½x	4½x
City Deep.....	3	2½x	New Modder.....	14½	14½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½x	1½x	Rand Mines.....	4½x	4½x
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto.....	58½	56½
Crown Mines.....	4½	4½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½x	2½x

begin to see more daylight through the gloom of conflict. It has been diligently asserted that £20,000,000 of our War Loan had been taken by Messrs. Morgan for placement in the United States. There appears to be no truth in that story, but it does not follow that a good deal of American capital has not been directed towards the loan through private channels. Into the smaller markets of the Exchange we need not enter. There is almost no "foreign market" in the old sense.

## New Zealand.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal Country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

New Zealand is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD AND SILVER. Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country, New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

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the gains on the week were substantial. Central Argentine was most wanted, as that line will derive considerable benefit from the increase in the exports of maize, and rose to 80½, while the three and five-year notes improved to 101½ and 98½ respectively. B.A. and Pacific, B.A. Great Southern, and B.A. Western showed gains ranging from 1½ to 3. The market is beginning to try and forecast the dividends, and is inclined to think that the B.A. Western and the Central Argentine may maintain last year's distribution of 5 per cent., but is less certain of the B.A. Great Southern, in view of the heavy decrease in the traffic. Mexican Railway preference stocks have been very flat, and Leopoldina and San Paulo have also relapsed sharply.

Bank shares were supported on the first dividend declarations, but the later announcements were not so well liked, and the market became irregular, and most of the earlier gains in the London group were wiped out. County and Westminster, Joint Stock, and Union of Smiths, however, were all about £1 up, and Barclay "B" and London and Provincial both put on ½. Among Colonials, Bank of Australasia have been very flat, losing 4½ points. Union of Australia fell 1. Chartered of India lost 1½, but Hongkong and Shanghai were a little harder. In Miscellaneous markets, Shipping issues were generally quiet, but a good demand sprang up for Royal Mail, which recovered to 72, and a moderate business was done in P. and O. deferred and Cunards. Except for a little inquiry for Vickers, the Armaments and Engineering group was idle, and inclined to droop. Hudson's Bay recovered to 5, and Forestal Land ordinary and preference both hardened. Lake Superior were in renewed demand, and rose to 9½, but finished at 9. A little inquiry for Lyons put the price up to 4½, and Liptons were a shade firmer. Harrods rose to 3½, but Selfridge debentures dropped to 94. John Barker and Whiteley were dull, and Spiers and Pond collapsed on the report. Imperial Tobacco preferred were offered, but British-American Tobacco were wanted, and rose to 70s. Brazilian Traction were supported, and after fluctuating between 50½ and 52, closed at the top. Telegraph things were mostly quiet and dull, but Marconi improved to 125-32, and the American company to 12s. 3d.

In Oil shares a good inquiry has been experienced for Shell and Royal Dutch, which rose to 4 9-32 and 45½ respectively, and North Caucasian were also in favour on the report. Anglo-Egyptian "B" fell on the disappointing results of the operations to December 31 last, but closed above the worst at 7s. 9d. Ural Caspian and Spies were wanted, and a little support was also forthcoming for Lobitos, Mexican Eagle, and Burmah. The further advance in the price of rubber has been followed by a renewal of interest in the shares. Most activity was shown in Johore Rubber Lands, Linggi, and Pataling, but Sempah and Anglo-Ceylon were wanted on the annual reports, and Langen were helped by the big increase in the company's output for the past 10 months. A fair business was also recorded in Rubber Trusts, Anglo-Malay, Bukit Sembawang, Sialang, United Serdang, and United Temiang.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—White grocery kinds continue in fair request, but crystallised remains quiet, while prices showed no material change. Tate's cubes, No. 1, sold, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; fine granulated, 28s.; standard, 27s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. White Java, on spot in London, changed hands at 26s. 7½d. to 27s. 3d.; outports, 26s. 7½d. to 27s. 3d. Soft Java in outports sold, 24s. to 25s. Cuban receipts for all ports last week, 18,000 tons, as compared with 21,000 tons at same time last year, and centrals at work, 14, against 9 in 1914. Cane sales ruled generally steady. 3,810 bags crystallised Trinidad were brought forward and sold, low mid yellow, 23s. 9d.; middling, 24s. 4½d. 448 bags Jamaica sold, low mid yellowish, 24s. to 24s. 3d. 240 bags Demerara, good bold grain, yellow, 25s. 6d. 274 St. Kitts and 231 Barbadoes bought in. 30 tierces Muscovado Barbadoes sold, good mid, 19s. 9d. Privately, crystallised St. Lucia sold, 24s. 1½d. per cwt.

**COFFEE.**—Fair supplies were catalogued in auction, and passed off quietly at generally unchanged rates. East India: Mysore, bold, 78s. to 78s. 6d. Naidobatum: bold, 79s. to 85s. 6d.; mid, 74s. Costa Rica: good bold, 80s. Uganda: good bold, 64s. 6d. New Granada: fair bold, 63s. Futures ruled very quiet.

**COCOA.**—Fairly good supplies were offered in auction and met a fair demand. Grenada and similar British West India kinds firm to 1s. per cwt. dearer. Ceylon fully 2s. up. Ceylon, fair to good, sold, 77s. to 84s. Grenada common to fine, 72s. 6d. to 80s. St. Lucia, ordinary to fine, 73s. to 79s. 6d. Dominica, common to fine, 72s. to 78s. 6d. Jamaica, good, 78s. to 79s. West Coast African, fair to good, 75s. to 78s. Samoa, fine, 80s.; and Costa Rica, good, 76s. Privately, Trinidad, sold, 80s. to 83s. Grenada, 80s. Guayaquil, Ariba, 93s. Machala, 89s. Ceylon, 84s. St. Thomé, 77s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week largely consisted of new seasons, which met with a steady demand, and late rates were maintained in the case of medium to fine grades, but common descriptions mostly ruled in buyers' favour. Ceylon auctions experienced good competition for medium to fine qualities at steady prices, but common kinds were in less request, and prices tended easier. Java sales experienced a good demand, and prices ruled firm.

**SPICE.**—Pepper ruled very quiet, but prices were fairly steady. Black Singapore, fair, on spot, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, 5½d.; Lampong, 5½d.; fair white Singapore, spot, sellers, 9½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; Penang, 8½d. To arrive: Singapore, July-September shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, April-June, 49s.;

white Singapore, July-September sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; Penang, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves in slow support. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.; June-August shipment, 6½d., c.f. and i.

**RICE.**—Spot parcels quiet but shipment firm. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 12s. to 12s. 3d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. Rangoon beans, afloat, sold, £15 12s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**JUTE.**—Market ruled dull, but closed firmer. Native first marks, June-July, sellers, £23 10s.; new crop, August, quoted, £24 10s.; September, buyers, £23 10s. Good native firsts, spot, sold, £24; inferior, ditto, at £23 10s. Naraingunge, Bombay, spot, sold, £18 10s., c.f. and i.

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 9, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian	8 - 2 6	8 - 2 8
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	3 - 1 9	3 - 1 10
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Greasy Merino	2 - 1 6	2 - 1 8
Lyle's granulated	27 6 - 28 0	27 6 - 28 0	Greasy Crossbred	2 - 1 5	2 - 1 8
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	nom.	1 3 - 2 8
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	3 1/2 - 1 8	3 1/2 - 1 9
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	10 1/2 - 2 0	11 1/2 - 2 3
Crystallised, West India	24 0 - 27 3	24 0 - 27 3	<b>Indian rubber</b> p. lb.		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Crepes	0 2 6	0 2 7 1/2
Indian Pekoe	0 11 1/2 - 1 3 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 3 1/2	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Broken	0 11 1/2 - 1 4 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 4 1/2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	1 0 - 1 3 1/2	1 0 - 1 4	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11 1/2 - 1 1 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 1 1/2	Steamers, best	1 0 0	20 0 - 21 0
Broken	0 11 1/2 - 1 1 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 1 1/2	Seconds	0 17 0	17 0 - 18 0
Orange	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2 - 1 2 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	1 0 - 1 2 1/2	1 0 - 1 2 1/2	English Pig	26 0 0	25 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1/2 - 1 0	0 11 1/2 - 1 0	Foreign soft, Sept.	24 17 6	24 15 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hands	£ s. £ s.	£ 18 10
Trinidad—per cwt.	76 0 - 84 0	77 0 - 84 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
Grenada	71 0 - 79 0	72 0 - 80 0	English Ingots	£ 171 - £ 172	£ 171 - £ 172
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Do. bars	£ 172 - £ 173	£ 172 - £ 173
Ceylon Plantation	68 0 - 83 0	70 0 - 85 0	Standard cash	£ 170 15	£ 171 15 0
Guayaquil Ariba	92 0 - 100 0	92 0 - 100 0	Tin Plates, per box	19 0 - 19 3	19 0 - 19 3
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 1½d. per lb.			<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
East India	66 0 - 102 0	66 0 - 102 0	English, Tough	£ 92 - £ 93	£ 93 - £ 94
Jamaica	51 0 - 118 0	51 0 - 118 0	per ton	£ 92 - £ 93	£ 92 - £ 93
Costa Rica	60 0 - 87 0	60 0 - 87 0	Best Selected	£ 92 - £ 93	£ 92 - £ 93
<b>Provisions</b> —			Sheets	£ 110	£ 110
Butter, per cwt.			Standard	£ 79 2 6	£ 77 12 6
Australian finest	138/1 - 140/1	138/1 - 140/1	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	140/1 - 146/1	140/1 - 146/1	Native firsts for shipment, Sept.	£ 24 c 0	£ 24 10 0
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b> —		
Russian finest	128/1 - 132/1	128/1 - 132/1	Linseed, per ton	£ 27 - £ 27 1/2	£ 26 1/2 - £ 27
Normandy baskets	128/1 - 140/1	130/1 - 142/1	Rape, ref. English	£ 8 s. d.	£ s. d.
Danish finest	150/1 - 154/1	150/1 - 158/1	casks	£ 38 - £ 40	£ 38 - £ 40
Brittany rolls	150/1 - 154/1	150/1 - 158/1	Brown English	£ 38 - £ 37	£ 38 - £ 37
doz. lb.	14 0 - 16 0	14 0 - 16 0	naked	£ 38 - £ 37	£ 38 - £ 37
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 29 1/2	£ 29
Irish	86 0 - 95 0	88 0 - 95 0	Ditto, refined	£ 31 1/2 - £ 37	£ 31 1/2 - £ 37
Continental	84 0 - 95 0	84 0 - 95 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	83 1/2	83 1/2
Canadian	76 0 - 88 0	74 0 - 88 0	Water White	94 1/2	94 1/2
American	70 0 - 77 0	70 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 410 lbs., July-Aug.	2 14 9	2 15 0
Irish	106 0 - 124 0	106 0 - 116 0	Rape, Guzerat	2 15 6	2 16 6
Canadian	80 0 - 86 0	80 0 - 86 0	June-July	3 7 6	3 7 6
American	57 0 - 76 0	58 0 - 76 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
<b>Sheep</b> —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	3 7 6	3 7 6
Edam	68 0 - 90 0	72 0 - 92 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
Canadian	88 0 - 90 0	84 0 - 88 0	3/8, 4/14 per lb.		
Gouda	68 0 - 100 0	72 0 - 96 0	Maryland & Ohio		
English Cheddar	98 0 - 102 0	98 0 - 102 0	per lb. bond	0 6 - 0 10	0 6 - 0 10
White loaf	nom.	nom.	Virginial	0 5 1/2 - 1 6	0 5 1/2 - 1 6
New Zealand	92 0 - 95 0	90 0 - 93 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 - 0 10	0 6 - 0 10
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Latakia	0 4 1/2 - 1 0	0 4 1/2 - 1 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 - 6 0	1 0 - 6 0
Basselin	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6 - 2 0	0 6 - 2 0
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 7d. lb.	2 0	2 0
<b>Beans</b> —per 100.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Dutch	15 6 - 17 6	13 6 - 15 6	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/1 - 150/1	130/1 - 150/1
Russian	11 6 - 13 0	11 6 - 12 6	Indian Teak	280/1 - 600/1	280/1 - 600/1
Danish	14 6 - 17 0	13 6 - 15 6	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
			Townhousehold, official	44/	43/
			American, 1st patents	45/6 upds.	45/ upds.

**HEMP.**—Manila inactive. New graded fair, July-September, sellers, £37; medium, £32 10s.; coarse, £28 10s.; coarse brown, £26 15s., c.f. and i. New Zealand, slow, G.F., July-September, sellers, £31 10s.; H.P.F., ditto, £30 10s.; and fair, £29 10s., c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot market very quiet. Fair T.N. orange sold, 54s. to 55s.; free A.C. garnet, sellers, 56s.; G.A.L., free, done, 57s. to 58s. Futures inactive. August delivery, sellers, 53s. 6d. GAMBIER firm, but quiet. Good marks, July-August shipment, sold, 32s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.**—Market firm and dearer, with a fairly good business transacted. Plantation standard crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d. and 2s. 7½d.; July, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d. and 2s. 7½d.; August, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d.; September, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6½d.; October-December, 2s. 5½d. Smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6½d. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 2s. 7½d.; July-August, sold, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 7½d. and 2s. 7½d.:



August-September, quoted, 2s. 7½d.; and September-October, buyers, 2s. 7½d. Ball, spot, sold, 1s. 11d., and August-September, at 1s. 11½d. per lb.

**ISINGLASS.**—A fairly good demand was experienced for the fair supply offered in auction, but rates ruled easy. Brazil, lump 1d. per lb. easier, tongue being steady. Para lump, fair palish, 3s. 2d.; slight reddish, 2s. 9d. to 2s. 10d.; tongue, good pale, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. West Indian generally maintained. Lump, dark to fair palish, 2s. to 2s. 8d. Penang round leaf, good quality fully 3d. easier, but others steady. Round leaf, good pale, 4s. 1d.; fair, 3s. 3d.; long leaf, fair pale, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 5d.; tongue, fair to good pale, 3s. 7d. to 3s. 11d. Bombay leaf rather easier. Karachi leaf, fair to good pale, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d.; pale and reddish, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d.; tongue, thin palish to dark, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.

**COPRA.**—Market firm. To London; Ceylon, July-August and August-September, sellers, £24 15s. Malabar, August-September, buyers, £25 5s. F.M.S., Singapore, June-July and July-August, buyers, £23 10s. South Sea, ditto, buyers, £22. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, June-July and July-August, buyers, £23 7s. 6d. Cebu, ditto, £23 5s., c.f. and i.

**WOOL.**—Public sales of Colonial were continued this week, and met with animated competition, while opening rates were fully maintained for all desirable grades.

**TALLOW.**—Market proved quieter. In auction, 2,013 casks were brought forward, and 255 sold at unchanged rates to 6d. decline. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 36s. 3d.; dark to dull, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; hard, 35s. 6d. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; dark to dull, 26s. 6d. to 31s. 3d.; sweet, 36s. 3d. per cwt. Market letter unchanged. Town tallow, 33s. 6d.; melted stuff, 23s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6d. per 8 lbs.

**OILS.**—Linseed ruled dull. Spot, pipes (landed), £26 10s.; barrels, £27 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £25 5s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £30 7s. 6d., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £29; refined pale, spot (pipes), £31 5s.; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £41. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £23 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine irregular. American spirits, on spot, 39s. 4½d. Petroleum: American, 8½d.; water-white, 9½d. per gallon. Linseed opened firmer, but became easier. Calcutta, spot, 54s. 6d.; afloat, 54s.; June-July, 54s.; July-August, 54s. 6d.; August-September, 55s.; La Plata, July-August, 49s. 6d.; August-September, 49s. 6d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, June-July (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), June-July, 51s. Cottonseed quiet. London: Egyptian, arrived, £8 17s. 6d. Resin: common strained, spot, 12s. 3d. Palm oil, Lagos, £31.

**CORN (Mark Lane).**—The tendency of prices has been easier in a few cases since last Monday, business being on a moderate scale. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, range at 54s. to 58s.; and reds, 53s. 6d. to 57s. 6d. per qr., 504 lbs. Of import descriptions No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 57s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 56s. 6d., ex ship; Indian, ex ship, 52s. 6d.; Plate, 54s. 6d., landed. Flour: American first spring patents, 45s. to 47s.; Canadian export patents, 44s. to 45s., landed. Grinding barley: Karachi, 36s.; Karoon, on sample, 36s. to 36s. 6d.; Japanese, 35s., quay terms. Sound Plata maize, 32s. 9d.; white African, 34s. 6d., both ex quay. Oats: Plate, 27s. 6d. to 30s. 6d., landed. American white clipped No. 2, 32s., ex ship; 32s. 6d., ex quay.

**METALS.**—Copper: The standard market, while very unsettled at intervals, recovered an early smart decline last Monday, while prices left off firmer, cash delivery at £79 15s. and three months £81. The tendency was again firmer on the following day, cash improving to £80, three months £81 7s. 6d. Since the middle of the week rates relapsed under realisations and forward offers until Thursday, when values of these dates fluctuated down to £77 15s. and £79 2s. 6d. respectively. Tin stronger at the week's commencement, standard cash reaching £173, and three months £168 10s. An irregular decline followed until Thursday, while prices of these dates were finally fixed at £170 and £165 10s. Lead easier. July to September, £24. Spelter firm. American, g.o.b., July, £105; September, £95. Iron dearer.

**COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).**—The conditions prevailing in the market during the past week have shown very little alteration. Nothing has occurred to stimulate buyers to place orders of any magnitude, and all along the line there has been a tendency to limit purchases to small lots to meet pressing wants. With regard to raw cotton supplies the prospects are encouraging, and in some quarters bearish views are held as to prices. At a time like the present, when the trade of the world is so much disorganised, a considerable amount of interest is taken in the Board of Trade returns, and in some respects our shipments in yarn and cloth are improving. In cloth for India very few workable bids for lots of any quantity have been met with, and the paucity of demand for Calcutta is very pronounced. Public and private telegrams relating to the monsoon are favourable, but some leading shipping houses believe that dealers abroad are anxious to reduce stocks before committing themselves to further supplies. Some special transactions have been arranged for China in shirtings, and rather more buying has occurred in heavy goods such as Mexicans. The inquiry for Egypt is not so extensive as a few weeks ago, but the prospects on the other side are healthy enough. On the whole, rather less fresh business appears so be coming round in fabrics suitable for home consumption. The position of producers of light fabrics such as dhooties in Blackburn and district is going from bad to worse, and more looms are standing idle than at any time since the beginning of the war. In American yarns for home consumption a limited business has been done, but producers of coarse and medium numbers have held firmly to quotations. Trade with the Continent at the moment is much disorganised as a result of the interference

of the Government as to shipments. Irregular buying has transpired in bundles for India. Egyptian yarns remain dull of sale, and no relief is in sight for producers.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—There was no new feature in this market. No cane auctions were held, and by private treaty 1,800 bags crystallised St. Lucia sold 24s. 1½d., and 150 bags St. Kitts and Demerara, 24s. 9d. to 25s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—Auctions again met with very slow support. Futures remain featureless.

**COCOA.**—Steady. 200 bags Grenada sold 79s. to 80s., and 150 bags Trinidad 83s.

**PEPPER.**—Market unaltered. Tapioca dull. Fair flake, July-August, sellers, 2d.

**JUTE.**—Dearer on returns from 21 districts marking a decrease of 26 per cent. Native first marks spot London sold £24, and September rather buyers at £24 10s.

**HEMP.**—Quiet, but at the same time the turn steadier. New Zealand remained steady, quiet.

**RUBBER.**—Firm, with a fair demand. Plantation crêpe, spot and July, sold 2s. 7½d.; August, 2s. 7½d. Ribbed smoked sheet spot quoted 2s. 7d. Para fine hard, spot and near, 2s. 7d.

**METALS.**—Tin dearer. Standard cash sold £171 to £172, and three months £166 10s., closing £171 15s. and £166 10s. respectively. Settlement price, £171 15s. Copper easier. Standard cash sold £77 12s. 6d., and three months at £78 17s. 6d., closing at these figures. Settlement price, £77 15s. Electros, £93 to £94; tough, £93 to £94. Best selected, £92 to £93. Lead dearer. English, £25 10s.; foreign, most positions sold £24 5s. to £24 15s. Spelter steady. G.O.B. official quoted £105 to £95. Tin plates I.C. cokes, 19s. to 19s. 3d., basis, f.o.b. Wales. Iron weak. Cleveland, cash 67s. 6d., one month 67s. 11d., and three months 68s. 9d. Quicksilver, £18 10s.

#### American Business Notes.

It is apparently just as was to be expected. The Berlin officials of the Kaiser are pursuing the course that was foretold, trying once more to fool the Yankee by continuing their word-spinning. That, at least, is what we gather from the preliminary statements regarding the contents of the too long delayed German reply to President Wilson's last emphatic Note of protest against the treatment of neutrals by German submarines. In one sense the answer would seem to be a perfect illustration of German futile cunning. They are always over-reaching themselves by their astuteness these purblind, raw, doughy children of *Kultur*, and on this occasion they appear to reckon upon stirring up enough opposition to President Wilson in the States to make him willing to give way on some points, to the hurt of the Allies, to spite Great Britain. In another aspect, the reply seems to indicate that after all Germany is growing hungry, else why display such anxiety to have the efficiency of the British blockade interfered with, such tacit acknowledgment that it is effective? Germany does not want much, oh, dear no, only fair play and free trade for neutrals; but all the same, she would like the Washington Government to tell us not to interfere with any commodity needed by Germany which may be conveyed in ships sailing under neutral flags. There is no modesty in this request, and we look for none, but there does seem to be a trace of the wistfulness born of hunger. Are the people of the United States likely to be taken in by this sort of pleading? We should hope not, but whether or not, there can be no change in our attitude. On the contrary, the rigour of our blockade must be continually increased, not only in our own interests, but in the interests of all nations; and should, for example, the arrangements entered into with a Dutch guild of merchants to stop the supply of raw cotton to Germany prove ineffective, then cotton must be placed on the contraband list, and every effort made by our scouts and the French to prevent a single bale of it from passing through into the enemies' countries.

Everybody in this country who follows public events was painfully shocked by the news that Mr. J. P. Morgan had been shot at, though not gravely injured, by an assassin. The assassin was found to be a German, and insane. He has since committed suicide, or so it is asserted, and the police are said to have identified him as a former teacher at Harvard University, who was charged some years ago with the murder of his



wife, and disappeared. On a small cottage on Long Island, not far from the Morgan estate, 200 lbs. of dynamite are said to have been found which belonged to the man. Whether he was insane or not, the squalid crime is none the less ascribable in motive and impulse to the machinations and teaching of that mongrel class of people known in the Republic as German-Americans. Mr. Morgan has identified himself with British interests in a perfectly honourable businesslike fashion. Through his branch house in London the financial arrangements connected with the supply of American ammunition, &c., to the Allies have been carried out. Hence the special enmity of the Germans in America towards him, hence also, in all probability, a secret grudge entertained against this firm by the German-American bankers in New York. A good many years ago when we used to pitch into Mr. Morgan's father for his financial gymnastics or Chinese juggles in the form of the United States Steel Trust or the "Morgan Shipping Combine," a friend of ours used to plead, "spare Morgan, he is the one Christian banker left in New York." Against him or his house we had no special enmity whatever then or now; we were simply at war with grandiose and ill-based schemes of finance, but that plea in mitigation was suggestive of much, and helps, perhaps, to explain the crime of which the present Mr. Morgan has been a victim. At any rate, he has the sympathy of all right-minded people in both hemispheres, and his wounds will plead eloquently against any mitigation of the rigour to be meted out to the civilisation-destroying Teuton.

New York bank averages last week showed an increase of £10,220,000 in the loans and of £9,618,000 in the deposits. The loan average, therefore aggregated £503,236,000, and deposit, including £27,724,000 of time money, £524,040,000. The actual reserve, owing to the large increase in loan-created deposit liabilities, shrunk £1,802,000 to £121,432,000, and the surplus reserve was even £3,398,000 lower, but still amounted to £35,608,000. How far these changes are due to financial movements in connection with our great "borrow" cannot yet be known, but probably they indicate New York's energy in preparing to take its share. Where abroad could Germany or Austria borrow a dollar?

A most interesting paragraph is given in the June 26 issue of the *New York Chronicle*, dealing with the increasing proportion of American trade which is being carried by American ships. In the eight months ended March 31 last the total value of the imports and domestic exports of the United States amounted to \$2,797,000,000, and of this \$353,600,000, or 12.64 per cent., was carried in American vessels, while, in the corresponding period of 1914, only \$246,800,000 out of a total of \$2,960,200,000 was so conveyed, equivalent to 8.34 per cent. The proportion of the exports carried in United States ships rose from 6.57 per cent. to 10.25 per cent., and of imports from 10.73 per cent. to 16.60 per cent. Moreover, this increased proportion was not due to the larger number of ships employed, for, as the article shows, while the exports carried in American vessels rose about 60 per cent. to \$178,700,000, the tonnage of the vessels cleared fell off 9 per cent. Figures relating to foreign vessels, however, read somewhat differently, and the nett tonnage decreased 19 per cent., while there was a reduction of less than 1 per cent. in the values of the cargoes carried. A further large increase in the share of American vessels in the trade may also be expected in view of the recent announcement that up to May 1 no less than 142 foreign-built vessels, of 500,700 gross tons, had been registered as vessels of the United States. British ships still easily hold pride of place, although both as regards exports and imports decreases are shown. In 1913-14, for instance, the exports carried in British ships were valued at \$899,100,000, against \$893,900,000 for the first eight months of the war. In the case of imports, the decrease is naturally much heavier, the total for

1914-15 amounting only to \$430,900,000 compared with \$557,000,000 for the eight months ended March 31, 1914.

### Insurance News.

As was generally anticipated, the life offices have given practical evidence of their patriotic outlook by subscribing very handsomely to the new War Loan. Of late years our home Government securities have not appealed to the companies; in fact, as recently as 1913 their holdings represented only about 1 per cent. of the total assets of life offices, or some £5,300,000 out of a total of over £530,000,000. The rate of interest on the new loan is, of course, very attractive, and there will be no question of depreciation. The prompt announcement by the Prudential Co. that it was subscribing the immense sum of £3,080,000, and that the amount might eventually be increased, indicated that the total amount taken by the life insurance companies would reach a very high figure in the aggregate. Several offices, including the Star, Pearl, Refuge, and Royal London, went for half a million each, while the Legal and General, Clerical Medical, London Life, Guardian, Law Union, the National Provident Institution, and the Britannic Assurance, among others, took large amounts ranging up to £300,000.

A new hardship threatens a certain proportion of life policy-holders, namely, those who have been allowed the usual rebate of income-tax on the premiums if they do not exceed one-sixth of the total income, but whose income owing to the war may now have fallen below six times the amount of the premiums. It would be very hard if such persons were therefore to lose the benefit of the rebate on premiums which must still be kept up, as a consequence of their now amounting to more than the stipulated proportion of the reduced income. It has been suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might introduce an amendment of the present rule, in order to mitigate the burden of those who have been provident enough to effect life assurance, and the claims of these policy-holders to relief cannot in justice be ignored. The value of life assurance to the community is such that it would be more than regrettable if there were any appreciable lapsing of ordinary life policies through inability to pay premiums on account of the war. In the case of newly effected policies the position is distinctly unfortunate.

Fire losses in Canada and the United States in May amounted to £2,277,700, as compared with £3,102,000 in May of last year and £3,445,000 in 1913. The year 1915 so far promises to show a substantial improvement in regard to fire losses, as the total for the first five months is some £4,400,000 less than for the corresponding period in 1914 and £2,200,000 less than in 1913. According to a table of the figures of 29 British offices licensed to operate in New York State and reporting to the New York Insurance Department, compiled by the *Post Magazine*, the nett premiums written in 1914 amounted to £11,869,200, which contrasted with £11,357,300 in 1913; nett losses paid came to £6,625,550 against £5,845,500 in 1913 (55.8 per cent. of the premiums written against 51.5 per cent.), and the underwriting loss was £356,000, or 3 per cent., only a very small percentage of the companies coming out with a balance on the right side. About one-half of the total business was done by four offices, the Liverpool and London and Globe, the Royal, the North British and Mercantile, and the Commercial Union.

The cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom for the first half of the current year, only fires being taken into account in which the damage amounted to £1,000 or more, has been estimated at just over two millions sterling, or about £160,000 less than in the first half of last year, but some £350,000 more than for the six months ended June, 1913. Outbreaks of fire at Glasgow Harbour, at Dunrobin Castle, and at a Leith provision warehouse involved a loss of from £50,000 to £60,000 in each case.

The Board of Trade has made a new rule under the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, to enable old War



Loan, Consols, and annuities included in the deposits made by insurance companies to be converted into new War Loan without the necessity of an application to the Court. A warrant to enable the conversion to be made will be issued by the Board of Trade on the application of the company.

After providing £28,908, or £1,063 less than a year ago, for interest on debenture stocks, the accounts of the Trustees, Executors and Securities' Insurance Corporation for the year ended May 31 show a credit balance of £53,349, or £16,067 less than for the preceding year. With £31,314 brought in the amount to be dealt with is £84,663, a reduction of £16,018 on last year's figures. A year ago sundry appropriations amounting to £20,000 were made, including £5,000 written off the book value of Winchester House, £2,500 transferred to the staff pension fund, and £12,500 utilised in providing for depreciation in investments and contingencies. This time the only allocation is £2,500 to the pension fund, while the final dividend on the ordinary stock is at the rate of 6 per cent., against 7 per cent., making 5 per cent. for the whole year as contrasted with 5½ per cent. The balance carried forward has been increased by £5,628 to £36,942, as the directors are of opinion that, on the present occasion the available surplus should not be definitely allocated to any of the usual purposes. The profit on realisations has been applied in writing down the values at which certain securities stand in the books, and in adding to the provision for contingencies. No revaluation of the investments has been made, as it is not possible to obtain a reliable basis for the valuation of many securities. The reserve fund stands at £185,000, and is represented by separate securities, taken at or under cost price, a list of which is appended to the report.

### Porfirio Diaz and Mexico.

From more than one point of view the end of Porfirio Diaz excites melancholy reflections. His career was one of the most remarkable in our time, and for more than a generation he dominated the Republic of Mexico, as far as the outside world could judge, for its good. Not above making money when opportunity offered, he was, for a despot, unusually honest, and the administration of Mexican financial affairs for the 35 years of his rule was so good, so enlightened, that from being one of the most discredited countries in America, it rose to take almost the highest place amongst the so-called Latin Republics. And yet so loose was the foundation that in a moment, one may say, all the glory was tarnished. Diaz had to fly for his life, his administration was scattered to the winds, his able and enlightened Finance Minister, Señor Limantour, obliged, like his chief, to seek refuge in France, and disaster supreme ensued. From the day when the late Francisco Madero raised the banner of revolution until this hour, lawlessness and oppression have held sway in the Mexican Republic. Property has been destroyed or depreciated in value all over the country, and at this moment it seems as impossible to hope for a re-establishment of stable government as it was when the President of the United States refused—confounding sentiment with political principles—to acknowledge General Huerta as legal head of the State. All this is very sad to think of now, but the time has not yet come to distribute praise and blame. We cannot say how far it was the fault of the Diaz rule that his sway should end in domestic conflict, in the struggle of rival factions for possession of the sources of wealth.

It is, however, to be feared that his domination over Mexico was throughout too personal, and that in his anxiety to maintain order, to have sufficient public opinion behind him to keep himself in place and power, he neglected to look after the wants of the common people and encouraged those tyrannous abuses of the great landowners through which the ground-down multitude of Mexico are fixed in a position of practical slavery. Whatever his faults may

have been in neglecting social questions, Diaz seems to us to have deserved well of the country on many grounds. He opened up its mineral resources, developed new industries, drained the plain on which Mexico City stands, thus turning it from being a spot always under the sway of malaria into a health resort, and by the care and intelligence with which the extension of the railway system was carried out, he also laid the broad foundations of what ought to be one of the wealthiest, most peaceful and prosperous communities on the American continent. All who knew him naturally did not love him, but those who knew him best seem to have stuck most loyally by him, and few Mexicans who regard their country with affection can fail to lament that the last days of a man so powerful and whose ruling capacity was so strong should have been passed in exile. A French proverb says, "*La fin loue la vie, et le soir le jour.*" Porfirio Diaz was perhaps nobler in his death than in his life.

What is to happen now? The passing of Diaz can change nothing in Mexico. Its fate seems to rest still with President Wilson, and now that he has managed to throw off Mr. Bryan—the impracticable, sentimental pacifist whose power over the United States people lies just in the effusiveness of his sentimentality—it is possible that he may take the right course and put forth just sufficient force to cow the factions in Mexico without actually laying hold of any portion of the country. There are at this hour three principal chiefs—brigand chiefs we might call them, although Carranza seems to be what might be called a respectable kind of man. These three are the said Carranza, his former general, Villa, and a brigand from the mountains of Southern Mexico, or whose haunts were there in Madero's time, named Zapata. The latest fighting around or in Mexico City seems to be between the Carranzaists and Zapataists—as to which shall possess Mexico City and what may remain of wealth in the coffers of the Government there or of the machinery for grinding wealth out of the miserable people. Of the three pretenders, Villa, the assassin, appears to be the ablest, for he has over again thrashed the Carranzaists up north. To suggest how these three rival bands of ruffians are to be handled in order to bring peace is beyond us, but it does not seem improbable that if a United States force were again landed at Vera Cruz, and detachments of it sent up the line of the old Mexican Railway Co. in sufficient strength to guard that route and keep communication with Mexico City open, there might be enough men thrown forward to bring at least the Zapataists to reason. They cannot have so much financial backing behind them as the Villaists in the north, who have all along been subsidised by certain interests of a nefarious type in the United States. Or the President might put a strong hand upon fomenters of disorder and intriguers for annexation residing within his own Republic. Whatever the mode adopted, the moral responsibility for the present condition of Mexico rests more heavily upon the head of Dr. Woodrow Wilson than on that of any other single individual alive. He had no business whatever as the chief of a great State, and therefore responsible for its attitude towards neighbours, to treat General Huerta in the manner he did, crippling him just when he had it in his power to restore order. That old man is now, it seems, under arrest in the United States, accused of having endeavoured to raise a "rebellion" on his own account. It is quite possible that he had a desire to make one more dash for power in the hope of ending, for the time, his unhappy country's miseries. What patriotic Mexican could well avoid having a feeling of this kind when he sees his country torn by factions and a prey to mere brigandage, bankrupt and without a Government? Would it not be better, other means failing, and instead of arresting Huerta holding him to bail, to change the former policy and give him such support as would enable him—assuming him to be willing and to be trustworthy—to destroy the Villaists and help Carranza to catch and shoot Zapata?



Shooting—a deal of it—will have to be done before Mexico can again have internal quietude. Meantime Diaz the ruler, Diaz the reformer, Diaz the Indian warrior has bid the world and its vexations farewell for ever. *Requiescat.*

### Half a Year's Foreign Trade.

By far the most noticeable characteristic of the Board of Trade returns for June is the further great expansion in imports. Compared with May, they show an advance of about £4,500,000, while in comparison with the previous year they are £17,836,000, or 30.6 per cent. higher at £76,118,000, though we must not forget that last month contained one more working day than did June, 1914. Unfortunately, moreover, this increase is due rather to the higher prices that have had to be paid than to large quantities imported. As regards food, drink and tobacco, for instance, values rose by £10,379,000, of which increase £3,336,000 was in grain and flour and £3,676,000 in meat, including food for animals, but it is in the former class that the discrepancy between prices and quantities is so obvious. Wheat, though 6.3 per cent. down in bulk, was 59.7 per cent. up in value, oats rose 53.3 per cent. and 194.5 per cent. respectively, barley was 68.8 per cent. lower in quantity, but only 50 per cent. in value, and maize fell off 44.4 per cent. in volume and 20.2 per cent. in cost. The quantity of meat imported, however, was somewhat larger than in 1914, so that the above increase was not entirely due to enhanced prices, though we see that, while bacon went up 54.7 per cent. in bulk, it rose 78.5 per cent. in value. How tea-producers are benefiting at present is clearly shown by the fact that, while the quantity of tea imported was only 34.4 per cent. higher, its cost increased by 77.2 per cent. Raw materials amounted to £7,320,000 more, of which £2,046,000 was in cotton goods, £943,000 in wool, £1,465,000 in other textile materials, and £1,529,000 in oil seeds, nuts, oils, &c. We are, however, getting raw cotton much more cheaply than formerly, as the increase of 102.8 per cent. in bulk was only accompanied by an advance of 49.5 per cent. in cost. On the other hand, flax and hemp are much dearer. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured were £142,000 up, the only increase of any importance in this class being one of £1,586,000 in "other metals and manufactures thereof."

Exports still continue to shrink, and last month were £6,639,000, or 16.6 per cent. lower at £33,234,000 than in the corresponding month of 1914. This decrease was largely due to the decline of £5,418,000 in articles wholly or mainly manufactured, cotton exports having fallen off £1,532,000, and machinery £1,242,000. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the cotton figures show a decided improvement on recent months, the demands from India being rather better. Raw materials were £981,000 lower, and food, drink and tobacco came to £434,000 less, but there was an increase of £194,000 in miscellaneous articles. Another interesting feature of the returns is the increase in re-exports, which are £597,000, or 6.8 per cent., up at £9,350,000, this being the first time since the outbreak of war that there has been any improvement in this line. Here we find that the advance made is due to outsendings of food, &c., the increase in raw material being more than offset by the decreases in manufactured and miscellaneous articles. In both directions the aggregate bullion movements were much smaller, but the total imports were still £12,773,000 higher at £77,858,000, while exports were £7,359,000 down at £44,130,000. Consequently the excess of the former, which in 1914 was only £13,595,000, has now leapt up £20,133,000 to £33,728,000.

For the first half of the year imports amounted to £429,104,000, or £53,201,000 more than in 1914, while exports and re-exports have fallen off, the one by £71,835,000 to £183,623,000, and the other by

£7,953,000 to £51,323,000. In the aggregate, imports were only £29,591,000 larger at £440,389,000, because of the decline of £22,924,000 in receipts of gold and of £686,000 in the silver obtained. The corresponding decreases in the outward flow of bullion, however, aided the downward trend of the exports, whose aggregate was £99,755,000 lower at £244,757,000, the excess of imports being thus forced up £129,347,000 to £195,632,000.

At the end of the Board of Trade pamphlet is a table giving the nett tonnage of vessels entered and cleared with cargoes from and to various countries during June, and also in the first six months of the year, comparing both totals with the previous two years. From that table may be obtained an excellent illustration of the very complete fashion in which the German overseas trade has been destroyed. During June, 1914, the nett tonnage entered from Germany amounted to 232,593 tons, while 520,763 tons were cleared from here for that country. Last month's figures show that the whole of this vast business had been effectively stopped, and two very expressive blanks occupy the spaces formerly filled by hundreds of thousands of tons. The same story holds for the half-year. In 1914 the totals read respectively 1,300,420 and 2,759,711 tons, but this time the only entry is one of 2,039 tons entered from Germany.

#### IMPORTS.

	June.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£58,309,519	£58,281,653	£76,117,797	+ 17,836,144
Gold .....	3,948,028	6,023,604	810,532	+ 5,213,072
Silver .....	1,101,929	779,377	929,698	+ 150,321
Total .. ..	63,359,476	65,084,634	77,858,027	+ 12,773,393

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	
Brit. & Irish Produce	42,836,568	39,892,976	33,233,568	- 6,639,408
For. and Col. M'dse..	8,541,117	8,753,434	9,350,339	+ 596,905
Gold .. ..	4,023,282	1,903,956	963,094	- 940,862
Silver .. ..	399,891	959,235	583,193	- 376,042
Total .. ..	56,400,858	51,489,601	44,130,194	- 7,359,407

#### IMPORTS.

Six Months ended June.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	378,746,000	375,903,057	429,103,845	+ 53,200,788
Gold .. ..	25,476,141	28,934,112	6,010,211	- 22,923,901
Silver .. ..	7,968,397	5,960,871	5,275,215	- 686,656
Total .. ..	412,190,538	410,798,040	440,389,271	+ 29,591,231

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	
Brit. & Irish Produce	257,055,808	255,457,611	183,622,888	- 71,834,723
For. and Col. M'dse..	59,055,577	59,276,416	51,323,020	- 7,953,396
Gold .. ..	18,841,946	22,364,842	5,530,544	- 16,834,298
Silver .. ..	6,795,774	7,413,400	4,280,369	- 3,133,031
Total .. ..	341,749,105	344,512,269	244,756,821	- 99,755,448

#### VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

June.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports .. ..	63,359,476	65,084,634	77,858,027	+ 12,773,393
Exports .. ..	56,400,858	51,489,601	44,130,194	- 7,359,407
Excess value of im- ports over exports	6,958,618	13,595,033	33,727,833	+ 20,132,800
Six Months ended June.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports .. ..	412,190,538	410,798,040	440,389,271	+ 29,591,231
Exports .. ..	341,749,105	344,512,269	244,756,821	- 99,755,448
Excess value of im- ports over exports	20,441,423	66,285,771	195,632,450	+ 129,346,629

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Pennsylvania Water and Power Co.—Gross earnings for June, 1915, \$85,650, showing an increase over June, 1914, of \$9,353.

As the result of the war, the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for June amounted to 70,037 tons, while the imports were 111,900 tons.



## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Notwithstanding the considerable restriction of operations on the fields caused by the mobilisation of the Russian Army, the results obtained by the North Caucasian Oil Fields in the year ended January 13 (December 31, Russian style) were decidedly good. A gross production of 358,133 tons was obtained, of which 250,470 tons came from the old fields and 107,663 from the new fields, while the sales amounted to 327,991 tons, or an increase of 190,625 tons. The average price was 5.68 copecks lower at 35.04 copecks per pood, but the profits nevertheless showed an improvement of £270,791 at £555,507. Debenture interest and royalty took £12,962 less, but £36,363 is written off for expenditure on the Berekei lands, which have been abandoned as unprofitable, leaving a nett gain of £247,960 at £497,159. Adding £7,689 brought in, the divisible surplus is £255,243 larger at £504,849, out of which an extra £95,203 at £172,561 is transferred to depreciation reserve and £20,000 is set aside to meet difference in exchange. The maintenance of the dividend of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares requires £43,898 more, owing to the new capital ranking, and the balance carried forward is increased by £96,143 to £139,215, out of which, however, Russian Government taxes estimated at £119,636, or £84,253 more, have to be paid. Property account, less the depreciation reserve of £307,449, has risen by £157,545 to £638,506, but with the increases of £210,120 to £747,300 in the paid-up capital and £53,125 to £102,108 in the premium reserve, the company has ample funds in hand, after paying off £85,120 of the debentures, as cash in Russia is £29,503 up at £80,246, and on London account £93,060 up at £264,611. Since the close of the year the production has been well maintained, the output for the first four months having been 120,187 tons, of which 103,500 tons have been sold at an average of 32.40 copecks per pood.

The prevailing note in the report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the period from the commencement of the company to December 31 is one of disappointment. In the Gernah field two large wells, after yielding large quantities of oil, stopped flowing in September and December respectively, owing to water breaking in, and the efforts which have since been made to recover production have been only partially successful. So far, the directors say, their experience in this field has been that all wells are short-lived, but further wells are being bored and tests are being made for a deeper level. Several wells have been drilled on the Hurghada territory, and oil was struck in large quantities in one at 1,670 ft. in October, but it became plugged with sand in a few days, and although the well was re-opened in March, it ceased producing, after giving in all about 4,000 tons. Several producers at shallow depths, however, continue to yield oil in commercial quantities. In the Zeitieh field, for which the company paid £214,000 in "B" shares, and on which it has spent about £20,000 in cash, all efforts to find oil in paying quantities have failed, and the territory has been abandoned. The production for 1914 amounted to 101,911 tons, and the total income, including rents, &c., was £185,992, of which expenses absorbed £147,717. Adding on the one side £976 for sundry receipts in 1913, and on the other £122,161 for balance of expenditure in that year, the nett outcome is a deficiency of £82,909 to be carried forward. Including £100,000 paid to the Egyptian Government in "C" shares, in accordance with the agreement of September 14, 1913, the issued capital is £1,287,500, and in addition there is £225,000 outstanding in income bonds, against which the property account is valued at £1,284,466 and preliminary expenses, &c., stand at £25,513. Materials come to £60,891 and stocks of oil to £20,928, while debtors owe £71,269. On the other hand, £18,872 is due to sundry creditors, and £33,000 to the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. The directors say that at the present time expenses largely exceed the value of the production, but every effort is

being made to increase the output from the concessions already held, and the Government has been approached to extend the area of the concessions, so that tests may be made further afield. The matter is in abeyance for the time being, but it is hoped that when the war is over, and it becomes possible for the Government to review the situation and to consider the magnitude of the sums spent by the company in exploiting, boring, and development, it will grant the extensions by which the oil-producing industry in Egypt may be put on a permanent and paying basis.

Further very satisfactory progress was made by the Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates in the matter of reducing the cost of production during the year ended March 31. An additional 62 acres were brought into bearing, and as the average yield per acre rose by 58 lbs. to 316 lbs., the total crop was 51,235 lbs. larger at 190,400 lbs., while the "all-in" cost was reduced by 7.21d. to 1s. 0.63d. On the other hand, the average price was only 1.78d. down at 2s. 1.55d., and the nett profits, including £5,010, or £769 less, brought in, showed an improvement of £4,691 at £13,516. The last distribution made was for 1911-12, when 5 per cent. was paid, but the company now re-enters the dividend-paying list with 7 per cent. Out of the balance £1,000, or £2,500 less, is set aside for writing off swampy areas, but the depreciation allowance is increased by £376 to £691, while £537 is written off for loss on sale of investments and £606 for debenture issue expenses, leaving £3,162, or £1,848 less, to be carried forward. Property account was increased by £26,002 to £129,177, of which £20,000 represents land purchased from Kellas, Ltd., for a like amount in shares. The balance of the outlay has been met out of an issue of £10,250 6 per cent. debenture bonds.

To say that the estate of the Soconusco Rubber Plantations in Mexico is sufficient to indicate the unhappy plight of the company. With the country in a state of anarchy, the production naturally suffered, and in the year ended June 30, 1914, it amounted to only 41,685 lbs. Difficulties were also experienced in disposing of the output, one shipment, after many adventures, being sold in London on June 14, or about a year after it was produced, while another took seven months to reach the market. The working loss on the estate was £300, but to this were added £793 for London office charges, £888 for loss on exchange, and £234 for irrecoverable labour advances, the last item being due to the revolutionaries having informed the labourers throughout Mexico that advances were illegal, and that they were under no obligation to repay them. Altogether the loss for the year was £2,583, making, with the debit brought forward, an adverse balance of £11,121. Another difficulty, which has now become insurmountable, has been the remittance of money to Mexico for the service of the estate. All the banks there are reported to be closed, and the business is in the hands of small agents and discounters, who, with the rate of exchange at about 6d, have refused to discount sterling credit drafts on any better terms than 16d. Last, but by no means least, of the embarrassments are a new law promulgated by the people in power that all estates on which work is allowed to cease will be liable to be confiscated, and another providing that all export duties must be paid on a gold basis, the result of which is practically to quadruple the duty. The directors are satisfied that it is impossible to carry on the working of the estate profitably under existing circumstances, and as they see no indication of a change for the better, they are endeavouring to find a purchaser for it. Should a satisfactory offer be received, it will be immediately submitted to the shareholders.

With the attention of investors being once more turned towards rubber shares by the confident view of the future taken by some of the leading men in the industry, the question of increased production has become an interesting one. A number of the undertakings in the Harrisons and Crosfield group have just issued statements covering periods varying from five to twelve months, which, with one exception, look very promising. Of those for the full year, the Tandjong



has an increase of 260,679 lbs. to 804,327 lbs., the Sungkai Chumoi output is 23,526 lbs. up at 371,226 lbs., and the Seaport 16,360 lbs. larger at 260,860 lbs. The United Serdang figures are for ten months, but the company is one of the large producers, showing a rise of no less than 575,802 lbs. at 2,034,720 lbs., and in the same period the Langen (Java) has produced 409,649 lbs., or 108,644 lbs. more, while for nine months the Tangkah shows an improvement of 60,961 lbs. at 199,602 lbs. Some of the totals for the half-year are proportionately better still, the Rubber Estates of Johore having a gain of 64,195 lbs. at 300,765 lbs., and the Golden Hope one of 23,544 lbs. at 96,003 lbs., but the Sapulmakande, on the contrary, shows a decrease of 11,621 lbs. at 136,141 lbs. The Sialang figures for five months are 130,765 lbs. higher at 283,288 lbs.

**SEMPAH RUBBER.**—A further increase of 39,325 lbs. to 160,781 lbs. was obtained in the rubber crop for the year ended March 31, and the company was exceptionally fortunate in that the decline in the average gross price was only 1.04d. at 2s. 2.30d. Nothing is said about the cost, and the directors do not even repeat their offer to let shareholders inspect the details at the office. They, however, state that fields in which 35 per cent. or more of the trees are in bearing, and all areas planted before 1910, whether in bearing or not, are in revenue accounts. The coconut crop was disappointing, only 223,915 nuts, or 5,001 more, being harvested, while the price dropped by 28s. 1d. to £3 10s. per 1,000 nuts. After charging the whole of London administration expenses, and writing £120 or half last year's amount off building and machinery, the nett profits were £2,641 up at £8,223, and not only is the dividend increased from 6 per cent. to 8, but the shareholders get an additional advantage by its being paid tax free instead of less tax. Out of the surplus an extra £250 at £1,500 is transferred to reserve, and £1,036 more at £2,656 is carried forward. The area under coconuts has been reduced to 273 acres, certain fields which showed poor growth and prospects having been uprooted and replanted with rubber, and it has now been decided to retain the coconuts on 134 acres only.

## The Week in Mines.

The Mining markets during the past week have been more completely neglected than any other department of the Stock Exchange, the reason for the almost complete stagnation apparently being a general disinclination to do any business until the War Loan lists are closed. There was no pressure to sell at any time, but the continued absence of anything approaching a demand for South African shares resulted in small shrinkages in value here and there. In some isolated instances a few buying orders were induced by good output figures for June, with the result that quotations hardened a little in the later dealings.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Movements in prices shown on the week were slight in both directions, with falls predominating. Crown Mines advanced  $\frac{1}{8}$ , and Geduld 1s. Modderfontein finally closed unchanged on balance at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but Central Mining fell  $\frac{1}{8}$ , Modder Deep 3-32, and Rand Mines 1-32. Brakpan closed at 2 23-32, or no change on the week; the June return showed a high record for tonnage treated, and the best result as regards the profit earned since March, 1913. East Rand declined 1-32 to 1 9-32, the past month's return being a poor one. As regards Rhodesian ventures, Chartered weakened to 9s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the offer of a quite small number of shares on an unwilling market. On the other hand, Gaika rose to 15s. 9d., and closed 9d. higher on balance at 14s. 9d. Cam and Motor fell 9d. to 13s. 6d. The leading Diamond shares were all easier, Jagersfontein declining  $\frac{3}{8}$  to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  and Premier and De Beers  $\frac{1}{8}$  each. West African ventures showed fractional declines, where changed.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares exhibited a drooping tendency, Rio Tinto declining from 58 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 57. The price of copper trended downwards for a time, and then became steadier. Why the quotation for Tintos was marked down day by day is difficult to explain, as for nearly a week no business was officially recorded. The same

remark applies to Amalgamated Copper, but in this case the quotation was adjusted to agree with the Wall Street parity; the price was finally  $\frac{1}{2}$  lower at 77. Cape declined  $\frac{1}{8}$ , but Hampden was exceptionally 1s. higher at 33s. Broken Hill descriptions also displayed a rather easier tone, Proprietary closing 9d. lower at 44s. 9d. Sulphide and Zinc Corporation lost the turn. The extension of the Broken Hill Association Smelters' works is, it is announced, being pressed on with the utmost despatch. Mount Morgan Gold closed easier in spite of the fact that the cabled summary of the past year's operations disclosed satisfactory results. A modest demand for Oroville sent the price up to 14s. 9d.—a gain of 9d. on the week, and this was one of the few shares in which a fair sprinkling of bargains appeared in the list on several days. Among tin-producing properties Ropp closed firm at  $\frac{1}{8}$ , owing to a few purchases based on dividend anticipations. Malayan, however, weakened  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ , in spite of the declaration of the usual half-yearly dividend of 1s. a share, and Tronoh and Siamese were  $\frac{1}{8}$  lower at the close. Indian shares had a dull appearance. Russian descriptions were steady apart from a fall of  $\frac{3}{8}$  to 4 $\frac{1}{8}$  in Russo-Asiatic. Elsewhere Burma Corporation declined from 38s. 6d. to 37s., while among Indian shares Mysore was  $\frac{1}{8}$  down.

## MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING ESTATES.**—The report for the year ended March 31 states that the profit on working declined by £66,314 to £210,884, but the total nett profit was £219,369. Including £101,939 brought in, the available balance is £321,906, against £369,008. The dividend is reduced from 37 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 30 per cent., and £105,051 is carried forward. About half the decrease in profits was due to the floods. There was an increase in the working costs at the Central Mines of 7.37d. per ton milled, at Elandsdrift an increase of 9.25d., and at Vaalhoek an increase of 4.64d. Over the three mines there was an increased cost of 7.21d. per ton milled and a decreased profit of 7s. 2d. per ton milled. In all cases the increase in costs was chiefly due to the floods. But there is this satisfactory feature: the ore reserves showed an all-round increase, the tonnages being the highest on record. At the Central Mines they are estimated at 401,660 tons, of an average value of 13.3 dwts. per ton, an increase of 12,427 tons, but a decrease in value of 1.11 dwts. At Elandsdrift mine they are estimated at 56,180 tons, of an average value of 16.5 dwts. per ton, an increase of 17,910 tons and 0.5 dwts. in value, while at Vaalhoek mine the tonnage has increased by 9,664 tons to 64,315 tons, but the value has fallen by 0.9 dwt. to 10.51 dwts.

**FALCON MINES.**—This company has issued a progress report for the period of nine months ended March 31. It shows that the ore reserves have been increased, after deducting 91,678 tons treated, from 817,011 tons, valued at 49s., to 868,985 tons, valued at 49s. 4d. per ton. But apart from this addition and a gradual reduction in working costs since the commencement of crushing, the report does not make encouraging reading. The seventh level on the Falcon reef has so far given very poor results, both the width and the value being substantially lower than in the sixth level. The total output for the period was about £214,000, costs averaged 47s. 5d. per ton, and the profit was only £24,000, or 5s. 3d. per ton. Working costs have been reduced from 50s. 8d. per ton in August to 35s. 10d. in March, which is about the figure expected; but the extraction results stand in need of considerable improvement before the plant can be said to be working efficiently. In March the percentage of recovery was only 71.2 per cent. copper and 69 per cent. gold.

**SAN MIGUEL COPPER.**—The nett profit for 1914 was £2,533, after providing £5,378 for depreciation, to which is added £12,614 brought forward, making £15,148. But as £5,890 is written off the amount expended on development last year, a balance of only £9,257 remains. In the ordinary course this sum would have been carried forward, but a serious position has arisen with regard to the removal of overburden account. At the end of 1913 this asset was valued at £27,153, but it has now been found necessary to write off £24,000 of this, as there is no longer the prospect of recovering this by a tonnage charge upon ore coming from the open cut. The directors have therefore taken £25,000 from reserve, written off the loss, and carry forward £10,257. The production of fine copper in precipitate was 559 tons, against 616 tons in 1913.

**KRAMAT PULAI.**—Last year the nett profits declined from £11,743 to £8,199, while £5,497 is brought into the accounts. Dividends amounting to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. have been paid, as compared with 10 per cent. for 1913, and the carry forward is raised to £6,197. The mine profit shows a decrease of £4,014, due mainly to the great reduction in the value of tin over a considerable portion of the period and a decreased yardage. An expenditure of £2,413 was incurred during the year on preliminary work for deeper level working, and £1,094 has been written off, and the rest will be written off in the next two years.



## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

## MINING.

Ashanti Goldfields.—25 per cent. (rs. per share), payable, less tax, Aug. 12, same as a year ago.

Consolidated Cambrian.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. Last year the interim dividend was passed, though 10 per cent. was paid for the whole year.

"The Jumpers" Gold Mining.—A fourth distribution in liquidation of 5 per cent. (equal to 1s. per share) to registered shareholders, payable about Aug. 10.

Kamunting Tin Dredging.—First interim of 1s. per share, tax free, payable July 15, in respect of the year ending June 30, 1916.

La Rose Consolidated Mines.—Quarterly of 1 per cent., payable July 20, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

Malayan Tin Dredging.—1s. per share, less tax, payable 24th inst.

Mongu (Nigeria) Tin Mines.—7½ per cent., or 9d. per share, free tax. This is the company's first dividend.

South Crofty.—Interim of 3d. per share, free tax, in respect of half-year ended June 30.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference for half-year ended March 31 last, payable July 31.

Banco de Chile.—7 per cent. (against 9 per cent.) for the half-year. Profits amounted to \$3,214,000 against \$4,017,940.

Bank of Bengal.—For past half-year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, with a bonus at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, placing Rs. 50,000 to pension fund, with Rs. 6,86,318 forward, same as a year ago.

Bank of Bombay.—For past half-year at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, and bonus of 2 per cent. per annum, placing Rs. 75,000 to bonus, staff, and pension fund, with Rs. 556,804 forward, same as a year ago, with Rs. 4,00,000 to reserve, and Rs. 4,27,250 forward.

Bank of Madras.—10 per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent., with Rs. 4,35,419 forward, same as a year ago.

Barclay and Co.—Final for year ended June 30 of 4s. per share on the "A" shares and 7s. per share on the "B" shares, making 10 per cent. per annum on the "A" and 17½ per cent. per annum on the "B," subject to tax. The dividend a year ago on the "B" shares was at the rate of 17½ per cent. per annum, with a bonus, making together 18½ per cent. per annum.

Bengal Doonars Railway.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended March 31, subject to tax, same as a year ago.

British Law Fire Insurance.—Interim of 1s. per share (less tax), payable Aug. 3, same as a year ago.

Capital and Counties Bank.—For past six months at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum. £20,000 has been applied in reduction of premises, £100,000 in writing down the bank's investments, against 16 per cent., with £74,906 forward, against £103,451. A year ago £20,000 was applied in reduction of premises, and £10,000 to officers' superannuation.

Central Bahia Railway Trust.—Trustees have declared the following dividends for half-year, payable Aug. 1, 1915:—On the "A" certificates at £4 14s. per cent. per annum in orders for Brazilian Government funding bonds, on the "B" certificates at 18s. per cent. per annum in orders for Brazilian Government funding bonds.

English and Scottish Law Life Assurance.—Half-yearly to June 30 at the rate of 9s. 6d. per annum per share (£3 10s. paid).

Equitable Bank.—Interim of 1s. 2d. per share, being at the rate of 11½ per cent. (less tax) for half-year ended June 30, payable July 15, against 10 per cent., tax free.

Farrow's Bank.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for year ended June 30, after having increased the reserve fund by the purchase of War Loan stock and augmented the carry forward for the ensuing year.

Frederick Leyland and Co.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary for half-year ended June. This is the first ordinary share dividend since a controlling interest was acquired in the company by the International Mercantile Marine Co.

Halifax Commercial Banking.—Interim of 8s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable July 31, against 9s. a year ago.

Lochgelly Iron and Coal.—Final of 25s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, against 30s.

London and Liverpool Bank of Commerce.—Interim for past half-year of 3s. per share, less tax, against 5s., tax free, a year ago.

McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh and Co.—Interim for half-year ended May 31 last on the ordinary at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, same as in former years, payable Aug. 15.

Mexican Central Railway Securities.—The directors announce that owing to the continued political disturbance in Mexico, and the failure of the National Railways of Mexico to pay interest upon the securities lodged with the trustees of the "A" and "B" debentures and debenture stock, they are unable to make provision for payment of the half-year's interest due 15th inst.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on the preference on the 28th inst. The question of an interim dividend on the ordinary share capital is postponed owing to the uncertainty of the situation at present existing. A year ago 2½ per cent. was paid.

Provincial Bank of Ireland.—At the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Ratanui Rubber.—Interim of 1s. 9d. per share, less tax, on account of year ending Sept. 30, 1915, same as a year ago.

St. James and Pall Mall Electric Light.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 7, against 10 per cent.

Sheffield Banking.—Interim for past half-year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago, payable 15th inst.

Union Bank of Australia.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, equal to £1 5s. per share, and a bonus of 2 per cent., equal to 10s. per share, being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, with £70,500 forward, same as a year ago.

Union of London and Smiths.—Net profits for past half-year £241,638 (against £252,966), making, with £201,561 brought forward, a total of £443,199; a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, and, after applying £150,000 as provision for depreciation in value of securities, £133,616 (against £232,373) will be carried forward; at this time last year the dividend was at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 2 per cent. per annum.

Watson Steamship.—The directors state that, although the accounts for the year ended June 30 cannot be completed for some time, they have decided that, in view of the financial demands of country, the convenience of the shareholders will be served by paying the dividend forthwith; a dividend of 15 per cent. has been declared, free of tax, which the directors state they know to be justified by the accounts; for the preceding year the dividend was 8 per cent.

## JUNE MINING OUTPUTS.

Ashanti.—12,007 tons, 9,015 ozs.; value, £38,295 (value of May output, £38,296; profit, £15,583).

Atallah.—380 tons yielded 381 ozs.

Aurora West.—14,620 tons, £17,821; profit, £4,287 (May, £3,812).

Balaghat.—2,931 tons, 1,142 ozs.; tailings, 279 ozs.; total, 1,421 ozs., equal to 1,285 ozs. fine gold.

Bantjes Consolidated.—19,500 tons, £22,519; profit, £1,756 (May, £5,245). Reduced profit due to increased costs owing to shortage labour and return to more normal recovery. Grade for April and May was abnormally high.

Bisichi Tin.—Production, 25½ tons; shipments, 10½ tons.

Blackwater.—4,453 tons ore; value, £8,469; profit, £4,064.

Brakpan.—61,060 tons, £83,644; profit, £29,653.

Broomassie.—4,416 tons, £4,673; recovered from treatment of concentrates, £1,765.

Bullfinch Proprietary.—6,385 tons, £8,007; profit, £3,415.

Burma Ruby.—76,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs44,000; royalties, Rs4,000.

Cam and Motor.—Treated 13,000 tons, £20,812; profit, £4,625 (May, £4,625).

Cape Copper.—Output 267 tons fine copper.

Champion Reef.—17,574 tons, 9,724 ozs.; sand and slimes, 2,135 ozs.; total, 11,859 ozs., equal to 10,863 ozs. fine gold.

City and Suburban.—27,200 tons, 12,000 ozs.; profit, £20,414 (May, £21,148).

City Deep.—57,500 tons, £112,281; profit, £53,759 (May, £50,673).

Consolidated Langlaagte.—409,200 tons, £66,852; profit, £31,720 (May, £31,428).

Consolidated Main Reef.—27,370 tons, £39,393; profit, £12,936 (May, £11,927).

Consolidated of N.Z.—Wealth of Nations: 2,130 tons, value £3,092; profit, £872.

Crown.—214,000 tons, £273,713; profit, £108,807 (May, £117,674).

Deebook Dredging.—Treated 66,796 cubic yards for 290 piculs (17 tons) tin.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—27,100 tons, £37,166; profit, £6,048 (May, £6,355).

East Rand Proprietary.—160,500 tons, 49,335 ozs., including 823 ozs. recovered from accumulated slimes; value, £206,133; profit, £50,020 (May, £60,020).

Ferreira Deep.—42,620 tons, £69,921; profit, £23,060 (May, £21,655).

Frontino and Bolivia.—Milled 2,094 tons; value, £8,986.

Geduld.—25,210 tons, £37,113; profit, £11,780 (May, £11,666).

Geldenhuis Deep.—50,000 tons, £64,246; profit, £10,105 (May, £10,450).

Giant of Rhodesia.—6,100 tons, £3,767; profit, £528.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—575 tons, 443 ozs.

Ginsberg.—15,495 tons, £17,432; profit, £4,059 (May, £3,743).

Glencairn.—21,100 tons, £14,542; profit, £2,324 (May, £2,178).

Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,020 tons; profit, £2,239.

Government Areas.—46,500 tons, £59,733; profit, £14,727 (May, £13,037).

Great Boulder Perseverance.—20,827 tons; value, £23,526.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—5,030 tons yielded £7,803.

Jibutli (Anantapur).—2,600 tons, 758 ozs. fine gold (May, 764 ozs.).

Knight Central.—23,400 tons, £25,697; profit, £3,145 (May, £3,856).

Knights Deep.—96,100 tons, £74,717; profit, £16,023 (May, £16,673).

Lake View and Star.—18,152 tons, £21,332; profit, £3,330.

Langlaagte Estate.—51,590 tons, 7,490 ozs.; cyanide, 7,334 ozs.; profit, £13,668 (May, £13,492).

Lonely Reef.—5,050 tons, 3,439 ozs.; value, £14,456; profit, £6,356 (May, £4,552).

Luipaard's Vlei Estate.—21,365 tons; profit, £3,340 (May, £4,458).

Main Reef West.—24,400 tons, £28,498; profit, £4,294 (May, £4,552).

May Consolidated.—14,400 tons, £10,738; profit, £1,049 (May, £1,066).

Meyer and Charlton.—14,467 tons, £33,288; profit, £20,200 (May, £20,816).



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the Hotel Metropole, S.W., Mr. Godfrey Charles Isaacs (managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Henry W. Allen, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Before proceeding with the business of the meeting I desire to express on behalf of Mr. Marconi his regret at not being able to preside to-day. His country having joined the Allies in this war in the cause of justice and civilisation, he has been called by his Government to Italy, where he has joined the engineering staff of the Italian Army to superintend the organisation of its wireless communications, and ensure that nothing will be found wanting in that direction. With your approval, I propose to follow the usual course of taking the report as read, and I will proceed to deal with the balance-sheet and to give some explanation of the figures. On the debit side it will be observed that the debentures are reduced from 6,250 to 6,094, representing £121,880, instead of £125,000 as appeared in the balance-sheet of 1913. This difference is accounted for by the purchase by the company of 156 debentures of a value of £3,120. The amount appearing to creditors is some £8,000 to £9,000 in excess of the figure of the preceding year, accounted for merely by the normal increase of business. On the credit side the plant apparatus, furniture, and stores shows an increase of between £39,000 and £40,000, due to the additional number of telegraph stations installed on board ships during the year, after making the customary substantial allowance for depreciation upon all installations fitted in previous years. The debtor balance shows an increase of some £13,000 to £14,000, consistently with the growth of the business. The available cash represented by cash at bankers and loans against securities is less than the preceding year, in consequence of the considerable sum, to which I have already referred, which has been added to plant in the shape of additional stations installed. Turning to the profit and loss account, it will be observed that, in consequence of the bigger business, expenses and salaries show an increase over the figures of the preceding year, but it will be satisfactory to note that these figures have not increased in the same ratio as the increase of business. While each new installation entails additional salaries to operators, the establishment costs of the complete world-wide organisation increase but slightly. The revenue on the other side shows an increase amounting to between £28,000 and £29,000. I would point out, however, that, in consequence of the outbreak of war, the receipts from ships' telegrams and news services during the last five months of the year suffered very materially. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind that ours is not the nature of business which derives any advantage in consequence of war, I think you will agree that the result of the year's operations is the more satisfactory. It shows a continuous development year by year of a sound and growing organisation. The net profit for the year, £55,668 1s. 1d., after deducting £28,000 8s. 10d. for depreciation and debenture interest, will, I am sure, be regarded as highly satisfactory. This sum, added to the amount carried forward from the preceding year of £6,067 13s. 10d., leaves an available balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £64,855 14s. 11d. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. has already been paid, and it is now recommended that a final dividend of 5 per cent. in respect of the year 1914 should be declared, making 10 per cent. for the year. As you have been informed in the report, some loss has been sustained in consequence of the destruction of ships by enemy submarines, and, having regard to the fact that this method of warfare continues, your directors have thought it desirable to place a sum of £10,000 to a special reserve account to provide for any eventualities, as being the prudent course, although they contemplate that compensation will be received. After allocating a further sum of £3,500 to the repayment of debenture account, there will remain an amount of £20,747 6s. 11d., which it is recommended should be carried forward, in order that the company shall have at its disposal ample cash resources. Every week we are adding new installations, entailing additional capital expenditure, but, nevertheless, adding steadily to the growth of our revenue. At the end of last year we had installed and were operating 905 telegraph stations upon the high seas. Up to June 19 this year the number had increased to 970, and contracts continue to be entered into in much the same ratio. It is with very great regret that we have to record the deaths of two of our colleagues, General Albert Thys, of Brussels, and Major Samuel Flood Page. These two gentlemen were associated with the company from its very earliest days. At no time before, perhaps, has the value of Mr. Marconi's invention and the utility of this company's organisation been more prominently emphasised than since the outbreak of war, and when peace once more obtains an interesting chapter may be written of the part played by the 2,000 Marconi stations fitted upon the vessels of the mercantile marine under the control and management of the Marconi companies. Our great thanks are due to our manager, Mr. Bradfield, and the other members of the staff, who have so ably handled our business during very difficult times; and the greatest appreciation is due to our magnificent army of telegraph operators, who have unflinchingly carried out their duties on board ship. As an instance, I would mention the operator of the *Armenian*, Mr. Swift, whose cabin was blown

Modderfontein B.—40,000 tons, £78,961; profit, £45,921 (May, £50,254).  
 Modderfontein Deep Levels.—34,200 tons, £58,589; profit, £30,242 (May, £29,214).  
 Mongu (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 35 tons.  
 Mount Boppy.—Clean up from 6,660 tons, 1,669 ozs.; cyanide, 285 ozs.; slimes, 1,293 ozs.; concentrates, 150 ozs. (fine); total, 3,397 ozs.; value, £10,165.  
 Mysore.—23,764 tons, 13,855 ozs.; sands, 2,328 ozs.; slimes, 2,418 ozs.; total, 18,601 ozs., equivalent to 16,937 ozs. fine gold.  
 New Goch.—30,350 tons, £28,445; profit, £7,123 (May, £8,724).  
 New Heriot.—13,000 tons, 5,479 oz.; profit, £8,756 (May, £9,019).  
 New Kleinfontein.—52,800 tons, 16,310 ozs.; profit, £22,103 (May, £23,007).  
 New Modderfontein.—51,000 tons, £109,715; profit, £64,947 (May, £61,171).  
 New Primrose.—21,900 tons, £20,802; profit, £7,463 (May, £7,356).  
 New Rietfontein.—8,241 tons, £6,728; loss, £200 (May, profit, £37).  
 New Unified.—13,150 tons, £13,490; profit, £5,177 (May, £5,262).  
 Nigel.—11,300 tons, 3,728 ozs.; profit, £1,460 (May, £978).  
 North Anantapur.—2,400 tons, 992 ozs. fine gold; tailings, 162 ozs.; plate scrapings, 388 ozs.  
 North Broken Hill.—Last week produced 1,260 tons concentrates, containing 747 tons 16 cwt. lead, and 28,476 ozs. silver.  
 Northern Nigerian (Bauchi) Tin.—Output, 40 tons; despatched 16 tons.  
 Nourse.—53,300 tons, £70,102; profit, £16,356 (May, £15,278).  
 Nundydroog.—7,800 tons, 5,995 ozs.; tailings, 553 ozs.; slimes, 671 ozs.  
 Ooregum.—12,540 tons, 6,178 ozs.; sand and slimes, 1,657 ozs.; total, 7,835 ozs., equal to 7,075 ozs. fine gold.  
 Pahang Consolidated.—Tons of ore treated, 14,000; tons of black tin produced, 215; alluvial, 13 tons.  
 Pigg's Peak Development.—Tonnage, 2,880; loss, £125.  
 Princess Estate.—21,700 tons, £27,923; profit, £54 (May, £663).  
 Progress of N.Z.—3,200 tons ore; value, £4,044; profit, £983.  
 Randfontein Central.—207,845 tons, 27,347 ozs.; cyanide, 28,209 ozs.; profit, £57,089 (May, £52,317).  
 Rayfield (Nigeria) Tin.—50 tons; shipped, 40 tons.  
 Robinson Deep.—57,000 tons, £76,010; profit, £25,203 (May, £25,331).  
 Robinson.—57,800 tons, £82,645; profit, £43,637 (May, £49,512).  
 Roodepoort United.—32,198 tons, £29,423; profit, £1,504 (May, £1,580).  
 Rose Deep.—66 tons, £81,184; profit, £26,628 (May, £27,163).  
 St. John del Rey.—Gold produce £39,000; yield per ton, 46s. 9d.  
 Sheba.—6,300 tons, 2,213 ozs.; profit, £1,000.  
 Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—72,300 tons, yielded £74,798; profit, £30,169 (May, £28,689).  
 Simmer Deep.—63,100 tons, yielded £51,562; profit, £5,753 (May, £5,742).  
 Sons of Gwalia.—13,542 tons, yielding £20,311.  
 South Crofty.—Crushed 5,902 tons, yield £7,212; recovery of tin and wolfram per ton crushed, 23.7 lbs.  
 South Kalgurli Consolidated.—9,630 tons, 2,922 ozs.; value, £12,387; surplus, £2,399.  
 Sub Nigel.—5,950 tons, yielding £11,447; profit, £1,406.  
 Sudan.—1,482 tons, 978 ozs.; cyanide, 1,900 tons, 190 ozs.; total, 1,168 ozs.  
 Sulphide Corporation.—Four weeks ended May 15, 20,287 tons ore milled, producing 3,483 tons lead concentrates, which assayed 35 ozs. silver, 64 per cent. lead per ton, together with 5,754 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 16 ozs. silver, 8 per cent. lead, 46 per cent. zinc per ton; 265 tons lead concentrates produced in de-leading plant, assaying 41 ozs. silver, 53 per cent. lead per ton; 5,535 tons lead concentrates and purchased ores smelted, producing 2,689 tons lead bullion, containing 3,545 ozs. gold, 194,544 ozs. silver.  
 Transvaal Gold Estates.—12,465 tons; profit, £15,923 (May, £10,817).  
 Tronoh.—165 tons tin ore; value, £16,450. Dredge produced 28 tons tin ore, which are included above.  
 Tronoh South.—25 tons tin ore; value, £2,500.  
 Van Ryn.—37,650 tons, £46,071; profit, £19,480 (May, £19,093).  
 Van Ryn Deep.—42,650 tons, £79,236; profit, £44,380 (May, £42,570).  
 Village Deep.—51,500 tons, £77,986; profit, £28,388 (May, £26,811).  
 Village Main Reef.—31,000 tons, £51,567; profit, £23,347 (May, £23,991).  
 Wanderer (Selukwe).—Treated 11,400 tons; profit, £566.  
 Western Australian Gold Yield.—The gold output for the month of June, including amounts exported and locally minted, amounted to 101,309 fine ounces, being an increase of 294 fine ounces for a similar period last year. The export and mint returns for the quarter ended June 30 last amounted to 307,588 fine ounces, being an increase of 1,360 fine ounces for the similar quarter in 1914.  
 West Rand Consolidated.—30,750 tons, £38,297; profit, £9,418 (May, £7,585).  
 Witwatersrand.—43,100 tons, £53,038; profit, £24,392 (May, £25,083).  
 Witwatersrand Deep.—42,880 tons, £55,272; profit, £18,321 (May, £22,205).  
 Wolfram Mining and Smelting.—Output of wolfram, 27 tons.  
 Woluter.—34,900 tons, £42,450; profit, £14,023 (May, £14,458).



to pieces by shell fire, but who stood to his duty to the end, and I am glad to say was miraculously saved and is unhurt. Again, all will probably have read of the admirable conduct of the operators on the *Lusitania*, who never left their wireless cabin until the hurricane deck alone remained above water. These incidents are merely typical of many which have occurred in the mercantile marine. Upon the outbreak of war we called upon our operators for volunteers to serve, as operators, both in the Navy and the Army, and there are some 400 of our men now in those services. We regret to have to record the death of five of them, who went down with their ships or were killed in action. On more than one occasion the Admiralty have expressed their satisfaction and appreciation of the resource and courage displayed by our men.

Captain Henry Riall Sankey, R.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### GENERAL ELECTRIC.

The ordinary general meeting of the General Electric Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Hugo Hirst (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. K. Alwood) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I little realised that within a very few weeks of my last year's statement we should be put to the test. The balance-sheet before you proves that we have acted up to our intentions. A company such as ours, with its factories and branches distributed over the country, and, indeed, throughout the Empire, has a pulse which beats in perfect unison with that of our country. Every excitement and shock, whether good or bad, which befalls the nation shows corresponding symptoms within our own organisation. Every abnormal movement noticeable in the country since the outbreak of war has recorded its imprint on us, and for this reason I venture to think that a summary of our experiences, arranged chronologically, might be of interest to you. On August 3, Bank Holiday, the Government desired prompt execution of emergency orders, and for this the immediate return of our staff to certain works was essential. The few days of financial unsettlement which followed the outbreak of hostilities did not seem to affect materially the electrical industry, while the month of August, which with us is generally the quietest month of the year, became one of the busiest. It appeared that factors and the trade, fearing a shortage of supplies, decided to fill up their stocks, and consequently indulged in overbuying. The reduction of our stock, as compared with last year, is largely due to this policy on the part of the trade, and owing to our reduction of output in consequence of the shrinkage of labour and lack of raw material, we have not as yet been able sufficiently to replenish. Our considerable export business was partially checked owing to difficulties of freight and insurance and also by our desire to safeguard the supplies for the home market. Early in September we suffered severely by well-meant but ill-conceived attacks by a portion of the Press on the Osram Lamp Works, Ltd., Hammersmith, with which we are so intimately associated, owing to the prevalence in that company of German capital. Our critics did not then sufficiently distinguish between German-owned trading concerns and factories established in this country which were useful and essential to national purposes. The importance of the Hammersmith works, not only to ourselves, but also to the Government and the country, is very great, and it is therefore exceedingly gratifying to us to announce that a way has been found, with the knowledge of the Treasury and the Public Trustee, which will give the future control of these works, I trust for ever, into British hands. By the end of September or the beginning of October we felt the first effects of the depletion of our staff and workpeople. We have arranged to keep open all the positions of those who have enlisted, and to pay 50 per cent. of the salary to the dependents of all married men, to make special allowances to a certain number of unmarried men who have relatives dependent upon them, and to set aside 10 per cent. of the salary of all unmarried men other than above, so that they may have some cash reserve on their return to civil life. In order to keep our accounts clear for the purpose of comparison, we have decided to deal with these allowances, not under the heading of ordinary expenses, but under "war grants," as shown as a special item on the balance-sheet. This item, which is bound to be much larger in the ensuing year, includes also special donations for war purposes to various national institutions. When I say it is bound to be greater, it must be apparent that the 1,000 men did not all enlist in one day. They gradually enlisted. The last financial year included only eight months of war, whereas this year might include twelve months. Therefore that amount must be very considerable next year, and it would not be fair to the shareholders if these items were mixed up with ordinary trading items. It was not until the end of October that we realised what great quantities of our normal productions were required for war purposes. Without specifying quantities or individual amounts, it may interest you to know that up to date direct orders from Government Departments and indirect war orders from Government contractors amounted to the end of March to fully half a million sterling. The list of products is one of which we are exceedingly proud, because it contains a number of items which only this company can produce, items which are of the most momentous importance both to the Admiralty and to the War Office, manufactured at some of our

works which have been the least remunerative in the past owing to foreign competition. The time is not yet opportune to make a statement of recent developments referring to this subject, but whenever that moment arrives it will be a fine page in the history of our company and a lesson, I trust, to the country at large. We have, in addition, lately started the manufacture of certain types of shells, and arrangements are in progress to make ourselves thoroughly efficient in this department. The company is fortunately in so strong a position that should there be in the immediate future, owing to exceptional circumstances, a reduction of profits, we shall quickly be able to make good, after victory has been achieved, when those markets which are now being starved call for replenishments from British works. Although the year shows a progress in profits, the absorption of some £22,000 extra for dividends, owing to the increase of capital, has somewhat affected certain other items in the appropriation. These are so obvious that I do not dwell on them. The Pirelli-General cable works are completed and have started manufacturing for certain Government contracts, but, owing to conditions of labour, it may be quite some time before these works can be considered as being in full swing. The state of our finances has enabled us to invest £100,000 in the first War Loan, and shareholders may be interested to learn that we have since converted this into new War Loan, and have, in addition, applied for a further £100,000 of the latter, making up our total holding to £200,000. We are justified in hoping that we shall be able to hold the bulk of this stock for a number of years.

Mr. E. G. Byng (vice-chairman) seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried after a few congratulatory remarks.

### NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

The 43rd ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at 17, Moorgate Street, Mr. Robert Logan, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary and London manager (Mr. Henry F. Freshwater) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, after referring to the splendid conduct of the New Zealand and Australian forces which had been sent to the assistance of the Motherland, stated that of the company's own staff 34 men in New Zealand and 11 men from the head office were serving with the colours. Continuing, he observed that the proprietors were, of course, aware that the company's banking year commenced on April 1 and ended on March 31. For the first four months their business did not present any features of particular importance. In August and September they suffered in common with all other institutions. Since then their business had been exceedingly good, though under altered conditions. New Zealand was primarily and chiefly an agricultural country, and they would recognise what that meant when he told them that the exports of produce last year amounted to about 27½ millions sterling, as compared with 23½ millions in the previous year. The imports into New Zealand, on the other hand, showed a decrease from 22½ to nearly 20½ millions, so that the surplus of exports of the Dominion, which last year amounted to £1,150,000, increased to about £7,000,000 in the year ending March 31 last. New Zealand had had since the war began a period of unexampled prosperity. The area under fruit, chiefly apples, in 1910 was 31,700 acres, and in 1914 42,300 acres. One hundred tons to the acre was below the average, yet that gave a million trees added in four years, and when six years old each tree should yield 20s. a tree. He then referred to the principal items in the balance-sheet, and remarked that their paid-up capital remained, and was likely to remain for some time, at £750,000. Their reserve fund, with the appropriation now proposed, would amount to £685,000. Almost the whole of that sum was invested in securities, and the directors had ascertained their present value with what accuracy they could. To the best of their belief they had brought the securities well within the valuation at which they were stated in the accounts. There was, however, a question which they had to consider—namely, whether it was advisable to continue year after year to make such large additions to their published reserve fund, and whether they should not, in common with certain other Australian banks, restrict their investments and use a certain portion of the reserve fund in their business. Their investments had largely increased, and the increase was entirely accounted for by their investments in the War Loan and in Treasury bills. The profit and loss account spoke for itself. An increase of £17,000 in gross and of nearly £5,000 in nett profit was in the circumstances very satisfactory, and the improvement would have been greater had it not been for the unavoidable increases in income-tax, amounting to £3,716, and in note tax and land tax in New Zealand, which accounted for very nearly £5,000 more. The nett result as regarded their profit and its allocation was set out in the report. The dividend and bonus were paid free of income-tax, but he did not think they could continue to do so. As regarded the outlook, he was afraid he must confess to being very much in the dark. If the war should continue into the next export season of the Dominion, it must further enhance the value of the Dominion exports, while, should an earlier peace ensue, it would leave the economic conditions of Europe so disorganised that for a time a great demand must still exist for New Zealand produce.

Mr. Thomas Seaber seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.



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## Passing Events.

Revenue for the 10 days ended July 10 amounted to £6,624,407, or some £600,000 more than for the corresponding period a year ago, which, however, covered 11 days. Of this year's total £1,111,000 was provided by Customs, £536,000 by Excise, £1,084,000 by death duties, £403,000 by stamps, £1,690,000 by income-tax, and £1,800,000 by the Post Office. In addition, £2,214,000 was received in Ways and Means borrowings, making the total receipts £8,838,407. Expenditure, however, came to £40,302,628, or over £4,000,000 a day, Supply service alone taking £35,770,491, and the National Debt service £4,058,038. Further, £250,000 was issued under the Housing Act, 1914, but Treasury bills (nett amount) were reduced by £44,000, the total outgo being £40,508,628. Exchequer balances were therefore reduced by no less than £31,670,221 to £36,024,263.

One of the most interesting developments of the European War, so far as the trade of South Africa is concerned, has been the unprecedented growth of the wool trade with the United States. While there have been occasional shipments of wool to America in the past, sales have been comparatively small because of the shortness of the fibre. With the cutting off of America's supply of foreign wool through the usual trade channels, and with the adaptation of weaving machinery to shorter-fibre wool, a market has developed in the United States that has proved a great help to breeders of sheep in South Africa. During the closing months of 1914 the British Government prohibited the shipment of wool from South Africa to any but British ports, which action caused an almost complete stagnation in the wool business, but since early in January this ban has been removed, and lately, with the advancing prices paid by American buyers and the procuring of vessels, a stream of shipments has set in for America that is unprecedented. One reason for the greater activity on the part of American buyers is the change in tariff rates made last year, but the chief reason, as already stated, is the European War. The question of occasional sailings from South Africa to America direct has been frequently raised during the past few years. The war has made numerous changes in international commercial circles, but none

more marked, from the South African standpoint, than that which has occurred in connection with the market in raw wools. Great Britain has been taking practically all South African wools of medium to better grade, while Germany has taken the bulk of low-grade wools. During the present wool season American buyers have taken heavy amounts of fair to good grade wools, such purchases, it is estimated, amounting in value to fully a million sterling.

To the glancing eye the war events of the week now closing may seem insignificant, or mere purposeless murder, causing people to feel dissatisfied. The wonder of many, indeed, increases that we should be spending so much money and getting no apparent results except casualties. Happily there are not many influential persons or classes afflicted with this pessimism, and even the fall-of-Troy howls of the Harmsworth Press seem to be dying down. Perhaps its conductors are beginning to realise that they have gone as far astray as in the Peking massacres. Assuredly the nation is not at all pessimistic, and as for our now magnificent Army, it is eager and ready for something to be done to end this war in a manner triumphant for the Allies and up to the measure of the sacrifices implied in our enormous musters of men-at-arms and expenditure upon instruments of destruction. Neither nation nor Army will now have to wait very long. The war boils, as we might say, are gathering to a head, and must burst before long in a great cataclysm of devastation all over Europe.

In reality the preparation for this mighty, and we hope supreme, conflict is going on everywhere at unexampled speed, and the manœuvres and attacks daily chronicled by the Press or recorded in official despatches are merely preludes to, let us hope, a conclusive trial of strength between the Allies and their implacable foes. They weaken daily; we daily grow stronger. A certain irritation is caused day by day to the public by the contradictory statements put forth by the Allies and the Hohenzollern and Habsburg officials, but let us not disturb ourselves. All goes smoothly behind the battle lines, and we should cultivate serenity of mind, remembering that Teutonic lying must grow in intensity as the hour of final judgment by ordeal of battle draws near. If not kept deluded even the Kaiser's dupes might



"strike," and refuse to come and be killed to poultice his conscious vanity any longer. That would not do yet at all, at all. At the worst the still Hun-confident Germans would appear to be trying our containing fronts at various points in order if possible to discover the most penetrable spot. In this hopeless quest they continue to waste enormous quantities of ammunition and to lose thousands of men. On the Italian frontier the Austrians are continuing to get the worst of it, in spite of all their boastings about defeats of the Italians, capture of prisoners, ammunition, and so forth. And as to the Polish theatre of war, it is surely now becoming obvious to the least hopeful mind that the Germans have once more been baffled. As long as they were able to utilise railways they rushed forward in millions with the utmost fury, but now that they are away in a wild, almost roadless country, their very artillery, on whose victory-ensuring power they had far more faith than in the Almighty, is proving a source of embarrassment to them, and the devil himself would be at a loss to know how the bogged and forest-bewitched phalanxes are being fed. Von Mackensen has been held up for three weeks, baffled probably, and the latest report is that a new movement has been organised to bear down on the Russians east of Warsaw from the north.

It will be countered and defeated, like all the rest, we have no doubt at all, and meanwhile France and the United Kingdom are profoundly indebted to the steadfastness of the Russian armies, whose resolute fighting and capacity to bear the disappointments of retreat, with killing powers unimpaired, are holding as in a death-grip millions of Austro-German troops, the best elements in which might otherwise have been set free to make one more desperate and despairing effort to overwhelm us in the West. From every point in the arena of war, therefore, the augurs are in our favour, and in the Dardanelles the progress—in slaughter, at least, as well as in trench capture—is such as to give increased encouragement to those who look for an early destruction of all that remains of the Turkish Empire.

A subject upon which the Government is, so far as we can judge, right and the clamourers wrong, is cotton. In a speech of marked lucidity of thought and clearness of exposition, Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Foreign Secretary, explained in the House of Commons last Monday afternoon the difficulties that stood in the way of putting cotton on the contraband list. These difficulties arose from the position of neutral countries. Had we only Germany to deal with, it would be comparatively easy to stop her imports of cotton, just as we have to a great extent stopped those of copper, but "it is part of the great and essential difficulty," said Lord Robert, "that you have not the command of every route into Germany." Some of the routes go through neutral countries, and it is to deal with cotton going into Germany through neutral countries that difficulties arise, making it hard to decide whether cotton should be declared contraband or not. Much has been done, however, and we think the Opposition should wait to see how the compact with the Merchants' Trust in Holland acts in enabling us to stop supplies of cotton to Germany. That Netherlands Oversea Trust has apparently assumed its duties with the assent of United States cotton exporters, and Holland runs very considerable risk by allowing it to perform such delicate functions. Were Germany to not win in this war, but arrive at a "draw," whereby its fleet would be liberated, it might in a few years be able to have its revenge on Holland and try to seize the Dutch colonies in the East. The eventuality must be made impossible, but it is not so yet. Meanwhile, Sir Henry Dalziel hammers away, and was the provoker of this last debate over making cotton contraband. He suggested the purchase of the American exports of cotton designed to go to Austria and Germany. It could be done, he thought, for £30,000,000, and "what is that to a country spending £3,000,000 per day on the war?" The argument looks

specious, but Lord Robert Cecil pointed out that the purchase of this portion would not altogether stop supplies to the Germans, because it would not cover the whole crop. What hindrance would such an operation put in the way of American speculators who, seeing their chance to make money by the excessive prices, offered and sent the rest of their cotton to our enemy? That the question, however, is one not only of extreme delicacy but of high importance is demonstrated by the following statistics with which Sir Henry supported his demand in what was a very able speech:—"The imports of American cotton from August 31 to April 30, 1913-14, to Holland amounted to 32,870 bales, and in 1914-15 to 413,820 bales. To Denmark in 1913-14 no bales at all, and in 1914-15, 65,370 bales. To Norway, 60 bales before the war, in 1913-14, and 107,400 bales in 1914-15. To Sweden, 24,930 bales before the war, from August 31, 1913, to April 30, 1914, and 735,510 bales after the war. . . . There is another rather interesting fact. I do not know whether the Government have got these figures at the present moment. I have taken them from the *Cotton Gazette* of Liverpool, which is absolutely right. The exports of cotton yarn during June, 1914, to Norway was 218,700 lbs., and in June, 1915, 348,300 lbs. To Sweden, in June, 1913, 108,900 lbs., and in June, 1915, 260,800 lbs. To Denmark, 106,400 lbs., and in June, 1915, 204,700 lbs. To the Netherlands in June, 1914, 3,200,800 lbs., and in June, 1915, 4,493,300 lbs. In June, 1915, in addition, we sent to Greece 2,000,000 yards of cotton manufactures more than in the corresponding month for the year before, and 3,500,000 yards more than in the corresponding month of 1913. We sent 132,000 yards of cotton manufactures to Turkey as late as June, 1915. I think these facts, which are absolutely reliable, seem to call for some attention and some explanation on the part of the Government."

Judging by what we have heard and the number of communications which come to us, our article on the *Daily Mail* and its vicious agitation against the Government or against individual public men, lately its pets, appears to have excited unusual interest. As that paper, as well as others belonging to the same family, appears to have become less aggressively anti-patriotic for the moment, we need not approach the muddy neighbourhood again, but there was one observation made, founded upon the Harmsworth parade of the *Daily Mail* circulation, which seems to call for a word. That circulation was bragged about as having averaged 1,104,222 copies per day for the whole of the month of June, showing a reduction of little more than 123,000 a day on the May average. The figures were published within a day or two of the month's end, were made up on July 2, and certified as correct next day by two firms of accountants. That the accountants reported the truth as it was revealed to them is beyond doubt, but that the figures presented to them as base for their certificate were partly estimates seems to be equally certain. We were told, in fact, that an order or "tip" had been sent out to newsgagents to hold back their June returns until a later date, thus making the sales appear to be, by the publishers' books, greater than they actually were. We have tested that story, and can find no confirmation of it. It is highly improbable, indeed, because whatever else they may be, the Harmsworths are too sharp in business to give themselves away in any such fashion. The following letter, however, puts a query which suggests a much more natural method of hoodwinking the public. It is signed "A City Man and a Constant Reader," and says: "I have read with real interest your outspoken article entitled, '*Daily Mail* Malignity,' and can assure you that the City is with you in the good work such an article is likely to accomplish. But had you said a word to your publisher you would have been spared the giving to the *Daily Mail* an advertisement which it does not merit. You have seen the figures which they published on July 2 as their sales up to June 30. How could they get the June returns in so quickly? I was told it took a



month to know what the returns for a given month would be. Why not ask in your next issue just the plain question, do these figures include the returns for June? Were all June returns in when the figures were published? We fear the answer to this last question must be "No"—at least the information gathered by us from various important news agencies in London leads us to this conclusion. One agent said that in the present state of railway traffic returns of copies unsold may not come back from outlying districts within two months, and certainly a very sensible proportion must be at least one month in arrear. What is the inference to be drawn from statements of this kind? That Messrs. Harmsworth were mocking us when they headed the outburst of jubilation with which they accompanied their curious figures, "The Truth will Out"? Out at the back-door they must have meant.

We are glad to see that a Committee on Public Expenditure is about to be formed, and hope it will be constituted solely with a view to creating a real check upon waste. In answer to Sir Arthur Markham, Mr. Asquith said on Wednesday that the Committee is to be presided over by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "who will have associated with him competent colleagues from outside the Government." The sooner that Committee gets to work the better, because, if independent and strong, if actuated also by the spirit of patriotism which seems to have distinguished Mr. Le Bas in serving the Government vigorously at his own cost, it should be able to stop many channels of waste and to root out not a few abuses of the liberty to spend which it would not be expedient in the present crisis of our national life to drag before the public. As a whole, the nation is animated by a very fine spirit of patriotism, but it is a spirit in which there is much alloy amongst multitudes of those who see their chance of making gain out of the nation's extremity. The alloy must be taken care of, driven out.

A copy of Mr. Frederic William Wile's little book called "The German-American Plot," issued at 1s. nett by Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., has come into our hands, and we hasten to recommend it for general reading at the present juncture. Most of the matter it contains was first published in the *Daily Mail*, and was read by us as it appeared with interest and profit. The articles were well worth reprinting, and should help those who are perplexed at the present time by the hesitancy of the United States Administration in Washington—and the seeming scrupulously negative attitude of the President—to form a better opinion of their cousins across the Pond. In his fifteenth chapter called "A Retrospect," Mr. Wile says: "During a period of roughly six weeks I traversed that part of the United States lying between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, a region accounting easily for 65 to 70 per cent. of the population of the entire country. On the basis of a painstaking inquiry I proclaim confidently that the cause of the Allies in America is invulnerably safe." That is a most valuable testimony, and it is rendered all the more reliable by the accompaniment of lucid descriptions of German machinations within the Republic. Nothing is too cunning or mean, or underhand, or brutally unscrupulous for the expatriated Germans living there to do or attempt. "Cant, bluster, intrigue, and intimidation," as Mr. Wile says, have "roared and stormed as impotently as the onslaughts of the Kaiser's guards on the iron lines of Joffre and French." The book begins by describing the German plot either to intimidate the politicians of the Republic or to draw them over to their side, as far at least as to break the Administration's neutrality, and goes on to deal with the agencies employed, to describe the agents and their processes, and to recount the failure of German *kultur* to debase the moral attitude of the great American nation. One of the favourite devices, at least in the early part of the moral poison-gas campaign, was to enlist disgruntled Irishmen as advocates of the German cause. It failed as completely as all the others.

Discontented workmen in this country might do worse than read a description of the "model" town attached to the great Krupp instruments of murder factory in Essen. It is written by Mr. Robert Hunter, and is described as "a type of German feudalism." After reading it our men might ask whether their recalcitrancy in the present national crisis is not dangerous to their future. How would they like to be held in slavery as the Krupp workmen are? These are fed, are provided with recreation-rooms, dining-rooms, an excellent library, a well-equipped gymnasium, and several bathing establishments. Schools are organised where more than 2,000 girls, all daughters of the workmen, are taught household duties, &c., and evening schools carried on where a great number of boys "practically serve their apprenticeship." Hospitals, too, have been organised, and the workmen get pensions under the Government's compulsory insurance scheme, but the price paid for all this is moral and, one may say, intellectual slavery as deadly as that which used to, and perhaps still does, tyrannise over the blacks in the De Beers mines compounds at Kimberley and elsewhere. Notwithstanding the "philanthropy" of the Krupps and the comparative comfort of their existence the workmen do consider themselves in helpless bondage to their employers, says the writer of the article. "The German workman," he adds, "has a rope about his neck, and is to-day being driven to battle." Do our workmen desire to come to a position like that?

The Capital and Counties Bank, Ltd., which dates from 1834, is one of the few great English joint-stock banks which makes up its year at June 30. Its report now to hand shows an increase of £38,008 in the gross profit, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and deducting rebate. This makes the figure £917,689, but as expenses increased £42,960 to £581,234, the actual nett profit is £4,952 lower at £336,455. Adding, however, the balance brought forward, which was £13,519 better at £103,451, the clear total of £439,906 thus reached is £8,567 up. In existing circumstances this increase, though satisfactory, evidently does not in the minds of the directors warrant a repetition of last year's dividend. Accordingly, the distribution for the past year is 14 per cent. per annum, less tax, or 2 per cent. less than what was paid for 1913-14, also less tax. An assignment of £20,000 is again made in reduction of cost of premises, and £100,000 is taken from the balance of profits left to write down cost of investments, a prudent use to make of the spare profit arising through limitation of the dividend. These assignments made, £74,906, or £28,545 less than was brought in, will be left to carry forward. This time there is no bonus of £17,888 paid to the staff, nor £10,000 set aside to the superannuation fund, as was the case a year ago. We are sorry for this, because the actual staff and the old servants need the money quite as much, perhaps, as many of the shareholders. It may be, however, that the profits of the current year will enable the board to compensate their staff for the loss. Owing to the death of the chairman, Mr. E. B. Merriman, who for 30 years presided at the board, and also of Mr. J. C. Daubuz, who had been a director of the bank since 1902, Major Eliot G. Bromley-Martin and Sir Richard Charles Garton have been elected to seats on the board, while Mr. William Garfit, formerly deputy-chairman, has succeeded Mr. Merriman, Sir Henry Kimber, Bart., becoming deputy-chairman. The balance-sheet shows an increase of £7,000,367 in the liabilities on current, deposit, and other accounts, raising them to £47,885,909, but the cross-entry, acceptances, is down £618,293 to £1,046,514. Cash in hand, including money with the Bank of England, shows an increase of £2,988,630 at £9,336,489, and call and short notice money has risen by £2,065,873 to £8,583,264, the two items together being £5,054,503 larger at £17,919,753, a mass of money and short credit eloquent of the restrictions war has caused in general business. On the other hand, investments in British Government securities have risen £3,605,601 to £6,349,200, chiefly



through an investment of £3,727,990 made in the 3½ per cent. War Stock and taken into the accounts at 95. Other marketable securities held by the bank are Indian Government, British Railway, and Colonial Government stocks, down £352,436 to £1,556,334, and English Corporation stocks and other investments, which show a reduction of £80,102 at £637,142. Adding these to the Government stocks held, we get a total of £8,542,676, which is £3,173,063 more than that shown a year ago. It is stated in a note to the balance-sheet that provision made for depreciation, mentioned on the liabilities side without giving the figure, is sufficient to write these investments down to the official minimum prices, or prices quoted in the Official List or by brokers at June 30, 1915, and that is a satisfactory announcement. Bills, loans, &c., including pre-mortgage Stock Exchange loans, show a reduction of £1,276,525 at £22,982,131, but premises are £20,782 up at £1,066,235, and the total of the balance-sheet is £6,346,503 higher at £51,565,703.

After meeting all charges, including the usual allowances to the pension fund and bank premises account, the nett profits of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, Ltd., were just £11,328 less for the June half-year at £241,638 than for the first half of 1914. Gross profit was £73,467 higher at £864,375, and the balance brought forward was also £21,481 better at £201,561, so that the entire amount at credit was £94,948 up at £1,065,936. Unfortunately interest allowed to customers came to £62,214 more than for the first half of last year at £307,624, current expenses too absorbed £14,282 more at £257,364, and the allowance for rebate on bills not yet due has increased by £8,299 to £57,749, so that in the end the balance remaining to be treated as realised nett profit is only £10,153 better at £443,199. From this the directors draw away enough to pay a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to income-tax, but this time no 2 per cent. bonus (or 3s. 1½d. per share) is forthcoming. Instead the board carefully devotes £150,000 to depreciation in the value of investments, thereby reducing the sum carried to the current half-year by £98,757 to £133,616. The balance-sheet total has expanded £5,545,633 compared with a year ago, and now aggregates £56,844,515, the liability on deposit having increased by no less than £8,423,025 to £48,994,683. Of that large total £32,429,357 or £5,628,829 more is current account balances, while the increase in deposit account liabilities is £2,794,196, making them £16,565,329. Acceptances and guarantees have declined £2,744,426 to £1,899,502. Cash in hand has risen £612,955 to £3,801,674, and money in the Bank of England £3,910,130 to £7,206,782, so that altogether £11,008,456, or nearly 20 per cent., of the bank's total assets, was in hand or in the Bank of England on June 30 last. Including the reserve the investments are of a total value of £9,171,081, which is £2,340,571 more than a year back. Some investments have been unloaded to the amount of over £650,000, but the holdings in British Government securities are £2,989,775 higher at £4,723,020. Bills discounted show an increase of £194,420 at £6,350,040, those of three months' usance and under being down £392,464 to £4,610,465, and those exceeding three months £587,366 higher at £1,739,575. Loans and advances have expanded £47,573 to £18,276,117, and bank premises are larger in value by £7,783 at £1,529,902. A most clear and full balance-sheet, as usual.

Owing to the incorporation of the figures of Robarts, Lubbock and Co. in the balance of Coutts and Co. for the period ended June 30 several important changes have taken place. The partners' capital, for instance, is larger by £200,000 at £800,000, and reserve has risen £300,000 to £700,000, making a total of £1,500,000, or £500,000 more; while bank premises are £120,300 higher at £340,300. Turning to the items dealing with the actual business done, we find an advance of £3,422,087 in current and deposit

accounts, bringing them up to £12,897,736, but acceptances form a cross-entry £185,790 smaller at £129,367. There is an increase of £1,230,562 to £2,415,522 in cash and of £1,213,090 to £2,570,417 in money at call and short notice, the amount reached by the addition of these two items being £2,443,652 larger than a year ago at £4,985,939. Investments *in toto* come to £640,696 more at £3,501,440, the decrease of £276,243 to £1,487,281 in Indian Government securities, corporation stocks, &c., having been more than offset by the increase of £916,939 to £2,014,159 in British Government stocks. Bills discounted and loans are £717,439 up at £5,570,057, and the balance-sheet aggregate is now £3,736,296 larger at £14,527,102 than it was at July 18, 1914.

Last year's balance-sheet and profit and loss statement of the Bank of Liverpool, Ltd., covering the 12 months ended June 30 show large changes, but it must not be forgotten that they include the figures of the North-Eastern Banking Co., Ltd., which was acquired at the beginning of the bank's year. It would seem from the facts given and the profit and loss statement that the purchase has proved to be a satisfactory one. Gross profits came altogether to £698,474, including £35,058 brought forward by the Bank of Liverpool and £11,497 transferred from the North-Eastern Banking Co., Ltd., at July, 1914. Nett profits for the year were £23,313 higher at £363,938, and the balance brought forward in the Bank of Liverpool account was £22,649 better, so that altogether there was £410,493 to dispose of. Out of this the directors have again paid 15 per cent. for the year, less tax, by giving a final 8 per cent. Also £75,000 has been transferred to the investment reserve, or £46,500 more than a year ago, but nothing, as against £25,000 from the Bank of Liverpool's profits a year ago, was added to the ordinary reserve, and no mention was made of bank premises or the pension fund of the North-Eastern Co., which a year ago got respectively £4,078 and £3,000. Against these omissions, however, the balance of £75,409 left to carry forward shows an increase of £28,555. At the commencement of the year the Bank of Liverpool reserve fund stood at £875,000, and to it was added during the year £180,000, representing the reserve fund of the North-Eastern Banking Co., making £1,055,000 in all. Unfortunately, the directors have now had to transfer £155,000 from this handsome reserve to the investment reserve account, so that in the new balance-sheet the reserve figures at £900,000. But this money transferred is not money lost, it simply enables the board to write down the bank's investments in the books to "below the lowest ascertainable price at June 30," which is a wholly prudent step. Various changes in the directorate, which we need not go into, have taken place in consequence of the amalgamation, but in the result four new directors have been appointed during the year whose election will come up for confirmation at the annual meeting. Among these four is Mr. W. H. Hustler, a member of the North-Eastern Local Board, who has been appointed in lieu of the late Sir Stephen Furness, whose lamented death occurred before he could take his seat. Balance-sheet changes are illustrative of the effect of the amalgamation. The paid-up capital, for example, has increased £320,865 to £1,733,365, while the liability on current, deposit, and other accounts, including the bank's acceptances, show an increase of £9,832,695 at £35,196,884. Of this increase, £1,987,804 is due to the acceptances included in the total, making that item £2,832,031. Cash is £2,652,150 up at £5,321,139, and call and notice money is £3,306,063 larger at £5,313,976. Thus the cash and floating moneys of the bank total more than £10,600,000. Also investments have risen by £2,887,487 to £7,223,907, this increase being doubtless principally caused by the bank's participation in the first War Loan. Bills of exchange, too, are £179,064 up at £2,319,564, and loans and advances show an increase of £1,869,843 at



£16,621,828. Bank premises are higher in value by £13,507 nett at £680,787, and to this is added the £200,000 representing a bank purchase on account created through the absorption of the North-Eastern Bank. Altogether the total of the balance-sheet is now £38,045,270. Outside it we have particulars given as to contingent liabilities. These include a liability on "indemnities and credits open but not yet accepted against £795,668," on bills discounted with the Bank of England £100,330, and on the bank's holding of shares in the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Ltd., which remains at £25,000.

It would be gratifying to legitimate curiosity were all our banks to follow the example of the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co., Ltd., and tell their shareholders and the public how much of their resources are in Government paper. Along with its report the board announces that it has subscribed for £2,000,000 of the new War Loan, and that its holdings in Consols will be converted in due course into that loan. Said holding of Consols, although £30,000 less than a year ago at June 30, is £1,065,000, in addition to which the bank holds £1,806,000 of British and other Treasury bills and £2,324,334 in the 3½ per cent. War Loan. It had thus in all almost £5,500,000 in British Government securities at the date of the balance-sheet, and will have some £7,000,000 now. During the half-year closed June 30 the gross profit earned was £6,040 less at £305,937, quite a small diminution, much more than buried beneath the balance brought forward, which was £16,207 better at £65,672, so that the £371,609 of available gross revenue is £10,167 up. At the same time expenses were cut down by £3,222 to £120,199, and consequently the clear nett income of £251,410 shows an increase of £13,389. Thus the directors are able to continue the dividend at 21s. per share, subject to tax, and to increase the balance left to carry forward by £33,389, making it £85,510. A year ago £10,000 was placed to reserve and £10,000 to the pension fund, but this time neither of these are mentioned. The reserve fund, however, will stand at £1,410,000, after taking away £200,000 from it to form a reserve for the depreciation of investments, so that the bank looks impregnable strong. Its balance-sheet shows an aggregate of £33,472,823, or £3,240,358 more than at June 30, 1914, and of this increase £2,410,636 is ascribable to cash in hand, up £1,393,695 at £4,487,162, and money in the London market and lent to the Stock Exchange £1,016,941 higher at £4,449,189. Therefore the bank has £8,936,351 either in the form of cash or in resources, which its board doubtless regards as well within its reach on the market. Bills of exchange are down £436,635 to £1,935,515, and advances £536,187 lower at £13,284,088. The cross entry "acceptances" has also shrunk £198,298 to £1,208,873, but it is remarkable that the reduction should have been so small in view of the obstructions put in the way of business by the war.

Considering the present state of affairs, the National Bank, Ltd., may fairly be said to have had an exceptional half-year. In the six months ended June 30 it increased its gross profits by £33,579 to £242,666, and, after paying £98,062 for salaries, rent, maintenance of premises, &c., and £8,802, or £1,155 less, in rebate, had £135,803 or £34,140 more nett left to dispose of. Moreover, an extra £4,047 at £24,538 was brought in, so that, in addition to repeating the dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., the directors were able to set aside £40,000 as against £25,000, to rest, form the nucleus of a special reserve by an allocation of £30,000, and carry forward £1,468 more than a year ago at £23,153, when, however, £5,000 was written off bank premises. Changes in the balance-sheet are numerous, and can only be baldly stated. Cash is £851,434 up at £2,952,457. Money at call and short notice has risen

£263,514 to £2,940,560, Government securities show an increase of £303,719 at £2,071,750, and corporation, railway, and other stocks of £390,764 at £947,399. Bills discounted, too, are £190,177 higher at £3,353,250, but advances on securities, &c., have been reduced by £293,566 to £6,934,768, and bankers' guarantee and securities held against acceptances form a cross-entry £16,496 down at £75,000. Among liabilities, notes in circulation have swollen £818,962 to £2,107,205, and deposit, current, and other accounts £789,506 to £15,259,869, the entire total of the balance-sheet being £1,689,004 larger at £19,571,216. Owing to the serious financial unsettlement arising out of the war, it is estimated that a depreciation of £104,500 in the investments will have to be dealt with. This, however, has been more than covered by the sums totalling £105,000 derived from surplus profits since August last, and which, during the past two half-years, have been carried to the rest and the special reserve.

Shareholders of the National Discount Co., Ltd., have had to be satisfied with a smaller dividend for the first half of 1915 than for a year ago; the distribution now made is at the rate of 10 per cent., or 5s. per share, as against 11 per cent., or 5s. 6d. per share, in 1914. The half-yearly statement shows decreases of £1,490,442 to £5,322,051 in bills rediscounted and of £2,641,256 to £15,013,557 in deposits and sundry balances, the total of the balance-sheet being £4,131,698 smaller at £21,687,273. The company, however, has increased its cash holdings by £135,916 to £544,175, but Government and trustee securities are £392,594 down, and other securities £136,476 lower, the one at £1,222,447 and the other at £214,084. A reduction of £3,806,431 is also shown in bills discounted, but loans have risen £50,009 to £1,197,529 and interest and sundry balances £17,878 to £78,826. Freehold premises remain unchanged at £100,000, as does the reserve of £505,000.

Although, as the president of the Bank of New South Wales said at the last half-yearly meeting, Australia has only had an echo of the war, there has been a considerable shrinkage in the volume of trade in both directions. This, together with the drought that prevailed practically throughout the continent last summer, has affected the profits made by the bank during the six months ended March 31, which, at £239,407, were £36,340 lower than a year ago. The balance brought in, however, was £22,071 up at £90,729, so that the available surplus was only £14,269 less at £330,136, and, by halving the transfer

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**AGENT-GENERAL FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA,**

**SAVOY HOUSE, 115-6 STRAND, W.C.**



to reserve at £50,000, the directors are able to maintain the dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. and to carry forward £35,731 more at £105,136. Several important changes are revealed in the balance-sheet, whose aggregate is £2,738,045 higher at £53,583,765. Deposits, rebate, &c., show an increase of £2,078,240 at £38,778,056, and notes in circulation are £93,044 up at £370,918, a considerable portion of the advance in the former item being, we are told, Government money. There is also an increase of £267,657 to £7,007,533 in bills payable and other liabilities, and of £163,374 to £1,184,623 in the cross-entry of contingent liabilities. On the other hand, coin, bullion and cash balances have been reduced by £523,454 to £10,707,401, and money at short call in London comes to £1,730,000 less at £665,000, but Australian Commonwealth notes have risen by no less than £3,312,715 to £4,552,574, so that the total cash holding is about £1,116,000 more. The extension of the notes has been made with the purpose of making them a more active factor in relation to the trading and financial operations of the country during the present crisis, and as long as there is a solid basis of gold in reserve, and prudence is employed with regard to the extent of the issue, the method has its advantage. British and Colonial Government securities are £943,741 higher at £3,904,056, owing partly to the purchase of War Loan, and other investments are £144,986 up at £431,000. Bills discounted, loans and advances also show an increase of £896,766, making the total £25,726,173, but £35,220 less at £137,816 is due by other banks, and bills receivable, &c., have been reduced by £511,636 to £5,412,085. Bank premises are now valued at £800,000, or £20,000 more than a year ago.

The dislocation of business caused by the war is reflected in the results of the Union Bank of Australia for the half-year ended February 27 by a reduction of £18,790 to £341,641 in the gross profits. Expenses at the same time were heavier under all headings, so that the nett surplus was £32,033 smaller at £139,050, but as £71,459, or £27,033 more, was brought forward, the divisible surplus was only £5,000 less at £210,509. The regular dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and the bonus of 2 per cent., making altogether 14 per cent. per annum, are paid, but nothing is transferred to reserve compared with £30,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is consequently £25,000 higher at £70,509. Liabilities on deposits show a very small increase of £56,364 at £23,594,898, and bills payable and other liabilities are £33,230 up at £1,747,446, while the note circulation is £91,529 larger at £274,937. Specie on hand and cash balances come to £5,341,456, or £552,424 more, but money at call and short notice in London has been reduced by £1,305,000 to £500,000, part of which, however, is due to the fact that Stock Exchange loans in London amounting to £264,081 are now stated separately. Investments are £487,326 higher at £2,507,759, but remittances in transit and bills receivable at London office show a decrease of £917,748 at £3,074,614, and the aggregate of these assets is £923,648 lower at £11,847,326. Bills discounted, loans, &c., are £1,133,656 up at £17,440,135, and with small reductions in the value of bank premises the total of the balance-sheet is £206,123 larger at £29,787,791.

Although we have often heard of the Imperial Bank of Canada, none of its annual reports ever came to hand until this year, and we cannot find its old accounts in our home reference books. Why this should be we cannot imagine, although, perhaps, as regards THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, an old difference, quite friendly, which once arose between this editor and the late general manager of the bank, Mr. D. R. Wilkie—who, we regret to see, passed away suddenly in November last—may have contributed to keep the reports out of our hands. The one now before us covers the year ended April 30 last, and is the fortieth

annual statement made by the bank. It shows the bank to be rich and strong with nothing at all to hide or be ashamed of. Its nett profits for the year amounted to \$1,031,359, equal to 7.366 per cent. on the paid-up capital and reserve fund. The balance brought forward amounted to \$1,265,919, and when the dividend had been made up to 12 per cent., when \$400,000 had been set aside to meet depreciation in securities and contingencies, and various taxes paid, as well as \$7,500 given to the officers' pension and guarantee funds and \$14,000 contributed to patriotic Red Cross and Belgian Relief Funds, there was \$1,012,989 left to carry forward, or \$253,000 less than was brought in. The balance-sheet shows a liability of \$55,081,904 on deposits, of which \$47,266,000 are interest bearing, and assets in the shape of current loans and discounts in Canada amounting to \$36,245,618. Coin and Dominion notes aggregate \$15,048,009, of which \$1,619,400 is current coin, and the investments in colonial securities, call and short notice money, with other assets in the form of railway bonds, debenture stocks, Canadian municipal securities, &c., come to \$14,070,000, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being \$75,568,247. Next year we hope to be in the position to make comparisons.

Probably the most noticeable point in the report of the East Indian Railway Co. for the half-year ended March 31 last is again the reduction in working expenses. For the six months these, at 36 per cent. of the receipts, showed a reduction of 4.72 per cent. on the same half of the previous year. For the whole year, however, the reduction was only 0.68 per cent. at 38.92 per cent. When one considers that prices of all commodities have been rising, not least in India, doubts must increase whether this paring is wise, and the statement of the directors in their report to the effect that the comparatively low percentage is the result of restriction of expenditure in consequence of the war does not tend to restore confidence. This great Indian railway has for many years past been making good similar feats in wasteful economies, as they may be called, by drafts upon capital. In the half-year covered by the report and accounts before us, out of a total capital expenditure of Rs. 2,08,10,976, no less than Rs. 1,32,48,945 was spent upon new rolling stock. Out of the whole, indeed, only Rs. 18,61,488 was absorbed by lines under construction. Almost the whole of the rest, with the exception of Rs. 29,88,070 paid for the Tarkessur Railway, went into lines open, and represented to an indefinite extent the making good of dilapidations that should have been prevented or met out of revenue in former years as they occurred. As a result, however, of this kind of economy, the nett revenue, whether for the year or the half-year, showed an increase. For the half-year it amounted to £198,169, thanks to a decrease of £156,189 in expenses coming to the aid of an increase of £41,980 in the receipts. For the whole year, although the increase in receipts was only £57,441, the nett revenue was £82,521 better at £4,359,878, because working expenses were restricted by £25,080. The receipts were the largest in the history of the company whether for the year or for the half-year, and amounted to Rs. 10,70,78,420. Passenger earnings were smaller, but the decline of Rs. 6,77,080 shown in the coaching income was much more than made good by the increase of Rs. 25,09,166 in the merchandise traffic. There was also a small increase in the steamboat earnings, but it is interesting to note always how poor India must be, for in an analysis of the passenger traffic it is shown that the average number of passengers in a train at any one time during the half-year ended March 31 last was 1.29 first-class, 3.57 second-class, 14.80 intermediate, and 184.07 third-class. In the corresponding half-year ended March 31, 1914, the average per train of first-class was 1.73, of second 3.94, of intermediate 16.37, and of third-class 203.30. No wonder the earnings fell off. The absence of travel was in their proportion marked amongst all classes of passengers. This is not a plea-



sant indication for what is to come after the war is over, but perhaps other earnings will for some time continue to make good the loss of coaching. There was an increase of 28,629 tons in the company's output of coal last half-year, making the total 367,051 tons. Coming to surplus profit, the total of which was reached in the manner indicated, taking only the sterling figures we find that there is £8,936 more available at £88,268. This enables the board to recommend a dividend of £1 5s. for the half-year, subject to English income-tax, on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred "D" annuity capital. That is 1s. more than these annuitants received for the second half of the previous year, but that in its turn was 1s. down on the corresponding six months of the year before. For the whole year, moreover, including the guaranteed interest and dividend, the payment is down 4s. to £6 5s. per cent. on the two annuities. Sums of £500 each were contributed during the year to the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund, the Indian Soldiers' Fund, and the British Red Cross Society, and it is now proposed to make further contributions of the same amount to each of these funds from the balance remaining after the dividends have been paid. There will surely be no objection to that. The Indian fund, indeed, might well get £1,000.

That Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., the parent of all Marconi companies, should benefit by the outbreak of war was to be expected, in spite of interruptions that have been caused in some of its services. It certainly did very well in 1914, for the gross profit rose £125,488 to £371,072, and the nett was £110,392 better at £232,716. Adding, however, £76,550 brought forward, which was £70,176 down, the final clear balance of £309,266 thus obtained was only £40,216 up. Even that would have enabled a larger dividend to be paid had it not been for the special circumstances now surrounding the business. The outbreak of war caused considerable dislocation in the company's affairs as well as in those of its associates, and many negotiations which were in course of successful progress with foreign Governments had for the time being to be abandoned, as well as the opening of direct public telegraph services between this country and the United States and Spain. In some cases, owing to the unfavourable rates of exchange, substantial sums have had to be deposited at interest with bankers abroad and some payments from foreign Governments deferred with interest accruing until after the war. For example, £4,347 due from the Turkish Government has not been received. In such circumstances the directors have very prudently decided to halve the dividend, and will pay only 10 per cent. upon the ordinary shares as against 20 per cent. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of America, it may be mentioned, earned bigger profits, but for reasons all will understand, its directors have decided not to declare a dividend. Thanks to the reduction in the payment by the parent Marconi Co., it is able to place £100,000 to the general reserve account, thus increasing it to £967,530, and after deducting the 7 per cent. paid earlier in the year on the preference shares, which was 10 per cent. less than a year ago, the balance left to carry forward is £7,053 down at £69,497. The directors do not expect any loss in consequence either of adverse exchange or deferred payments, but having regard to the serious war in which the country is engaged, they consider they are best studying the interests of shareholders in adopting this conservative policy, and very few will be found to dissent from that judgement. It may be recalled that the reserve was augmented a year ago by £767,665 received as premiums on shares sold, hence its present magnitude. The company owes £12,315 less to sundry creditors, or £170,398, and amongst the assets cash is £41,334 higher at £57,487. This is exclusive of £270,304 entered as temporary investments and loans against securities, so that the position is very strong indeed. Sundry debtors and expenditure on foreign developments have risen £230,218 to £726,252, and stock is

£13,001 higher at £164,142, while shares in associated companies and patents have gone up £61,382 to £1,360,126. Cost of long-distance stations in Ireland and Cornwall, with movable plant at other places, shows a reduction of £9,662 at £132,198, and the freehold property with the plant therein at Chelmsford and Genoa have been written down £4,097 to £101,983. The aggregate of the balance-sheet is in these ways brought up to £2,867,892.

In spite of all drawbacks the Union Cold Storage Co., Ltd., did remarkably well in the year 1914. Twelve months ago the directors said that they had every reason to look for a good year, and on the whole they have given proof of the wisdom of their forecast, for the profit rose £110,089 to £253,676. To be sure, there was £1,300,000 additional capital, issued in 1913, and used to earn this profit, but even so the outcome was satisfactory. For 1912 the total profit was only £133,226. So both the 6 and 10 per cent. "A" preference share dividends are paid, and out of the balance 10 per cent. is given to the ordinary shares, leaving £1,000 more at £37,878 to be carried forward. Since the last report £44,140 of debenture stock has been purchased and cancelled, and £6,000 paid off mortgages on specific properties, while £36,878 has been written off capital issue expenses account, bringing that down to £18,394. The balance-sheet further shows that the company has no less than £440,174 in cash and secured loans, an increase of £41,796 on the figure shown at the end of the previous year. Capital expenditure still goes on, and the value of plant, machinery and appliances—together with the purchase price, so far paid away, of various properties, &c., as set forth in the prospectus of November, 1913—is £318,822 up at £2,436,074. The share capital paid up is now £1,600,000, or £250,000 more than a year ago, while the nett increase in mortgage debenture stock is £205,860, making it £1,032,113. Sundry creditors, &c., are owed £59,858 more at £234,339, and the depreciation reserve has been raised to £218,156, this being the only lay-by the company has, but the board will doubtless begin to accumulate nest-eggs as its business solidifies and increases.

A year ago the board of Furness, Withy and Co. had to present a disappointing report showing profits down £119,757. Many people would have been the reverse of surprised had the presentment for the year closed April 30 last been worse. Instead, the profit shows an improvement of £32,927 at £784,877. This includes the balance forward. In actual fact nett earnings of the year were £653,548 after paying directors' fees and income-tax, which together took £21,319, the directors' share of that being a modest £1,200. Trading profits were £43,235 better, but there was a decline of £1,469 in the dividends received on investments and of £1,270 in the subsidy paid for postal services, bringing the one entry down to £248,764 and the other to £7,717. It was therefore easy for the directors again to transfer £350,000 to the depreciation account, and they also set aside £15,000 to begin a superannuation fund for the benefit of the employees, and give £10,000 to be divided amongst the masters, officers, and engineers of the fleet as a recognition of the extra strain and vigilance necessary in consequence of the war. Both these new assignments are much to be commended. Out of the balance the directors again make up the dividend on the ordinary shares to 10 per cent. for the year, tax free, and have £10,117 more at £141,446 left to carry forward. Out of the reserve fund of £500,000 the board invested £50,000 in the War Loan of last November, and have now taken £150,000 of the new War Loan. The rights of conversion will be availed of, so that when the two stocks are unified, the company will hold £200,000 in War Loan stock, and this, together with the amount applied for by the associated and subsidiary companies, represents a total subscription of £550,000 in the new War Loan. That also is a meritorious piece of business. As regards the trade of the year the company lost three steamers by submarines, two of them,



the *Queen Wilhelmina* and the *Tunisiana*, since the close of the financial year. It also has one steamer interned at Bremen and another held up at Uleaborg, but this has not really much affected its earning power, and over 50 per cent. of its fleet is at present engaged on Government business. Moreover, at the present time the company and its associates have no less than 26 steamers under construction, several of which are nearly completed. During the past year three new boats, the *Bedale*, the *Pensacola*, and *Venice*, were delivered to it, and of the new steamers under construction six are large refrigerated meat steamers specially designed and constructed for the conveyance of meat from the Argentine to this country. They are being built for the new Furness-Houlder Argentine Line, Ltd. Thus there are no evil effects traceable here to the war, but the contrary, and the board has wisely taken advantage of the high prices ruling for second-hand tonnage to dispose of several of the company's older vessels. No special analysis is demanded by the balance-sheet, which shows remarkable financial strength, the total of bankers' balances on current accounts, cash, and bills of exchange on hand being £83,924 larger than a year ago at £899,616. Sundry debtors also owe the company £120,010 more at £257,977, and the value of its property of all descriptions is £245,795 down at £4,104,386. Its debts to sundry creditors are up £236,339 to £614,550, but bills payable of all kinds are £287,667 lower at £463,055. Altogether the report looks most satisfactory.

At last we have got the scheme of the British Electric Traction Co. designed to write down its capital and clear it of dead weight. Perhaps the simplest way to enable readers and shareholders to understand the position is to reproduce here the proposed arrangement as tabulated by the board. From this it will be seen that at present the company has four different kinds of capital outstanding, and in addition there is an ordinary share capital amounting to £1,052,620 nominal in £10 shares which has not been issued at all. The four existing types of capital are to be condensed into two, viz., the 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference stock and the ordinary stock. The present 6 per cent. cumulative preference stock, which has no preference as to capital, is to be converted into the new stock £ for £, it having priority rights undetachable, but of the 7 per cent. non-cumulative preference stock at present amounting to £807,185, only £282,515, or 35 per cent., will get the new 6 per cent.

PROPOSED REDUCTION AND RE-ARRANGEMENT OF B. E. T. CAPITAL.

Present Issued Capital.		Proposed to be Converted into—		Proposed to be Written off.	
		5% Cumulative Participating Pref. Stock with priority as to Capital.	New Ordinary Stock ranking after the Pref. Stock as to Capital and Dividends.		
ISSUED—		%	£	%	£
6% Cum. Pref. Stock....	403,592½	100	403,592½	65	524,670½
7% Non-cum. Pref. Stock	807,185	35	282,514½	50	535,048½
6% Pf. Ord. Non-cum. Stk.	1,070,097½			30	199,951½
Deferred Ord. Stock....	666,605				
All the above Stocks rank equally as regards Capital.	2,947,380		686,107½		1,259,670½
Non-interest Bearing Income Certificates, £266,371 1s.			Add—		Add—
Entitled to redemption by purchase or drawings out of a sum to be set aside out of the profits available for dividend in each year equal to the sum paid by way of dividend for that year on the Preferred Ordinary Stock.		10	26,637	25	66,593
			712,744½		1,326,263½
			£2,039,007½		

cumulative preference stock, the remaining £524,670 being given only ordinary stock. In like manner the 6 per cent. preferred ordinary non-cumulative stock is to be cut down by one-half, and that half is to get ordinary shares, while of the deferred ordinary stock, 70 per cent., or £466,553, is cancelled, wiped out, leaving £199,951, or 30 per cent., to be turned into the new ordinary stock. Furthermore, there is the non-interest-bearing income certificate form of capitalised unpaid interest amounting to £266,371 to be dealt with, and this is to receive 10 per cent. in 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 25 per cent. in ordi-

nary stock, so that in these ways the total issued capital of the company will be brought down to £2,039,008, a reduction of £1,001,602. The old unissued ordinary £10 shares are turned into £1 shares and utilised in effecting the transformation. It is claimed by the directors that this scheme is "scrupulously fair to all interests," and we are not disposed to cavil with that view, for the company has had a rough time of it, even allowing for its heavy over-capitalisation at the start. After all, however, to the extent of the unissued ordinary capital that excess never became effective, and could not be regarded as anything much beyond a sentimental handicap.

In its year ended March 31 last the English Sewing Cotton Co. made £114,838 less profit than in the preceding year, this sum including its dividend from the American Thread Co. and subsidiaries. From this £27,959, or £424 more, was set aside for depreciation, this being exclusive of £8,857 similarly assigned by subsidiaries, and £38,308 was required to meet debenture interest. After deducting directors' and auditors' fees and law charges the balance of £195,260 left as nett profit shows a reduction of £115,262, but the balance of £105,601 brought forward was £5,523 better, so that the clear total of £300,862 is only £109,735 down. Out of this the directors meet the preference share dividend and make up the dividend on the ordinary stock to 10 per cent. for the year by a final payment of 6 per cent. Also they again give the ordinary shares a 3 per cent. bonus, and have £15,261 more at £120,862 left to carry forward. How is this managed seeing that the profits were so much down? It is quite simple. A year ago £50,000 was placed to general reserve and £75,000 to the reserve for equalisation of dividends, while this year nothing is given to either, and we are not at all sure of the wisdom of such abstinence. Would it not have been more prudent to abstain from paying a bonus this year and add the £30,000 it takes to the general reserve? Said reserve is only £335,000, and the book valuation of the total properties owned is £2,563,490. Moreover, times are sure to be adverse for many a day to come in the cotton trade as elsewhere. Altogether, however, the company has about £813,000 stowed away in one direction or another, so that the directors may have felt themselves at liberty to continue to pay the high dividend out of consideration for the position of many of their shareholders. All we doubt is whether these shareholders may not have to submit to a greater reduction later on. In the balance-sheet comparison we find the above-mentioned cost of properties £13,173 nett lower at £2,563,490, the capital expenditure of the year having been no more than £14,786. Stock-in-trade is down £87,967 to £445,254, but sundry debtors owe £11,175 more at £194,204, and investments have risen £98,272 to £613,330. Cash and bills show an increase of £143,414 at £317,349, and the position of the company is strong enough.

Out of the total capital of the American Thread Co., all the ordinary, viz., 1,200,000 shares of \$5 each (\$4.50 paid), equivalent to £1,240,000 nominal, is the property of the English Sewing Cotton Co., Ltd., whose fortunes are thus to no small extent dependent upon those of the American Co. In the year ended March 31 last this latter earned £116,653 less at £162,379. The gross profit, indeed, was £118,835 down, and, everything included, the £368,262 shown as gross income was £122,045 less, but £8,485 has been saved on management expenses, and although bond redemption took £1,652 more, and the allowance for depreciation £104,505, or £2,007 more, the clear nett result was as stated. For the previous year profit showed an increase of £85,390, so that the outcome for the past 12 months was not nearly so bad as it may look. Adding the balance of £366,328 brought from March 31, 1914, there is £478,172 available for distribution, and out of this the preference dividend is



paid, and 10 per cent., as against 12, bestowed upon the ordinary stock in the possession of the English Sewing Cotton Co. This enables the directors to put £10,333 aside to begin a pension fund for the employees, a very commendable step. A year ago, however, the common shares got a bonus of 6 per cent. against nothing this time, and in these ways the balance forward, subject to a half-year's dividend on the preferred shares, is reduced by only £10,089 to £211,159. During the year £67,187 was spent on extensions and improvements, raising the total capital outlay to date to £1,428,620. Last year was a bad one, the company's turnover having been adversely affected by the general depression and prices less profitable. It was resolved a year ago to transfer the £62,000 standing to the credit of reserve for contingencies of stocks to the general reserve fund, but in view of the unsettled state of markets that transfer has been deferred. Movements in the balance-sheet are not particularly striking, most of the changes being unimportant, but the capital value of the properties shows an increase of £52,693 at £3,239,626, and stocks are down £72,504 to £1,248,078, while sundry investments are £28,057 lower at £158,179. Cash looks ample and is merely £1,483 down at £108,684. The depreciation fund has been raised to £1,074,465 by an addition of £92,116 last year. Apart from the fact that the company owes £25,467 less at £57,959 to sundry creditors, there are no changes on the liabilities side of much significance, and even that means nothing, because bills payable are £48,596 lower at £75,378.

The satisfactory condition of the trade of J. Stone and Co., Ltd., in 1913 was continued during the earlier months of 1914, and even showed remarkable improvement up to the outbreak of war. Since then the works have been devoted to Government requirements, and in some departments the nature of the business has in consequence changed, but that does not seem to have affected in any adverse fashion the profits for the whole of 1914. These amounted to £198,928, or £16,711 more than in 1913, when an advance of £38,555 was shown over the results of the preceding year. Moreover, the balance brought in was £47,166 higher at £125,162, so that the clear surplus was no less than £63,877 up at £324,089. The directors, however, are content to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent. and the bonus of 3s. per share on the ordinary shares and the transfer of £20,000 to reserve, adding the whole of the above increase to the carry forward, making it £189,039. Less depreciation property, plant and machinery account has risen £10,889 to £611,466, against which the reserve is now £145,000, while there is also a fund for maintenance and depreciation of plant, &c., amounting to £21,308, or £4,063 more, the outlay of £9,027 on maintenance and dismantlements having been more than offset by the writing off of £13,089 out of revenue. Stock is £16,520 higher at £175,217, sundry debtor balances, less £11,171 against £3,230 for bad debts and discounts, have risen £19,112 to £212,184, and cash is £25,903 up at £126,194, but investments have been reduced by £6,999 to £64,028. Sundry liabilities, however, are also £14,262 down at £72,332, so that altogether the company occupies a comfortable position. We may note that trading profits were £16,044 higher at £201,963, the entire gross profits, including interest on investments, &c., being £18,220 up at £217,674.

The Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.) did quite as well as could have been expected in its year ended April 30. Passenger business on all its lines, and especially on the Indian route, was seriously affected, but cargo business was better. A large number of the steamers were requisitioned for Government work, and in order to maintain satisfactorily both the Indian and Atlantic services it was necessary to charter tonnage, for which the company had to pay high rates, and the nett outcome of the year's working was a decrease of

£7,300 to £307,273 in the profits. Including, however, £10,819 more at £86,962 brought forward, the amount available was £394,235, or an increase of £3,519, and for the third year in succession the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., tax free. A year ago the goodwill account was eliminated by an appropriation of £68,866, and this time the directors double the appropriation to reserve at £100,000 and write off £15,016 more at £125,867 for depreciation, leaving the balance carried forward £8,451 up at £95,413. The new steamer *Tuscania* was delivered in January last, and the *Transylvania* was transferred from the Cunard line to this company at cost price in February. As the result of these transactions the property account is £554,942 higher at £1,878,396, against which the reserve now stands at £400,000. Current liabilities, mortgages on Glasgow property, and bills payable, a mixture which it would be better to split up, show an increase of £374,451 at £650,237, and the amount due on voyages pending is £14,392 up at £47,231. Disbursements on account of current voyages show an increase of £75,629 at £111,371, but cash is £156,153 down at £96,589, while the amount in the hands of the debenture trustees has been increased by £11,684 to £161,990.

A year ago lamentations had to be uttered over the position of the Argentine Iron and Steel Co. (Pedro Vasena é Hijos), Ltd., and it looked very much as if Messrs. Erlanger, who were responsible for its creation and placement on the London market, had been badly advised or taken in, the profit having slumped no less than £66,877 to £63,485. The prospect, in fact, was so bad that the board proceeded to reduce the capital by £240,092, writing down stock, writing off discount on debentures, preliminary expenses, &c., and knocking approximately one-third off goodwill. A step of that kind would not alone have sufficed to pull



The northern heights are healthy to live on, but to climb up them from your station is rather tiring in hot weather and unpleasant in bad weather. The hills and bridges stand in the way of an ordinary double-deck motor-bus so single-deck buses have to be used.

Route No. 111, from Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill Broadway, which has for a long while stayed at the bottom of Muswell Hill, now goes right up to the Broadway. The buses are more powerful, the brakes are more powerful, and the road has been made up, so all is put in order for the advance.

Route No. 41, from Highgate to Crouch End Broadway, has been extended to the Fishmongers Arms, Wood Green, at the top of the hill. This will give a proper finish to this route and should serve the district well.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



the business round, and it obviously had a rough time in its past year closed February 28, but resolute efforts have been made to pull up and pull round. The report tells us that the closest attention has been given to reducing stock and effecting economies, also to paying off floating debt. A year ago that debt stood in the balance-sheet at the high figure of £243,159. In the present balance-sheet it is only £105,816, and since its date there has been a still further reduction. Thanks to this vigilance and to the care with which bank charges have been reduced, as well as to the reduction in capital, the board is able to show a recovery of profits to the amount of £38,706, making the total trading profit for the past year £102,191, and after meeting salaries, debenture sinking fund and depreciation, as well as paying debenture interest, directors' fees, London charges, &c., there is £37,395 more at £57,171 left to be dealt with. Of this £27,171 is transferred to the reserve for contingencies, leaving £30,000, out of which the directors propose to pay the fixed cumulative 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares for the past year. In view, however, of the abnormal circumstances prevailing and the desirability of still further reducing the floating debt, only 3 per cent. of this dividend will be paid on the 31st inst., the remainder being held back to a more convenient date. For the preceding year the vendor, Señor Don Pedro Vasena, agreed to advance the money to pay the 6 per cent. preference dividend on conditions which made it repayable to him only out of surplus profits of future years left after the dividend on these shares had been paid. That was an honourable proceeding on his part which we hope will in time meet its due reward, but for the next year or two the business will obviously require extremely careful steering. The balance-sheet, however, shows a fairly clean and hopeful present state of affairs.

The dislocation of traffic on the railways appears to have brought less work to the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., which does a large business in the repair and maintenance of wagons, and its net profits for the year ended May 31 fell off by £26,802 to £53,331. Some such result, however, had been anticipated by the directors, who made provision against it, as far as they could, by carrying forward a very greatly increased balance. Thanks to their prudence the amount now available is £6,542 larger at £94,932, and it is possible not only to maintain the dividend at 10 per cent., but also to repeat the appropriation of £10,000 to reserve and to increase the sum carried out to £48,143. Additions to property account, less depreciation allowances, cost £20,603, making a total of £261,525, against which the reserve will now stand at £170,000. Wagons let on simple hire are valued at £208,147, or £2,850 more, and rolling stock let on deferred purchase has risen by £47,358 to £252,931, but stock and work in progress is £26,758 down at £184,964. Debtors owe £7,419 more at £150,091, and investments, including £124,996 in Port Talbot Steel shares, are £62,883 up at £193,091, while cash has been reduced by £28,984 to £165. On the other hand, the debenture debt has been reduced by £10,611 to £415,972, but £56,617 more at £207,695 is due to creditors, and a bank loan of £22,822 has had to be obtained. An arrangement has been concluded under which the Port Talbot Steel shares held are to be exchanged for an equal number of fully-paid shares in Baldwin's, Ltd.

A case of considerable interest to companies trading abroad was decided in the House of Lords last week. It arose in a claim made by the Inland Revenue for income-tax upon the entire profits of a company called the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd. Its registered office is in England, but its profits are earned in Egypt, where it is wholly under the control of a local board of directors. The two hotel properties owned by it form the only source of its profits except a small amount in transfer fees received in England. The chief bank account is kept in Egypt, and although the London board declares the dividends it has nothing whatever to do with earn-

ing the money that pays them. The contention was that as all the available profits were made in Egypt alone and that as since August 27, 1908, the company had not in any way carried on their hotel business in the United Kingdom, it was liable only to be assessed under Schedule "D," Case V., on so much of the profits as were brought to this country, and the House of Lords may be said to have sustained that contention. Lord Parker of Waddington gave the principal judgement, and said that in the absence of any act done or directed by any person resident here in participation or furtherance of the business operations in Egypt from which the profits and gains in question arose, he thought their lordships were bound to come to the conclusion that this trade or business was carried on wholly outside the United Kingdom, and therefore was within Case V. rather than Case I. Opinion, however, was equally divided, and Lord Parmour, another very able lawyer, delivered a judgement in favour of the Government, but in the end the appeal was dismissed without costs, so that while the question remains somewhat in doubt the Egyptian Hotels Co. appears to escape the tax on all its profits. [Case V. regulates the way the tax is chargeable in respect of possessions in the British Plantations of America, or in any other place abroad.]

One of the most startling new departures connected with the issue of the War Loan was the adoption of what we are wont to describe as the placard or "hoarding" type of newspaper "display" advertisement. When we first saw these Treasury hoardings in the papers we did not imitate the editor of the *Financial Times*, send our congratulations to Mr. McKenna, and tell him, as Mr. H. Bridgewater did, that "these are great times, when even the most exclusive Department of Whitehall is infected by the modern spirit." Very much the reverse; we were disposed to regard the Treasury imitation of the "stores" fashion as a waste of good money, and to grow perplexed about the effort of our own agent to get a share in the overflow. But the outcome of all this energy in fascinating the public has been such as to constitute a triumph for those who adopted it and devised the attractiveness and variety of the daily displayed pages. Mr. H. Bridgewater says in the *Financial Times*:—"The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not only scored a great financial victory for the nation, but he has, incidentally, demonstrated the power of the Press in the most conspicuous manner; never before has the value of advertising been so effectively advertised! Though opinions may vary as to whether the difference in the result would have been £50,000,000 or £250,000,000, it is abundantly clear that the subscription of a large proportion of the total was directly due to the admirable and courageous manner in which the attractions of the loan and the imperative duty of supporting it were insistently forced upon the attention of the public throughout the country." On the whole, we can endorse this appreciation, and join in the congratulations bestowed on Mr. H. F. le Bas, of the Caxton Advertising Agency, by whom the whole campaign was arranged and carried through.

According to the latest official statement, the total revenue of Japan for the financial year ended March 31 was £55,446,500, or £1,305,300 more than the actual amount at the corresponding date of 1914. The expenditure is put at £58,803,100, an increase of £6,564,400, a decrease of £1,419,100 in the ordinary being much more than offset by the advance of £7,983,500 in the extraordinary. According to the monthly summary the foreign trade for April amounted to £11,356,900, against £11,305,600, and for the first four months of the year to £38,149,000, compared with £46,628,700 12 months ago.

With the greater part of its funds invested in shipping securities, the British Steamship Investment Trust found the year ended June 30 a most profitable one. Including £27,861 or £7,862 more brought forward, the income showed an increase of £17,130 at



£153,900, out of which £21,667 is applied in writing down the quoted securities to dealing prices on June 30, compared with £6,502 appropriated for that purpose and £14,363 added to reserve a year ago. After providing for debenture and other interest, and administration charges, the disposable surplus was £17,805 larger at £106,540, and the dividend and bonus on the deferred stock are increased from 14 per cent. to 20, leaving the balance carried out £3,817 up at £36,178. Considerable changes were made in the investments during the year, but on balance the aggregate is only £5,577 higher at £841,038, an increase of £23,739 in ordinary shares in shipping companies being offset by reductions in other directions. The reserve and depreciation funds stand at £165,112, and are largely represented by investments specifically "earmarked" valued at £147,311, a figure which is £12,231 below that of a year ago. Loans on first mortgage and bills receivable come to £341,450, against which bills discounted are £141,700 down at £142,500. Liabilities on deposits have risen by £104,300 to £148,000, and there is a new item of £159,310 for deposits held as trustees which is balanced by a like amount held in cash.

Higher prices for tea have in no way checked the prosperous career of the International Tea Co.'s Stores in the 12 months ended May 1, and last year's fine increase of £34,673 has been followed by one of £33,613. In addition the balance of £9,450 brought forward was £6,733 larger, so that the disposable total showed an increase of no less than £40,346 at £198,042. The directors, however, only raise the dividend on the ordinary shares by another 1 per cent. to 10 per cent., and after writing off an extra £5,000 at £30,000 for depreciation they set aside £40,000, or double last year's amount, to reserve and carry forward £7,874 more at £17,324. During the year further progress was made with the policy of converting the long leasehold properties into freeholds, and the latter now stand in the balance-sheet at £369,754, or an increase of £13,619. Long leaseholds, however, have only been reduced by £415 to £28,081, while fixtures, fittings, trade marks, &c., are valued at £163,778, or £7,244 less. Stocks are £60,479 up at £390,949, debtors owe £193,140, or £32,960 more, and cash has risen by £3,882 to £53,916, but investments come to £2,290 less at £68,802, the reduction, which is apparently due to the quoted securities having been taken at official minimum prices, having been met out of the reserve. Current liabilities are £33,384 larger at £212,792 and liabilities for temporary loans £17,700 up at £153,761, but the position looks a comfortable one, in spite of the very high figure of £626,675 at which goodwill stands in the balance-sheet. With the present addition the reserve fund amounts to £374,906, or a nett increase of £37,710.

### The Great War Loan.

It has been a great success, as the following statement made in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon by Mr. McKenna, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will make plain:—

"The actual number of subscribers to the loan through the Bank of England has been 550,000, and the actual amount subscribed for £570,000,000. I would just like to remind the House that this gigantic total represents only new money; it does not include any amount of stock which will be issued for the purpose of conversion. I would also like to remind the House that it does not include any subscriptions through the Post Office. As regards the Post Office we must not forget that applications did not close on Saturday, and that consequently the figures up to last Saturday do not by any means include the whole amount of subscriptions. But up to Saturday last through the Post Office 547,000 persons had applied for a total sum of £15,000,000. I regret to say that I am unable to give the House any figures at the present time with regard to the number of vouchers sold, but here

again, as this is a continuous process, I shall be able to give the House probably a more accurate statement and forecast in two or three weeks' time than it is possible to give now. This huge total of nearly £600,000,000, which is far and away beyond any amount ever subscribed in the world's history, has only been obtained through the patriotic response of the whole people. I cannot speak without emotion of the efforts which have been made by every class of the community to scrape together all the resources upon which they could lay their hands in order to subscribe to the loan. We must not forget that when an application of this kind is made it can only be made in respect of available resources. We must remember that the markets have been practically closed for the sale of all securities, that thousands of people who would have been willing to sell securities were unable to sell because there were no buyers, and consequently this sum represents actual subscription of everything that was available. That has been obtained not only by the patriotic response of the whole nation, but by the unanimous assistance of the whole Press. I wish on behalf of the House to express our thanks to the efforts which the Press have made to secure the success of this great national effort. All classes have been equally concerned. The private individual, the trading interests, and the great banks—joint-stock and private—all have contributed to this gigantic total, and we owe, as a nation, thanks to all. I would also like to refer in the most appreciative terms to the work done by the Bank of England. Those who consider what it means to receive in such a short space of time applications from 550,000 subscribers, to keep the work down, and deal with all the variety of applications, and the gigantic correspondence entailed, can understand what the great labours of the Bank of England have been, and how successfully they have carried them through. This has been an exhibition, a necessary exhibition, of the unrivalled financial resources of the British Empire. They have been thrown into the scale in this war, and it is a declaration to our Allies and to our enemies alike that the United Kingdom will prove faithful to its trust in the cause of the Allies."

Probably the ultimate total will be a full £600,000,000, making £960,000,000 in all borrowed for this war within a year of its commencement. That this country should have been able to raise such an amount of new money is marvellous. Surely greater proof of our steadfastness in the cause could not be given. We shall hold on to the end with an ever-growing sternness and resolution; of that our Allies may be sure. Asked beforehand we could not have believed that there was such a mass of free capital available—no Darlehnskasse here—not because this country is poor, but because it has been so long habituated to keep its available capital always as much as possible fully employed, and because, as we pointed out when first the loan was announced, and as Mr. McKenna says, we could sell none of our investments abroad. To be able, therefore, to gather together nearly £1,000,000,000 of new money within one year of the outbreak of war is a feat altogether unparalleled and beyond expectation. We hope, however, that further sacrifices or efforts of a like kind will not be necessary, but that the war will now be pushed forward with an energy, determination, and unity of effort among the Allies calculated to bring the crisis of the struggle speedily to a head. All is in train for the fulfilment of the Kaiser's forecast and our victory.

### A New Province of the Union of South Africa.

We could only just mention the remarkable feat of General Louis Botha, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, and his wonderful army in last week's number, and must now pause to salute and thank him. We used often to say in the Boer War days how lucky it was for us that Botha was not generalissimo of the burghers from the outset. If he had not driven us out of South Africa altogether it is probable that the holding of the country would have cost us twice the



men and money it did. Happily that is all over now, and Botha has given impressive proof on our side of his superb capacity as a warrior and leader of men. He, by skilful generalship and the loyal enthusiasm with which his men—they would die for their "Old Man," as they call him in all affection, any day at his bidding—encountered all manner of difficulties and hardships, succeeded in forcing the German army to surrender at discretion. Altogether 204 officers and 3,293 men laid down their arms, and of that total 82 officers and 1,262 men belonged to the regular military forces of the Protectorate, the remainder being reservists and police. A little time ago and the insolent leader of the Germans turned his back on General Botha and said he would talk when the British sent him a soldier! Besides the men and ammunition, 37 field guns and 22 machine guns were captured. With this new empire let us not forget that we assume fresh responsibilities. Burgher and British have fought side by side to accomplish the expulsion of the treacherous, loathed Teuton from a part of the territory which should have belonged from the outset to the South African Union. They and their leader deserve our warmest acknowledgment, and have received and will receive our grateful thanks. The words used by Mr. Asquith on Tuesday evening in moving a vote of thanks to General Botha and his troops were not in the least too strong. "I ask this House," he said, "at the earliest possible opportunity to testify the admiration and gratitude of the whole empire, first to the illustrious general, who is also the Prime Minister of the Union, and who has rendered such inestimable service to the empire which he entered by adoption and of which he has become one of the most honoured and cherished sons, and to his dauntless and much-enduring troops, whether of burgher or British birth, who have fought like brethren side by side in the cause which is equally dear to all of us, the broadening of the bounds of human liberty." To this admirable expression of gratitude, Mr. Bonar Law, assuming for the nonce the rôle of leader of a non-existent Opposition, added his tribute, and took occasion to emphasise the contrast afforded by the actual facts when set against German forecasts and anticipations. "The Germans," he said, "believed that the outbreak of war would be the signal for the beginning at least of the dissolution of the British Empire. They have been mistaken, and their mistake goes to the very root of what I believe to be the main issue of this war. We had no power—and if we had had any slight power, we would never have dreamed of exercising it—of compelling any one of the self-governing dominions to give us the smallest help." Yet, he went on, from every part of the Empire help came, loyal, willing, unstinted, and there lies, as Mr. Law truly said, the whole secret of the divergent ideals that brought about the war. Germany hoped to found a new dominion in South Africa through the defection from us of the men of Dutch descent there; but we have made South Africa free, and German slavery had no lures for either Dutch or British now well on the way to be one and indivisible in this liberty. And the Germans have lost what they already possessed—possessed chiefly through our willingness to be friendly, our anxiety to avoid causes of quarrel; through our desire also to help the Germans to some "places in the sun" they did not deserve to have, and were, as events have proved, totally unfitted to be trusted with. In South-West Africa, as everywhere else, they have proved themselves to be altogether untrustworthy as empire-builders, and justice has been done to them in casting them out. But, as we have said, this new acquisition bestowed upon the Empire by the skilful generalship and magnificent work of the South African Army throws upon us grave responsibilities. We command on the sea, and must continue to command, because many years will necessarily elapse before a white population has so increased in South Africa as to be capable of withstanding the assaults of any hostile maritime Power. There must be no slackening of our efforts, and the call of this great victory to each one of us

is to be up and doing until all danger of any rivalry to free peoples in their expansion on any part of the globe is ended for ever. We have no hatred of the Germans as such; we simply loathe them as treacherous, cunning, relentless enemies of freedom, and when they are beaten back into their lairs we mean to be as magnanimous as Louis Botha and his South African burghers. Had he and they decided to hang or shoot the leaders of troops that poisoned the wells and committed other abominations; other treacheries and crimes, few would have held them to have overstepped the limits of justice; but the Afrikanders and their leader chose the nobler part, placed the officers on their parole and interned the men. Except that as far as in them lies they must be made to pay, we also shall leave our dehumanised foes alone with their self-imposed miseries, to save themselves or perish as may seem to them good.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

B. Morris and Sons.—Interim for six months ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 16, same as a year ago.

Bradbury, Greatorex and Co.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable 31st inst., same as a year ago.

British Assets Trust.—Interim of 8 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

British Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ended July 1; payable less tax, Aug. 1, against 14 per cent. a year ago.

Champion Reef Gold of India.—Interim on account of year ending Sept. 30, 1915, of 5d. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Damansara (Selangor) Rubber.—First dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of season ending Dec. 31, payable 21st instant, same as last year.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 2s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, for quarter ended June 30, payable July 31, same as a year ago.

Foster, Porter and Co.—Interim of 7s. per share for half-year ended June 30, 1915, payable on July 31, against 6s. a year ago.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31, of 5 per cent., less tax, payable July 30, same as a year ago.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking.—Interim of £2 3s. per share, subject tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 16, same as a year ago.

Isle of Man Banking.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30 last, payable July 26, same as a year ago.

Lanka Plantations.—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, on account 1914-15, payable July 31. No dividend was paid in 1913-14, the previous payment being 5 per cent. in 1912-13.

Lister and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended May 31, same as a year ago.

Mercantile Investment and General Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended July 31.

Mercantile Steamship.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, viz., 5s. per share.

Metropolitan Trust.—Interim for six months ended 1st inst., on the ordinary at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 29th inst., against 13 per cent. a year ago.

Mortgage of the River Plate.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, less tax, on the amount paid up on the ordinary, payable Aug. 3, same as a year ago, but free tax.

National Provincial Bank of England.—Interim at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, payable, less tax, Aug. 5 next, against 18 per cent.

Norfolk and Western Railway.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. upon the adjustment preferred, payable August 19.

Pawsons and Leafs.—Interim of 2s. per share for half-year ended June 30, 1915, payable July 28.

River Plate and General Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preferred and 8 per cent. per annum on the deferred (less tax) for half-year ended June 30 last, payable Aug. 3, same as a year ago.

Royal Brewery, Brentford.—Final of 8 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary for year ended June 30, same as a year ago, but in addition a bonus of 2 per cent. was paid.

Samnuggur Jute Factory.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, against 3 per cent.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light, and Power.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 2.

Titagur Jute Factory.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, against 3 per cent.

Yoker Distillery.—Interim of 20 per cent. on the ordinary, against 12½ per cent. last year.

Lord Inchcape has accepted the chairmanship of the Cornhill Committee vacated by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.



## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or deb. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or deb. on last year.
		\$			\$	

\* From Jan. 1.

Bolivar R. and Canta	..	..	3,655	—	70	6	26,375	—	5,921
Bolivar .. ..	..	..	8,250	1,648	12	—	86,169	—	25,698
Brazil .. ..	Apl.	..	M3,090,000	+ M39,757	4	1	M12,681,000	+ M78,740	—
Brazil Gt. Southern	Feb.	..	Mis.28,250	+ M6,250	2	2	M55,750	+ M10,250	—
B. Ayres & Pacific	July	10	80,000	+ 4,000	—	—	112,000	—	9,000
Do. Gt. South'n	..	11	77,000	+ 1,000	—	—	120,908	—	12,033
Do. Western	..	11	43,000	+ 3,000	—	—	61,000	—	4,000
Central Argentine..	..	11	112,700	+ 3,700	—	—	107,000	—	5,700
C. Ur. g'ay of Mte V.	..	10	10,579	+ 2,388	—	—	15,674	+ 1,516	—
Do. East'n Ex.	..	10	3,381	+ 745	—	—	4,853	+ 611	—
Do. North'n Ex.	..	10	1,915	+ 539	—	—	2,584	+ 379	—
Do. West'n Ex.	..	10	1,141	+ 66	—	—	1,628	+ 222	—
Colombian National	Apl.	..	9,700	—	500	4	37,900	+ 1,738	—
Cordoba Central ..	July	10	35,500	1,345	—	—	51,200	—	8,695
Costa Rica .. ..	Feb.	27	7,608	5,050	—	—	224,179	—	83,133
Cuban Central ..	July	10	7,005	+ 315	—	—	10,733	+ 493	—
Dorada Extension..	June *	..	8,400	—	1,400	6	44,500	—	4,100
Entre Rios .. ..	July	10	8,100	—	900	—	11,900	—	3,500
Gt. South'n Spain	..	3	Ps. 61,498	—	Ps. 10,317	—	Ps.512,554	—	Ps391,109
Gt. West. of Brazil..	..	10	6,700	—	2,900	—	28,800	—	94,600
Havana Central ..	July	10	5,544	+ 1,89	—	—	7,950	+ 226	—
Inter. of C. Amer..	May *	..	10,233	13,356	—	—	80,959	—	52,090
La Guaira and Car.	June *	..	6,250	1,750	—	—	42,250	—	17,250
Leopoldina .. ..	July	10	25,713	+ 11,461	—	—	778,274	—	92,907
Manila .. ..	..	10	4,385	—	1,105	—	165,370	—	34,197
Midland Uruguay ..	June *	..	10,550	+ 580	—	—	113,751	—	14,636
Mogyana .. ..	Apl.	..	M1,313,000	+ M125,225	4	1	M6,570,000	+ M517,804	—
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	..	22,300	—	3,333	—	232,228	—	866,325
Nitrate .. ..	..	301	13,700	13,627	—	—	126,721	—	226,342
Ottoman .. ..	Nov.	7	8,634	—	—	—	8,634	—	12,627
Paraguay Central ..	July	10	\$379,000	+ \$108,000	—	—	\$538,000	+ \$19,000	—
Paulista .. ..	Apl.	..	M1,550,000	+ M59,123	4	1	M7,350,000	+ M339,662	—
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	June *	..	\$759,374	—	\$24,042	—	\$8,359,705	—	\$471,249
Puerto Cab. & V'len.	Apl.	..	3,485	—	585	—	16,121	—	879
Salvador .. ..	July	10	\$28,000	+ \$8,000	—	—	—	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	..	4	26,497	—	4,496	—	—	—	—
Sorocabana .. ..	Apl.	..	M1,186,000	+ M32,722	4	1	M5,440,000	+ M4,955	—
Taital .. ..	May *	..	8,243	17,850	—	—	122,386	—	162,467
United of Havana ..	July	10	23,725	+ 3,236	—	—	34,163	—	8,076
United of Yucatan ..	Feb.	6	\$64,400	+ \$6,200	—	—	\$403,900	—	\$54,300
Uruguay Northern	June *	..	1,936	+ 132	—				

§ Nine days. \* Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. || 10 days. a April 1.

		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	..	June 12	97,000	--	36,186	+
Barsi Light	..	" 12	16,900	--	3,800	+
Bengal & N.-W.	..	" 12	4,10,810	--	59,219	+
Bengal Nagpur	..	" 5	7,88,000	--	8,000	+
Bombay, Baroda	..	July 10	9,95,000	--	92,000	+
Burma	..	June 12	3,81,576	--	58,261	+
Delhi Umballa	..	July 10	65,600	--	11,490	+
East Indian	..	" 10	20,53,000	--	54,000	+
Gt. Indian Penin.	..	" 10	12,65,700	--	48,900	+
Lucknow-Bareilly	..	June 12	42,786	--	8,366	+
Madras and S.						
Maharatta	..	" 19	9,35,000	--	7,855	+
Nizam's Guarantee'd	..	" 12	1,11,178	--	7,554	+
Rohilkund and						
Kumaon	..	" 5	35,632	--	5,111	+
South Indian	..	" 19	5,80,790	--	12,341	+
Southern Punjab	..	Feb. 8	5,88,334	--	135,255	+

† April 1.      § Month.      || October 1.

		\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio	June 30	1,240,000	+ 179,000	+ 39,378,000
Chicago G. W.	" 30	282,000	+ 12,000	+ 13,900,000
Colorado & South'n	" 21	241,000	+ 11,000	+ 13,724,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 30	571,000	+ 15,000	+ 21,793,000
Inter. of Mexico	Aug. 7	42,400	+ 138,900	+ 225,500
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	June 30	1,240,000	+ 179,000	+ 51,558,000
Mexican	Nov. 21	103,600	+ 102,900	+ 3,852,700
Do.	Oct. *	262,500	+ 126,300	+ 1,149,000
Do.		905,600	+ 84,200	+ 3,405,200
Minn. S. P. & S. S. M.	June 14	490,000	+ 13,000	+ 26,632,000
Missouri Kansas	July 7	536,370	+ 20,158	+ 536,370
Missouri Pacific	June 30	1,360,000	+ 78,000	+ 58,150,000
National of Mexico	Aug. 7	628,408	+ 395,370	+ 17,894,408
Do.	do.	74,000	+ 197,000	+ 2,287,000
Southern	June 30	1,474,000	+ 150,000	+ 62,147,000

a 1914.      || Nine Days.      \* Nett.      § Includes Wisconsin Central.  
                     † From July 1.      † Jan. 1.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	
Atchison T. & S. F6	May	2,842,000	+ 285,000	II	33,101,000	+ 3,561,000	II	
Atlantic Coast Line ..		565,000	- 64,000	II	6,630,000	- 1,953,000	II	
Baltimore & Ohio ..		3,133,000	+ 1,247,000	II	24,707,000	+ 1,410,000	II	
Canadian Northern ..		322,900	- 158,700	II	4,493,400	- 1,395,000	II	
Canadian Pacific ..		2,443,000	- 520,000	II	30,897,000	- 8,193,000	II	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..		1,215,000	+ 208,000	II	10,843,000	+ 542,000	II	
Chicago & N.W. ..		1,562,000	+ 552,000	II	20,393,000	- 791,000	II	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Mar.	1,637,000	- 714,000	9	25,132,000	- 601,000	II	
Chicago G.W. ..	May	208,000	+ 15,000	II	3,092,000	- 51,000	II	
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..		1,694,000	- 136,000	II	21,894,000	+ 2,466,000	II	
Colorado & Southern ..	Apr.	185,000	+ 33,000	IO	3,143,000	+ 704,000	II	
Cuba .. ..	May	504,877	- 78,876	II	4,749,143	+ 16,650	II	
Do. . . . .	*	260,649	- 111,003	II	1,688,244	+ 143,310	II	
Delaware & Hud. ..	Apr.	842,000	- 149,000	4	2,162,000	+ 477,000	II	
Denver & Rio Grand ..	May	593,000	+ 91,000	II	5,864,000	+ 233,000	II	
Erie .. ..		1,100,000	- 250,000	I	4,787,000	+ 530,000	II	
Gr. Tr. Main Line. . .		£ 215,950	- £ 9,050	II	£ 750,650	- £ 38,250	II	
Grand Trunk Western ..		£ 1,200	- £ 8,700	II	£ 7,000	- £ 5,500	II	
Detroit G. H. & Mil. .		£ 7,300	- £ 1,200	II	£ 26,400	- £ 13,050	II	
Gt. Northern ..		1,050,000	- 162,000	II	27,687,000	+ 1,144,000	II	
Illinois Central ..		681,000	- 153,000	II	10,398,000	- 479,000	II	
Kansas City Southn. .		267,000	+ 36,000	II	2,845,000	- 313,000	II	
Lehigh Valley ..		1,220,000	+ 108,000	II	9,899,000	+ 780,000	II	
Louisville & Nashv. .		829,000	+ 227,000	II	9,218,000	- 2,274,000	II	
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. .	Apr.	283,000	- 39,000	IO	5,080,000	+ 285,000	II	
Miss. K. & Texas ..		593,259	- 50,205	II	1,742,556	+ 1,187,460	II	
Missouri Pacific ..		778,000	- 118,000	II	11,902,000	- 1,027,000	II	
New York Cent. & H. .		3,716,000	+ 1,463,000	5	13,477,000	+ 4,953,000	II	
N.Y. N. Haven & H. .		1,450,000	+ 333,000	II	14,112,000	+ 2,047,000	II	
New York Ont. & W. .	May	176,000	- 21,000	II	1,957,000	+ 130,000	II	
Norfolk & Western. .		1,367,000	+ 202,000	II	11,679,000	- 90,000	II	
Northern Pacific ..		1,341,000	- 41,000	II	19,446,000	- 58,000	II	
Pennsylvania East and West Lines. .		6,766,000	+ 777,000	5	20,292,000	+ 1,050,000	II	
Reading .. ..		556,091	- 114	II	6,119,201	+ 57,200	II	
St. Louis & San F. .	Apr.	915,000	+ 591,000	IO	10,273,000	+ 1,045,000	II	
Seaboard Air Line. .		621,000	- 50,000	II	4,425,000	- 1,434,000	II	
Southern .. ..	May	1,338,000	+ 382,000	II	12,260,000	- 3,277,000	II	
Northern Pacific ..		2,653,000	+ 141,000	II	32,091,000	- 2,573,000	II	
Union Pacific ..		1,827,000	- 227,000	II	27,354,000	- 1,711,000	II	
Wabash .. ..		295,000	+ 17,000	II	5,602,000	+ 320,000	II	

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. ‡ Loss.

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. || 15 days.

			£		£		£		£
Bath Electric ..									
Bristol ..	July		10,102	+	177	+	250,555	+	20,661
British Elec. Fed. ..									
Dublin United ..	July	9	6,421	—	55	†	163,147	+	6,019
Gearless Motor Bus ..									
Hastings and Dist. ..	July		1,028	—	132	†	22,567	—	1,362
Isle of Thanet ..	"	10	502	—	833	*	13,402	—	6,135
Lancashire United ..	"	7	2,020	+	316	†	451,403	+	967
London Cnty. Cncl. ..	"	7	47,297	+	2,429	§	623,000	—	45,306
London General ..									
London United ..									
Metropolitan Elec. ..									
Nat. Steam Car ..									
Provincial ..	July	10	2,424	—	18	*	83,058	+	8,250
South Metropolitan ..									
Sunderland District ..	July	7	577	—	22	36	19,812	—	1,236
Tramways (M.E.T.) ..									
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	July	11	1,679	+	214	28	43,223	+	2,508

† From Jan. 1.      \* Oct. 1.      § Apl. 1.

|| The publication of traffic returns by these Companies has been temporarily suspended owing to the War Office requisitions.

		£	—	£	Ms	£	—	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	July	52,553	—	1,218	—	1,385,244	—	126,266
Auckland Electric ..	June	20,511	—	408	a	248,109	—	798
Brazilian Traction ..	May	M3,991,980	+ M401,230	5	6	M180,645	+ M767,441	24
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	June	29,880	—	1,290	—	178,500	—	9,535
British Columbia ..	May	£23,714	—	148,960	11	£1,308,573	—	£888,901
Burmah Electric ..	July	Rs. 4,770	—	Rs. 730	—	Rs. 1,87,474	—	Rs. 46,589
Calcutta ..	10	Rs. 70,582	+ Rs. 244	—	—	Rs. 17,87,597	—	Rs. 86,559
Cardagenha & Her.	June	2,059	+	654	*	10,048	—	3,148
Cordoba Light								
P. & T. ..	May	14,458	—	209	2	28,065	—	463
East India ..	June	2,194	+	238	11	21,553	—	5
Georgia ..	Sept.	£35,672	+ £12,327	9	*	£276,850	—	£35,531
Havana Electric ..	June 20	£50,050	—	£2,462	*	£1,259,165	—	£79,907
Hongkong ..	July 10	10,429	—	768	*	£297,828	—	£29,428
Kalgoorlie ..	May	3,209	—	—	5	13,472	—	3,472
La Plata ..	June	3,876	—	684	6	25,772	—	10,833
Lima ..	May	15,170	—	584	*	76,493	—	—
Madras Electric ..	July 150	Rs. 32,086	—	Rs. 103	*	Rs. 374,921	—	Rs. 2,937
Manila ..	May	£60,500	—	£3,500	5	£308,051	—	£1,533
Melbourne ..	Nov.	61,589	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexico ..	—	£215,250	—	£108,669	*	£3,193,105	—	£197,227
Puebla ..	Dec.	£40,000	—	£25,600	*	£669,500	—	£44,500
Rangoon ..	June	4,997	—	—	—	49,745	—	2,589
Singapore Electric ..	Nov	8,977	—	£3,121	—	£577,508	—	£33,973
Toronto ..	May	£374,803	—	£47,303	5	£1,876,201	—	£124,678
United of Monte V.	—	24,266	—	3,783	8	226,692	—	30,554
Vera Cruz ..	May	£49,800	+	£16,100	5	£194,400	+	£43,400
Winnipeg ..	—	£86,750	—	£61,271	5	£536,999	—	£193,408

*b* 23 days. \* From Jan. 1. *g* Nett. *a* From July 1. *c* Two weeks.  
*d* From Aug. 1. *h* One transmission line out of service during month, many  
factories closed and tramway services interrupted through political disturbances

**Calgary Power Co., Ltd.**—The nett operating results during the month of May, 1915, were \$21,493, showing a nett increase of \$7,701 over May, 1914.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—  
Nett earnings for May, 1915, \$244,624, increase \$2,312; aggregate  
nett earnings from July 1, \$2,962,058, increase \$136,476.



## SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,250,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

## PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Offices: 19 &amp; 70, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &amp;c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

The success of the new War Loan has created a situation in the Money market which is absolutely unprecedented, and dealers in credit have consequently been bewildered. No one can predict what the condition of the market is likely to be after Tuesday, but all are convinced that there is no possibility of a return to the very cheap credit which has been available for so long. Already some effect has been produced on supplies by the payments in full and the preparations which are being made in anticipation of next Tuesday. The joint-stock banks have been calling in their funds, and by Wednesday borrowers made up their minds to go to the Bank of England for assistance, when a moderate business was done in loans and discounts at 5 per cent., the extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. usually charged for loans being waived. Yesterday the pressure became more pronounced, and, partly because of the special circumstances, and partly with the object of relieving the pressure on its own organisation on Tuesday next, the Bank made another new departure from its ordinary practice. Borrowers had to take what they required for a week, but they were only charged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the period from the granting of the loan to the 20th inst. For the remainder of the week the rate varied with the security, being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on Treasury bills if the money were specifically required to pay the instalments, 4 per cent. on the old War Loan in accordance with the existing arrangement, and 5 per cent. on ordinary bills or securities.

This concession greatly pleased the market, as it prevented the charge for weekly fixtures from becoming unduly high. As it was, supplies of seven-day money were very small, but lenders' ideas of its value varied considerably, and the charge ranged from 3 to 4 per cent. Overnight loans, as a rule, cost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., but during the last day or two some of the borrowers at the Bank having no immediate need of the funds they had obtained were willing to accept a lower figure for their temporary employment, and a good deal of the business was arranged at 2 per cent.

Prospects of a continuance of dearer money have naturally had an effect on the discount market. Short-dated paper could be placed in some quarters at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but the quotation for three months' maturities

was up to Bank rate, while fours were quoted at 5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and sixes at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Neither buyers nor sellers of bills, however, were anxious to work, and these figures were to a large extent nominal.

On Wednesday the first of the Treasury bills sold "over the counter" at the Bank began to mature, but owing to the plan followed of merely giving the total each week, the market was unable to do more than guess at the amount involved. All that was known was that the sales for the first four days aggregated £9,531,000, but it assumed that, except for a very small proportion in nine months' bills, this amount was about equally divided between threes and sixes; and on this basis brokers calculated that this week's repayments would be about £1,200,000 per day. Sales of new bills have, of course, practically ceased since the War Loan was issued, and the total last week was only £1,254,000.

During the week the Petrograd exchange has further advanced to the very high level of just under 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but the Paris cheque has dropped back to 26.55, and the Spanish exchange has also moved against this country. The New York cable transfer rate, after being steadier most of the week, came over rather lower to-day.

A little gold came back from the country during the Bank week ended on Wednesday, and although £243,000 was withdrawn on foreign account, the stocks of coin and bullion were only reduced by £138,000 to £53,126,000. With a contraction of £579,000 in the note circulation, the reserve was increased by £441,000 to £37,082,000, but the proportion to liabilities remained at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The increase of £704,000 in Government Securities may possibly represent the Bank's interest in the new War Loan, and part at least of the addition of £2,103,000 to "Other" Securities was the result of the market's borrowings on Wednesday. Public Deposits were £14,912,000 lower at £52,987,000, and "Other" Deposits rose by £18,124,000 to £187,984,000.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended July 14 £2,337,292 in £1 notes and £517,795 10s. in 10s. notes were issued. In the same period £1,229,957 in £1 and £385,807 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £1,239,323, leaving a total of £49,298,471 10s. outstanding, made up of £36,899,061 in £1 and £12,399,410 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £303,236 5s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £11,376,880 3s. 4d. at the Bank of England, while £139,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue.

Messrs. Barry Bros. and Co. and Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell and Co. announce that they are prepared to retire the £5,000,000 Argentine Treasury bills due on September 2, and the £3,000,000 due on December 15, under discount at rates which may be ascertained from them.

### SILVER.

A further advance to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. was registered in the price of bars on Saturday last as the result of a little Indian buying, but the demand then appeared to be satisfied for the time being. In the absence of any other support, the quotation relapsed to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., but at that figure there was a small revival of the inquiry, which was followed by a little Continental buying and the market closes steady at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to only Rs. 15,000 in bills, which were allotted at 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ . The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 13th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,74,01,978, realising £1,824,471, compared with Rs. 4,37,23,332 for £2,919,371 to July 14 last year.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announces that they have applied for slightly over £1,000,000 of the new 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan, in addition to a subscription of nearly £500,000 to the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan issued in November last.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the  
Week ending on Wednesday, July 14, 1915.  
ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued .. ..	£ 70,581,380	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,131,380
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£70,581,380		£70,581,380

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 51,747,910
Reserve .. ..	3,274,566	Other Securities .. ..	140,020,855
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	36,086,790
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	995,119
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,986,503		
Other Deposits .. ..	157,983,549		
Seven Day and other Bills	53,056		
	£228,850,674		£228,850,674

Dated July 15, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared  
with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the  
corresponding return last year:—

Last year, July 15.	July 7, 1915.	July 14, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,431,484	Rest .. ..	3,235,733	—	—
13,318,714	Pub. Deposits ..	67,898,980	—	—
42,485,605	Other do. ..	139,859,352	18,124,197	14,912,477
29,070	7 Day Bills ..	55,745	—	2,689
	Assets.	53,056	Decrease.	Increase.
11,005,126	Gov. Securities.	51,043,491	—	704,419
33,623,288	Other do. ..	137,918,307	—	2,102,348
29,189,399	Total Reserve ..	36,641,012	—	440,897
			18,163,030	18,163,030
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
29,315,255	Note Circulation	35,073,135	—	578,545
40,054,654	Coin and Bullion	53,264,147	—	137,648
52½ p.c.	Proportion ..	178 p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £243,000 out.

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

During the 10 days ended July 10 the Bank sold Treasury Bills  
for £1,254,000, under the new arrangement, at fixed rates of 2½  
per cent. for three months, 3½ per cent. for six months, and 3½  
per cent. for nine and twelve months.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3½
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6	2 13 11½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
* 179,313,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
251,813,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken  
place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Sovs. (released) ..	£
Tuesday— " .. ..	£
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	£
Thursday— " .. ..	£
	Nett Influx .. ..
£951,000	£951,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 25, 1915.	June 18, 1915.	June 11, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates—	£	£	£
Settlement Fund, &c. ..	6,272,000	5,872,000	5,790,000
Held by the Banks .. ..	44,765,400	43,432,200	43,456,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	9,569,600	9,783,200	8,926,400
Total reserves .. ..	60,607,000	59,087,400	58,172,600
30-day bills and loans ..	2,666,500	2,876,600	2,944,200
60-day bills and loans ..	2,014,000	1,996,000	2,163,500
Others .. ..	2,394,400	2,245,200	2,093,600
Total .. ..	7,275,000	7,117,800	7,201,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,520,200	1,441,600	1,437,400
Municipal Warrants ..	2,301,800	1,932,800	1,999,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	1,662,200	1,629,000	2,975,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,824,800	1,550,600	1,240,800
All other assets .. ..	1,100,200	1,306,600	1,329,200
Total assets .. ..	76,201,200	74,065,800	74,256,200
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,840,000	10,840,000	10,839,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	62,269,800	59,872,200	59,930,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,523,400	2,420,000	2,419,600
All other liabilities .. ..	658,000	933,400	1,067,000
Total liabilities .. ..	76,291,000	74,065,800	74,256,200

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,204,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	939,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	353,304,000
June ..	233,285,000	306,206,000	—	72,921,000
" 2	231,525,000	285,464,000	—	53,939,000
" 9	225,460,000	329,729,000	—	104,269,000
" 16	236,425,000	275,105,000	—	38,670,000
" 23	266,789,000	445,419,000	—	178,630,000
July ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 7	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
Total ..	6,541,296,000	9,507,310,000	—	2,666,014,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.  
(For 10 days ended July 10.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties.. ..	Supply Services .. .. .
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. .. .
Crown Lands .. .. .	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. .	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Act, 1913 .. .. .
1913 .. .. .	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
Under Military Works Acts,	Under Military Works Acts,
1897-1903 .. .. .	1897-1903 .. .. .
Issue of War Stock and War	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Bonds .. .. .	penses Act, 1903 .. .. .
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8,
East Africa Protectorate	issued under Section 9
Loan repayments .. ..	of Finance Act, 1908 ..
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11,
account of principal ..	issued under Section 16
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	(1) (b) of the Finance Act,
China Indemnity .. ..	1911 .. .. .
Ways and Means Advances	China Indemnity, issued
Temporary Advances De-	to reduce debt under the
ficiency .. .. .	Finance Act, 1911 .. ..
Decrease in Exchequer	Deficiency advances repaid
balances .. .. .	Ways and Means Advances
	repaid .. .. .
	Increase in Exchequer
	balances .. .. .
£40,508,628	£40,508,628

† Reduction.

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 15, 1915.	July 8, 1915.	July 1, 1915.	June 24, 1915.
Gold in hand .. ..	£ 159,458,960	£ 157,799,450	£ 157,262,000	£ 157,086,850
Silver in hand .. ..	14,701,160	14,766,360	14,862,840	14,911,200
Bills discounted .. ..	10,715,280	10,442,600	10,820,440	10,347,200
Advances .. ..	24,592,120	24,598,640	24,972,880	24,987,280
Note circulation .. ..	497,937,760	493,129,600	488,633,880	484,186,640
Public deposits .. ..	3,866,400	2,654,040	3,280,560	2,173,080
Private deposits .. ..	95,600,960	95,356,360	94,609,720	90,997,200
Foreign Bills .. ..	67,080	68,760	61,520	46,400

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35 per cent. against 35 per cent.  
last week. Advances to the State £254,000,000; increase, £4,000,000. The  
adjoined payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted  
to £43,599,800, decrease £325,680, and at the branches to £44,020,560, decrease  
£415,940.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	July 11, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 119,274,000	£ 117,772,000	£ 116,114,000	£ 115,604,400
Specie .. ..	9,810,000	9,796,000	9,820,000	8,744,000
Deposits .. ..	179,568,000	180,474,000	118,860,000	115,950,400
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,966,000	1,892,000	1,950,000	1,968,000

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	July 11, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 509,632,000	£ 503,236,000	£ 495,016,000	£ 420,052,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	84,766,000	89,904,000	91,644,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	25,179,000	25,562,000	25,943,000	90,754,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	7,186,000	5,964,000	5,648,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits .. ..	499,192,000	496,316,000	486,862,000	396,198,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	86,780,000	27,724,000	27,538,000	8,314,000
Circulation .. ..	7,550,000	7,576,000	7,582,000	—
Excess Lawful Reserve .. ..	308,140,000	35,608,000	39,006,000	1,436,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the  
Time Deposits.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 29, 1915.	June 21, 1915.	June 14, 1915.	June 29, 1914.
Notes in reserve .. ..	£ 8,743,100	£ 7,722,300	£ 9,265,800	£ 7,164,200
Cash in reserve .. ..	157,719,200	157,280,200	157,351,100	159,574,900
Gold in reserve abroad ..	10,858,700	10,922,700	12,431,000	16,923,000
Circulation note issue ..	367,000,000	359,500,000	357,000,000	170,000,000
Treasury deposits .. ..	34,729,700	33,263,200	49,096,100	48,842,200



## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 7, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	June 23, 1915.	July 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	121,790,550	121,757,200	121,757,200	81,291,950
Treasury Notes	9,165,050	22,009,000	13,559,850	2,539,750
Bills discounted	244,020,500	245,887,650	211,005,850	48,679,150
Advances	730,900	782,950	751,300	3,125,250
Note circulation	280,180,750	292,016,700	261,245,500	109,615,100
Public deposits	86,878,150	89,964,800	80,692,200	41,858,500

Clearing House returns during June £235,431,975 against £208,056,720 in May.

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	July 11, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	27,632,001	27,595,344	27,582,547	21,394,216
Silver	29,563,048	29,685,677	29,884,627	29,133,676
Foreign Bills	4,894,179	4,976,171	4,938,710	5,167,070
Discounts and Short Bills	27,073,539	27,269,837	27,070,339	27,945,970
Treasury Account, &c.	32,803,961	32,679,941	32,540,154	26,719,120
Notes in Circulation	80,378,150	79,875,577	79,679,911	76,954,407
Current Accounts, Deposits	27,926,474	27,533,038	26,916,681	19,365,686
Dividends, Interests, &c.	2,153,229	2,411,173	1,439,761	1,864,086
Government Securities	2,726,319	2,892,680	5,417,043	5,510,971

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 10, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	June 23, 1915.	July 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	11,784,252	11,772,328	11,759,228	7,716,884
Bills	5,681,960	5,961,540	5,024,360	3,783,720
Note circulation	16,399,136	16,902,272	15,877,572	11,082,812
Current and deposit accounts	3,316,936	2,976,412	3,011,864	1,646,792

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	July 11, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	30,557,485	30,022,649	28,928,052	13,997,842
Silver	150,264	146,450	198,295	654,318
Bills discounted, &c.	15,087,649	15,561,384	16,238,878	13,433,461
Note circulation	42,029,695	41,943,958	40,320,796	26,751,252
Deposits	3,094,775	2,957,774	4,575,551	472,580

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	June 19, 1915.	July 4, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,300,000	6,302,000	6,302,000	5,877,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	4,525,000	4,533,000	4,009,000	6,280,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,732,000	2,769,000	2,803,000	1,556,000
Discounts and Loans	7,918,000	7,479,000	7,131,000	6,110,000
Notes in circulation	15,920,000	15,073,000	15,017,000	12,647,000
Deposits at notice	4,180,000	4,367,000	4,175,000	3,514,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 7, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	June 22, 1915.	July 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	3,598,000	3,531,000	3,969,222	3,016,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,216,000	3,211,000	3,167,778	1,617,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	637,000	638,000	642,778	503,000
Discounts & Loans	4,348,000	4,327,000	4,252,500	4,603,000
Notes in Circulation	8,115,000	8,062,000	7,677,222	6,822,000
Deposits at notice	1,114,000	1,137,000	1,357,944	537,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 13, 1915.		July 15, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Belgium	Three months' bills	—	—	—	—
Do.	Cheques & mail transfers	—	—	—	—
Holland	Three months' bills	12.2½	12.3½	12.2½	12.3½
Do.	Cable transfers	11.91	11.94	11.90	11.94
Italy	Three months' bills	29.55	29.75	29.55	29.75
Do.	Cable transfers	29.15	29.35	29.15	29.35
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	37	36	36½	35½
New York	Cable transfers	4.76½	4.77½	4.76½	4.77½
Do.	Cheques & mail transfers	4.78	4.79	4.77½	4.78½
Paris	Three months' bills	27.25	27.35	27.02½	27.12½
Do.	Cable transfers	26.83	26.8	26.62½	26.72½
Petrograd	Cable transfers	132½	134½	136½	138½
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	18.35	18.55	18.55	18.85
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills	46½	45½	46½	45½
Do.	Cable transfers	25.00	25.25	24.95	25.15
Switzerland	Three months' bills	26.00	26.20	25.95	26.15
Do.	Cable transfers	25.60	25.80	25.55	25.75

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	26.92½	26.57½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	slight	29.30	29.25
Amsterdam	slight	11.85	11.91½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	13d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna	slight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/32d.	1/32d.
Petrograd	3 mths	132	138	Bombay	T.T.	1/32d.	1/32d.
New York	slight	4.77½	4.77	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/9d.	1/9d.
Lisbon	slight	36½	36	Shanghai	T.T.	2/24d.	2/24d.
Madrid	slight	25.55	25.12½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

		Last week, Per cent.	This week, Per cent.
Three months	.. .. .	2½	2½
Six months	.. .. .	3½	3½
Nine months	.. .. .	3½	3½
Twelve months	.. .. .	3½	3½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

		Last week, Per cent.	This week, Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	.. .. .	4½	5
Three months	.. .. .	4½-48	5
Four months	.. .. .	4½	5-58
Six months	.. .. .	5	58
Three months fire inland bills	.. .. .	5	5½
Four months	.. .. .	5½-58	58
Six months	.. .. .	58-6	58-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

		Last week, Per cent.	This week, Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	.. .. .	5	5
Bank of England short loan rates	.. .. .	5½	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	.. .. .	2	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	.. .. .	2½	2½
7 and 14 days' notice	.. .. .	1½-2	3-4
Current rates for 7 day loans	.. .. .	1-1½	2-2½
for call loans	.. .. .	—	—

## The Week's Stock Markets.

It is still all "War Loan" on the Stock Exchange; in fact, the paralysis has this week been worse than ever, and a curtain of gloom seems to hang over everything. Why is this? The loan has been a perfectly marvellous success, far more solidly a success than we could have thought possible in our actual circumstances, and remembering what has gone before. Partly, the depression comes from the absence of any markedly cheerful news from the seat of war. In reality, as we say elsewhere, the news is decidedly encouraging, but there has been no sensational triumph such as catches the eye of the multitude—and the Stock Exchange thinks very much like the multitude—and in siege warfare such as now goes on the "wearing down" process is often imperceptible. Therefore the market is oppressed by the fear that Lord Kitchener and not the Kaiser may be the true prophet; in other words, that the war is going to be a long one, demanding further big loans, and therefore checking any return to normal business conditions. Above all, however, there is dread as to how "money" will shape next Tuesday, whether it will be dear or inconveniently scarce on the 20th, when allottees of the new loan may pay up in full. We do not believe that there is any substantial reason for this fear, and think that the active course of lower prices is to be found in efforts on the part of the buyers of the new loan to sell securities in order to get money to pay up in full. For the time being, however, it is perfectly useless to talk about market prospects, the chances of this group advancing, of that other holding its price, or of the depressed sections recovering tone. It will be far better to wait until next week. Even then anything like a free market is improbable, but that may be just as well, and while everything remains in a frozen or congested state nobody who can avoid it, we must once more repeat, ought to make any attempt to sell. Look how New York stocks have been pressed down by the attempts already made. The public should realise that no market is in a position to absorb stock just because nowhere is there much free capital available, still less any disposition to let it go.

A wild yarn went round the City, and helped to darken prospects, that the Stock Exchange is to be closed again altogether, so that no dealings might be possible in the new loan. Probably this was a German-hatched story.

With a view to facilitating the work in connection with the payments on the War Loan on Tuesday next, it was suggested in the beginning of this week that applicants should pay immediately on receipt of their allotments. Such a course would probably prove very inconvenient to many who have arranged to provide the money on that date, but a way has been found by which they can still help to make things easier for the officials in charge. The Bank of England announced on Wednesday that:—



Applicants who have received their allotments may lodge forth-with payment of the instalment due July 20, 1915, or payment in full, subject to discount calculated from that date. Cheques received in respect of such payments may be dated July 20, and will be held over for presentation on or after that date.

Holders, by availing themselves of this arrangement, will be able to save themselves much of the delay and discomfort to which they might otherwise be liable owing to the very large number of payments which are due to be made on the date named.

Dealers are now waiting for permission to deal in the new War Loan, and for the time being business on the Stock Exchange has shrunk to very small proportions. Apparently this state of suspended animation, combined with the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in the South Wales coal trade, got on the nerves of many of the members on Thursday, and all manner of wild

New South Wales to 95½, although in the last-named the advance was not maintained. In Foreign bonds the most prominent incident has been a strong demand for Argentine Treasury bonds, which have risen to 97½. Japanese 4½ per cent. bonds have been bought for redemption purposes, the first series improving to 86½, and the seconds to 83½, and the firmness extended to the 4 per cent. loans. A moderate business was done in Brazil New Funding, sending the price up to 70½, but other South American things were inclined to be easier.

Very little business has been done in Home Railways, but the market remained fairly steady until Wednesday, when it became weak on the coal trouble in South Wales, and the greater part of the gains were wiped out. North-Western was one of the principal sufferers, losing ¼; Midland deferred fell ¼, and Great Eastern and Great Western ½ each. North-Eastern, however, was ¼ better on balance, and the Southern stocks also showed small gains. Canadian Pacific shares, after an initial improvement, went out of favour on another poor traffic return, and have remained weak, but Grand Trunk stocks were steady to firm for the most part, although closing a little below the best. Wall Street has been dominated by the anxiety with regard to President Wilson's reply to the German Note, and the pressure to sell was increased by unfavourable crop reports. U.S. Steel rose sharply on the report of higher prices for steel products. Argentine Railways were inclined to improve at first, but the traffic returns did not come up to expectations, and the greater part of the earlier gains disappeared. B.A. and Pacific, however, were exceptionally firm, and finished ½ higher. Mexican Railway stocks were heavy, with a fall of 1½ to 1¼ on the ordinary, but the first preference rallied a little on the news that train services between Mexico City and Vera Cruz have been resumed. San Paulo fell to 167, but Leopoldina and United of Havana both showed recoveries.

Bank shares have been a very quiet market, and prices have generally tended toward lower levels. Lloyds, however, have been conspicuously firm at 24½d, and Barclay "B" have also improved, but most of the others in the London group lost small fractions. Bank of Australasia recovered a small fraction, and Standard of South Africa were ¾ better at 10½, but Chartered of India and Hongkong gave way. Very little interest was taken in the Shipping group, but Royal Mail further recovered to 74, and Furness, Withy were wanted on the report, rising to 31s. Court Line improved to 23s. 9d. on the offer of 100,000 new £1 shares to shareholders at 21s., with an option to subscribe for another share at 15s up to February 28, 1916. The new shares will be entitled to the final dividend and bonus for the current year, but not to the interim dividend already declared. A little revival of interest was shown in Armament and Engineering things, Birmingham Small Arms especially being in demand and rising to 55s. Armstrong improved to 36s. 6d. and Vickers to 33s. 9d., but Pease and Partners and Curtis's and Harvey were offered and closed lower. Canadian Car and Foundry common and preferred both improved and Lake Superior were higher at 9½. British Electric Traction issues were not affected by the reorganisation scheme published this week, but Brazil Traction were offered and fell to 50½. English Sewing Cotton were wanted on the maintenance of the dividend and bonus at last year's figure of 13 per cent., and rose to 34s. Courtaulds continue very much in favour, and further advanced to 56s. 3d.

Oil shares have been neglected and prices have drooped. Shell have fluctuated within very narrow limits, and closed unchanged at 4½, while Royal Dutch have fallen back to 45. North Caucasian, after being a shade harder, relapsed to 28s. in spite of the announcement that an interim dividend of 1s. per share would be paid on October 1, and both Ural Caspian and Spies, although higher on balance, finished below the best. The inquiry for Rubber shares continues good, but business has been restricted by the difficulty of obtaining shares. Bukit Rajah, Perak and Kepitigalla were prominent amongst the favourites owing to the good reports, but there was a fair demand for Langen, Sialang, Tandjong and United Sumatra. Grand Central, Malayalam, Bukit Cloh and Bukit Sembawang were also in request, and Highlands and Lowlands met with support on the declaration of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., or the same as a year ago.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—A fairly good business was conducted in all descriptions of sugar this week, and prices on balance remain steady. Tate's cubes No. 1, sold, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; fine granulated, 28s.; standard, 27s. 9d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Of imported, white Java, on spot, in London, sold, 26s. 7½d. to 27s. 3d.; outports, 26s. 7½d. to 27s. 3d.; soft Java in outports, 24s. to 25s. American granulated, spot, sold, 29s.; and S. and T., 29s.; and J., 28s. 6d. The Cuban receipts for all ports last week were 18,700 tons, against 17,000 tons in 1914; and centrals at work 12, against 7. Stock in Cuba 612,000 tons, against 386,000 tons at same time last year. Cane sales of larger extent met with good support, and prices ruled firm to 3d. advance. 3,299 bags Demerara were offered, and partly sold: mid to good mid yellow, 24s. 6d. to 25s.; good to fine yellow and color pale, 25s. 6d. to 26s. 3,212 bags Trinidad, partly sold: good small grain yellow, 25s.; fine yellow, 25s. 9d. to 26s. 3,027 bags Jamaica, sold: low greyish and brownish, 23s. 6d. to 23s. 9d.; low middling to good yellow, 24s. to 24s. 7½d. 1,800 bags St. Lucia, sold: middling yellow, 24s. 3d. 120 bags Trinidad Muscovado, sold: good grocery, 20s. 3d. Privately

Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.	98½	99½
69½ India 3%.....	69½	69½	95 New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
80½ " 3½%.....	80½	80½	92 Queensland 4%.....	92	92
— War Loan.....	93½	92½	— " 4½% new	96½	97
— Canada 4%, 1940-60	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	—	—
— " 4½%, 1920-5	96½	95½	4½%, 1920-5 .....	97	97½
92 N.S.W. 4%.....	95½	95	— Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	97½	97½
66 Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes .....	69½	69½
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½% (rst) .....	83½	84½
— " New Funding .....	69½	70½	83 " (2nd) .....	83½	83½
— Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94	— Russia 4% .....	73	74
— " 1913 .....	82½	82	— " 4½% .....	80½	80½
— Egypt Unified.....	85	85	— " 5% .....	91½	91½
Brighton defd. ....	52½	53	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	24	24½
Caledonian defd. ....	8½	9½	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	7½	8½	Metropolitan .....	25½	25½
Gt. Central pf. ....	15½	15½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	100	100
— dfd. ....	7½	7½	Met. District .....	13	13½
Gt. Eastern .....	39½	38½	Midland dfd. ....	61	60½
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	39½	39½	Nth. British dfd. ....	16	16½
Gt. Western .....	102½	102½	Nth.-Eastern .....	108½	108½
Lancs and Yorks. ....	71½	70½	Nth.-Western .....	109½	108½
— " .....	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	23½	23½
Canadian Pacific .....	149½	151½	Chesapeake.....	39	38
Do. 6% Notes .....	107½	107½	Erie.....	26½	26½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	84½	84½	Millwaukee .....	83½	84½
Grand Trunk ord. ....	84½	84½	N. Y. Central.....	91	89½
Do. 3rd pf. ....	21½	21½	Southern .....	14½	14½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	97½	97½	Southern Pacific .....	89	88½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " .....	95½	96	Union Pacific .....	131	131½
Atchafson .....	103	104	U. S. Steel .....	61½	63½
Baltimore .....	75½	79½	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	80½	80
Antofagasta dfd. ....	111½	111	Do. 5% Notes .....	98½	98½
Do. 6% Notes .....	99½	99½	Do. 6% " .....	101½	102
Brazil Com. ....	7½	7	Leopoldina .....	30	31½
B. A. & Pacific .....	44	46½	Mexican ord. ....	16	14½
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	81	80½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	170	167
B. A. Western .....	84½	84½	United of Havana.....	69	69½
Bank of Australasia.....	110½	111	London City & Midland..	7½	7½x
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	8½	8½	London County & West..	16½	15½
Do. "B" .....	10½	11	London Joint Stock.....	23	21½x
Capital & Counties .....	24	22½x	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	28	25½x
Chartered of India .....	56	55	Do. (£12 pd) .....	30½	29½x
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	75½	74½	Parr's .....	30½	29½x
Lloyds .....	23½	24½x	Standard of S.A. ....	9½	10½
London & Provincial .....	17	16½x	Union & Smiths.....	24	24
London & S.W. ....	12½	12½x	Forestral Land.....	34/6	34/6
Apollinaris ord. ....	2½	2½	Furness, Withy .....	30/1	31/1
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	35/1	36/6	Hudson's Bay .....	5	5½
Associated Cement .....	32	32	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	23/9	22/6
Birmingham Small Arms	51/6	55/1	Do. dfd. 'A' .....	39/1	38/1
Borax dfd. ....	26/9	26/9	Kynochs .....	32/1	30/1x
Bovril .....	20/3	20/1	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/3	20/9
Brazil Traction .....	52	50½	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½x
British Amer. Tobacco ..	70/1	68/6	Marconi .....	1½	1½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27/6	25/6x	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	22/1	22/1
Brunner, Mond .....	31½	31½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	38	38½x
Cammell-Laird .....	5	5	National Steam Car. ....	12/3	12/3x
Castner-Kellner .....	59/1	59/1	Nobel Dynamite .....	16	16
Coats .....	5	5	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2
Cunard .....	2½	2½x	P. & O. dfd. ....	25½	260
Dennis Bros. ....	27/6	27/1	Royal Mail .....	72	74
Dorman, Long .....	20/1	20/6	South Durham Steel .....	26/1	26/9
Eastmans .....	7/6	7/6	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	72½	74½
English Sewing Cotton ..	31/1	34/1	Vickers .....	33/1	33/9
Fine Cotton Spinners .....	25/1	24/9	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	17½x	17½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	7/9	8/1	North Caucasian .....	28/1	28/1
Baku ros. ....	2/10½	3/1	Roumanian Cons. ....	15/1	14/9
Burmah .....	38½x	38	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45
Labotas .....	28/6	26/1x	Shell .....	4½	4½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3/6	3/6	Spies (10/-) .....	14/6	15/3
Maikop Pipeline .....	3/6	3/6	Ural Caspian .....	32/6	33/1
Mexican Eagle .....	1½x	1½	Linggi .....	14/1	14/3x
Anglo-Malay .....	8/3	8/7½	London Asiatic .....	6/3	6/3
Batu Caves .....	12½x	12½	Malacca .....	4½	4½
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/7½	Malayalam .....	21/1	21/6
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/6	2/9	Merlimau .....	4/3	4/3
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Rubber Trust (12/6 pd.) ..	11/10½	12/1
Gula Kalumpang .....	1½	1½	United Serdang .....	9/1	9/3
Highlands .....	2½	2½	Vallambrosa .....	11/10½	12/3
Johore Rub. Lands 19/1 pd.	12/9	12/6	De Beers dfd. ....	10½	10½
Abbottiakoon .....	7/9	8/1	East Rand .....	18½	18½
Brakpan .....	2½x	2½x	Gt. Boulder .....	14/6	14/6
Broken Hill Prop. ....	44/3	44/6	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½x	5½x
Cam & Motor .....	13/6	13/6	Modder "B" .....	5½x	5½x
Central Mining .....	6½	6½	Do. Deep .....	4½x	4½x
Chartered .....	9/6	11/1½	New Modder .....	14½	14½
City Deep .....	2½x	3½	Rand Mines .....	4½x	4½x
Cons. Gold Fields .....	12½	12½	Rio Tinto .....	56½	55½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½	1½x	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½x
Crown Mines .....	4½x	4½			

rumours were circulated. The old War Loan was still being offered by holders who need the money to pay for the new, and as buyers were hard to find, the price dwindled to 92½, but it has since rallied to 92½. A fair demand was experienced for the scrips of recent colonial issues, and Victoria and Union of South Africa both rose to 97½, while Queensland improved to 97 and



crystallised Demerara, sold, 25s. 6d.; Trinidad, 24s. 6d.; Jamaica, 24s. to 25s.; and St. Kitts, 20s. 9d.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies in auction experienced a very quiet demand. East India: Neilgherry, bold, 72s. 6d.; Naidooobatum, bold, 74s. 6d. to 76s. 6d.; Colombian, bold mixed greenish, 59s. 6d. Futures ruled inactive. September delivery, sold, 36s. 6d.; December, 36s. 1½d.

**COCOA.**—In auction moderate supplies met with fair support at firm to occasionally dearer rates. Ceylon, fair to fine, sold, 77s. to 90s. Trinidad, good to fine, 82s. to 84s. Grenada, fair to good, 77s. 6d. to 78s. 6d. St. Lucia, common to fine, 70s. to 80s. Dominica, ordinary to fine, 73s. to 79s. 6d. Jamaica, common to fine, 70s. 6d. to 79s. 6d. Costa Rica, fair to good, 74s. to 80s. Tumaco, 80s. to 84s. Samoa, fair, 79s. Uganda, fine, 74s. 6d. to 75s. 6d. Privately, Trinidad sold, 84s.; and Accra, 74s., ex quay, Liverpool.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week were rather lighter, and with fair competition, steady prices were obtained. Ceylon offerings met with fair competition, despite a further falling off in quality, but late rates were not always maintained. Common to medium sorts tended in buyers' favour, but the better grades showed no material change. Java sales passed off with a good demand at generally late level, but common descriptions were occasionally the turn in buyers' favour.

**SPICE.**—Pepper continued very quiet at about late rates. Black Singapore, on spot, buyers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, 5½d.; Lampong, 5½d.; white Singapore, on spot, 9½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; and Penang, 8½d. To arrive: black Singapore, July-September shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, afloat, buyers, 49s.; Lampong, August-October, buyers, 5½d.; white Singapore, July-September, buyers, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d., buyers; and Penang, sellers, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves inactive. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.; August-September delivery, 6½d. At public sale fair supplies passed off quietly. Pimento sold, 1½d. Black Singapore pepper, sold, 5½d. to 5½d.; and white ditto, at 8½d.

**RICE** quiet, but steadily held. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 12s. to 12s. 3d., and Rangoon, two stars, 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d.

**JUTE** in quiet request, and values somewhat nominal. Native first marks, June-July, sold, £24 10s. and new crop, ditto, September, sellers, £25, c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila inactive, and rates tended in buyers' favour. New graded fair, July-September, sellers, £36 15s.; medium ditto, £32 5s.; coarse, June-August, sold, £28 10s.; and coarse brown ditto, at £26 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand idle. G.F., July-September, sellers, £31 10s.; H.P.F., ditto, £30 10s.; and fair, £29 10s., c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot parcels ruled firmer. Fair T.N. orange sold, 56s. to 58s. Good to fine second orange, 61s. to 76s. 6d., as to quality. Futures dearer. August delivery sold, 55s. 6d. to 58s. 6d., and December, 60s. to 63s. and 62s.

**GAMBIER** firm. Good marks, August-September shipment, buyers, 33s., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.**—Market opened quiet and easier, but a firmer tone set in, and a fairly good trade passed. Plantation, standard crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 6½d. and 2s. 6½d.; July, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 6½d. and 2s. 6½d.; August, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 6d. and 2s. 6½d.; September, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 5½d. and 2s. 5½d.; October-December, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d. and 2s. 5½d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. Smoked sheet, ribbed, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 6d. and 2s. 6½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d.; July-August, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 6½d.; September-October, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7d. Soft fine, July-August, buyers, 2s. 3d.; ball, ditto, quoted 1s. 11d. per lb.

**WOOL.**—Public sales of Colonial were continued this week, and with less competition prices were easier, except for good merinos and fine crossbreds, which ruled firm. Slipped wools were very irregular, the longer sorts being on a par with last series' closing prices, but medium conditioned were fully 5 per cent. lower, while dull of sale even at the decline. The present supply of medium and coarse crossbreds are more than ample for immediate requirements, and prices ruled in buyers' favour.

**COPRA.**—A quiet tone existed in this market. To London; Ceylon, July-August shipment, nominally, £24 7s. 6d. Malabar, ditto, buyers, £24 15s. F.M.S., Singapore, July-August, and August-September, sellers, £23 15s. South Sea, June-July and July-August, £23. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, July-August, quoted, £23 10s. Cebu, ditto, nominally, £23 10s. Manila, July-August and August-September, sellers, £23 5s., c.f. and i.

**TALLOW.**—After being quiet, the market became rather steadier. At public sale, 1,941 casks were brought forward, and 1,336 sold, prices being unchanged to 3d. advance. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 35s. 3d.; dark to dull, 28s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; hard, 36s. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; dark to dull, 29s. to 31s. 3d.; sweet, 36s. 3d. per cwt. Market letter unchanged. Town tallow, 33s. 6d.; melted stuff, 23s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6d. per 8 lbs.

**OILS.**—Linseed market dull. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 15s.; barrels, £26 10s.; Hull (naked), spot, £24 5s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £30, c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £29; refined pale, spot (pipes), £31 5s.; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £42. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £23, c.f. and i. Turpentine somewhat irregular. American spirits, on spot, 37s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 8½d.; water-white, 9½d. per gallon. Linseed quiet. Calcutta, spot, 54s.; afloat, 54s.; June-July, 54s.; July-August, 54s.; August-September, 54s. 3d.; La Plata, July-August, 50s.; August-September, 50s. 6d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, June-July (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), June-July, 51s. Cottonseed quiet. London: Egyptian, £9; July, £9 10s. Resin: common strained, spot, 12s. 3d. Palm oil, Lagos, £32 10s.

**METALS.**—Copper: The warrant market manifested a fairly steady tone last Monday, business being on a moderate scale, with standard cash delivery closing at £77 12s. 6d., and three months £79 2s. 6d. sellers. Prices were firmer on the following day, in sympathy with more cheerful cable news from Wall Street, sellers showing reserve, while values of these dates improved to £78 5s. and £79 10s. respectively. A downward tendency prevailed since the middle of the week under realisations and forward offers, which were rather well absorbed on Thursday, when cash delivery left off at £76 10s. and three months £77 17s. 6d. Electro, £92 to £93. Tin irregular and dealings limited, standard cash delivery being registered last Monday at £172 to £171 15s., end of July £170 10s., three months £165 15s. to £165 10s., closing cash £171 15s. and three months £165 10s. The market hardened until Tuesday's close, while a fair general demand ensued, cash

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt. duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian	8 2 8	1 3 2
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	4 1 1	1 4 1
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Scoured Crossbred	7 1 8	0 10 1
Lyle's granulated	27 6—28 0	27 6—28 0	Greasy Merino	11 1 8	0 9 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	11 1 8	0 9 1
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	8 2 3	1 4 2
French Cubes prompt	nom.	nom.	<b>India rubber</b> p. lb. Plantation, Spot	0 2 7	0 2 7
Crystallised, West India	24 0—27 3	23 9—26 0	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.	nom.	nom.
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	1 0 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	1 0 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	Steamers, best	20 0—21 0	1 0 6
Broken	1 0 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	Seconds	17 0—18 0	0 17 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	English Pig	25 10 0	25 15 0
Broken	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	Foreign soft, Sept.	24 15 0	25 0 0
Orange	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£ 18	£ s. 18 10 0
Broken	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton	£ 171—172	£ 171—172
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1—1 3 0	0 11 1—1 2 0	English Ingots	£ 171—172	£ 171—172
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt. duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Do. bars	£ 171—172	£ 171—172
Trinidad—per cwt.	77 0—84 0	78 0—85 0	Standard cash	£ 171 15 0	£ 170
Grenada	72 0—80 0	72 0—81 0	Tin Plates, per box	19 0—19 3	19 0—19 3
West Africa	nom.	nom.	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.	£ 93—£ 94	£ 91—£ 92
Ceylon Plantation	70 0—85 0	71 0—87 0	English, Tough	£ 92—£ 93	£ 88—£ 89
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0—100 0	92 0—99 0	per ton	£ 110	£ 106
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt. duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Best Selected	£ 77 12 6	£ 75 10 0
East India	66 0—102 0	66 0—102 0	<b>Sheets</b>	£ 110	£ 106
Jamaica	51 0—118 0	49 0—118 0	Standard	£ 77 12 6	£ 75 10 0
Costa Rica	60 0—87 0	60 0—86 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.	£ 24 10 0	£ 25 c. a
<b>Provisions</b> —			Native firsts for shipmt. Sept.	£ 24 10 0	£ 25 c. a
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			<b>Oils</b> —		
Australian finest	138/—140/	138/—142/	Linseed, per ton.	£ 26 1/2—£ 27	£ 26 1/2—£ 27
Irish Creameries	140/—146/	140/—146/	Rape, ref. English	£ 26 1/2—£ 27	£ 26 1/2—£ 27
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	casks	£ 38—£ 40	£ 38—£ 40
Russian finest	128/—132/	128/—132/	Brown English	£ 38—£ 40	£ 38—£ 40
Normandy baskets	120/—142/	120/—142/	naked	£ 36—£ 37	£ 36—£ 37
Danish finest	156/—158/	158/—160/	Cott'n Seed crude	£ 29	£ 29
Brittany rolls	14 0—16 0	13 6—16 0	Ditto, refined	£ 31 1/2—£ 37	£ 31 1/2—£ 37
doz. lb.	14 0—16 0	13 6—16 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	83d.	83d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Water White	9½d.	9½d.
Irish	88 0—95 0	88 0—95 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Continental	84 0—95 0	84 0—95 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs.	2 15 0	2 14 9
Canadian	74 0—88 0	74 0—88 0	Rape, Guzerat	2 16 6	2 16 6
American	70 0	68 0—74 0	June-July	3 7 6	3 6 9
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	106 0—116 0	106 0—116 0	Cleveland Cash	3 7 6	3 6 9
Canadian	80 0—86 0	77 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —per duty		
American	58 0—76 0	57 0—82 6	unmanufactured		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			3/8, 4 1/2 per lb.		
Edam	72 0—92 0	72 0—82 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	84 0—88 0	78 0—80 0	per lb. bond	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Gouda	72 0—96 0	72 0—80 0	Virginia leaf	0 5 1/2—1 6	0 5 1/2—1 6
English Cheddar	98 0—102 0	94 0—102 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Wilt's leaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4 1/2—1 0	0 4 1/2—1 0
New Zealand	90 0—93 0	82 0—84 0	Havana	1 0—6 0	1 0—6 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 7 1/2 lb.	2 0	2 0
Basselin	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Danish and Memel Fir, per load	130/—150/	130/—150/
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	280/—600/	280/—600/
Dutch	13 6—15 6	13 0—15 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	11 6—12 6	11 0—12 0	Town households	43/	42/
Danish	13 6—15 6	13 0—15 0	official	43/	42/
			American, 1st patents	45/ upds.	45/ upds.

touching £172 10s. and three months £166 5s. Values fell away since under selling desire and poor inquiries, these dates being finally registered at £169 15s. and three months £163 15s. Lead opened dearer but lost the advance since. Foreign, July-September, £25. Spelter maintained at £105 for July to £95 September-October. Iron steady.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—Wheat continued to harden since last Monday; flour steady. Grinding barley upheld, with maize and oats easier, business being on a moderate scale. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, range to 59s., and reds, to 58s 6d per qr., 504 lbs. Of imported sorts, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s.; No. 2 ditto, 58s.; No. 3, 57s., ex ship. Indian in similar position, 55s. Plate, 55s., landed. Grinding barley: Japanese, 35s.; Karoon, on sample, 36s. to 36s. 6d., ex quay. Plate, 34s. 6d., ex ship, 35s. 3d., ex quay. Sound Plate maize, 31s. ex ship, 31s. 6d.



landed. White South African, 34s. to 34s. 6d. Oats: Plate, 27s. to 30s., landed, according to quality. American white clipped No. 2, 32s., quay terms.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has shown very few signs of life, and both spinners and manufacturers have to make the best of the wretched conditions which prevail, and hope that before very long a revival of demand will come round. Perhaps, speaking generally, the position of affairs is no worse than could be expected, and in particular sections the working off of old contracts at profitable rates is not unknown. Rather varied news has been received relating to future supplies and prices in the raw material. It is too early for anything definite to be said as to next season. In cloth for India demand continues poor, and sales of weight are quite unknown at the moment. Stocks abroad, however, are gradually being reduced, and should the monsoon make favourable progress there is every probability of increased buying before very long. In the meantime producers of light fabrics are feeling the depression very acutely. For China more sales have been arranged, and the buying to some extent appears to be over a wider range of cloths, certain producers of dyed goods having met with more business. Some makers of bleaching fabrics have obtained relief for the time being. Miscellaneous transactions have been put through for Egypt, but the buying has not been quite so active as a few weeks ago. A sorting up trade has been reported for several of the South American outlets. The position in Burnley and district does not seem to be quite so wretched as a little time ago, but it is suggested that relief has been obtained by manufacturers turning off printing cloths on to other goods. Nothing fresh of moment has occurred in home trade circles. American yarns for home use have been steady in quotation, especially the lower numbers, and although individual transactions have not been important the total sales amount to fair dimensions. There is much delay in obtaining licences to ship yarn to European ports, and continental trade continues very much upset. Some buying has transpired for France, and bundles have been in fair request for India. Not much alteration can be recorded in Bolton spinnings, but prices, if anything, rather favour buyers. A limited business has been done.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR**.—A generally good volume of trade done at full rates. Crystallised West India ruled dearer. Trinidad sold 24s. 9d. to 25s., and Demerara 25s.

**COFFEE**.—Spot market unchanged in the absence of auctions. Futures flat and easier. July quoted 36s. 6d., September 36s. 3d.

**JUTE**.—Easier at first for new crop, but the market improved later. Native first marks, September, done and buyers, at £24 15s., after being sold down to £24 10s.

**HEMP**.—In quiet demand, and rates lower all round. New graded fair, July-September, sold and further sellers, at £36, medium £32, coarse £28, and coarse brown £26.

**SHELLAC**.—Weaker on increased selling orders. T.N. August sellers 58s., and business in December at 61s.

**RUBBER**.—About steady in value, but trade quieter. Plantation standard spot crepe sold and sellers 2s. 7d., ribbed smoked sheet spot 2s. 6½d. value, and fine hard Para spot 2s. 6½d.

**LINSEED OIL**.—Spot pipes (landed) £26 5s., barrels 26s. 15s., Hull spot £24 10s. Turpentine, American spot, 36s. Linseed finer. London Calcutta, spot and near, 54s. 6d.; July-August and August-September, 54s. 9d. La Plata, July-August, 51s.; August-September, 51s. 3d.

**METALS**.—Tin easier forward. Standard cash sold £170, and three months £163 to £163 5s., closing £170 and £163 5s. respectively. Settlement price, £169 10s. Copper irregular and lower, while a good business transpired. Standard cash sold finally £75 10s., three months at £77 10s., £76 15s., £77 10s., and £77, closing £75 10s. cash and £77 three months. Settlement price, £75 10s. Electros easier at £91 to £92. Tough, £91 to £92. Best selected, £88 to £89. Strong sheets, £106. Lead easier. English £25 15s., foreign in craft sold £24 15s., to arrive shortly due at £24 15s. to £24 12s. 6d. September sellers, £25. Spelter lower. G.O.B. officially quoted £102 to £90. Tin plates I.C., cokes 19s. to 19s. 3d., basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron easier. Cleveland cash 66s. 9d., one month 67s. 3d., and three months 68s. Quicksilver, £18 10s.

**CORN**.—Mark Lane. Wheat was again dearer at market this week-end. English, whites, delivered up, range to 60s. and reds to 59s. 6d. per quarter, 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 3d., ex ship. Plate, 56s., landed. Flour unaltered. Barley upheld. Maize lower. Plate, just arrived, 30s. ex ship, 30s. 9d. landed. Oats dull and unchanged.

A "Roll of Honour" has been issued by Lloyds Bank, Limited, containing the names of members of its staff who have in various ways devoted themselves to the service of their country. The late Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, a customer of the bank, asked a few days before he left for France how many of the bank's staff had gone to serve their country, and when told "About a thousand," he replied, "Well done, Lloyds Bank!" Well done indeed. We should have liked if the long list of names had been accompanied by a brief summary of the facts, separating those, the larger number, who have joined the Army, Navy, Territorials, &c., and those who are merely doing duty at home while still remaining in the service of the bank. Failing this, we have added up in a summary fashion the numbers of the killed and wounded, and find that already 17 of the bank's staff have been slain or have died of their wounds, while 26 others have been wounded only. At least two additional are missing.

## Has the Government Been Garrotted?

(Conscription, South Wales Miners and Price of Coal.)

In at least two directions the mentality and public utterances of those members of the Opposition who have been selected to form part of the Coalition Government are working to weaken, or at least to hamper, the conduct of affairs. Inspired, not merely by papers like those embraced in the Harmsworth Press, but by other journals, like the *Morning Post*, on some points almost equally charged with prejudice and spites, the agitation to force conscription upon the nation continues. At the Mansion House recruiting meeting, held on Friday last week and addressed by Lord Kitchener, the cloven hoof was thrust out more than once, and perhaps most emphatically by the present Attorney-General, Sir Edward Carson. Lord Kitchener himself, like the loyal-minded gentleman he is, faithfully adhered to the voluntary system of recruitment he was given the task to uphold and prove adequate, and furnished such general information with regard to its success as might have stilled the tongues of faction. He did not proclaim the numbers of our new army, but he was careful to indicate that it is a great army—an army which will enable us now to cope with the long-meditated German onslaught and carefully-elaborated machinery possessed by Germany's Junker slave-drivers for bringing great armies as it were in an instant to bear upon the countries they intend to conquer and annex or destroy. "Germany's long preparation," said his lordship, "has enabled her to utilise her whole resources from the very commencement of the war, while our policy is one of gradually increasing our effective forces. It might be said with truth that she must decrease, while we must increase. Our voluntary system, which, as you well know, has been the deliberate choice of the English people, has rendered it necessary that our forces in peace time should be of relatively slender dimensions, with a capacity for potential expansion, and we have habitually relied on time being allowed us to increase our armed forces during the progress of hostilities." Naturally in such circumstances we were caught at a disadvantage in the first onset; we more than any other Power attacked, although both France and Russia, caught in like manner by surprise, were also behindhand. "From the first," his lordship declared, "there has been a satisfactory and constant flow of recruits, and the falling off in numbers recently apparent in recruiting returns has been, I believe, in great degree due to circumstances of a temporary character." At the beginning there was a very natural difficulty in clothing and equipping the newly-raised units; now there is none, but the larger an army is the greater its need of an ever-swelling number of men of recruitable age to maintain it at its full strength. Hence the present demand for more and yet more men, and, as far as can be judged, the call will be responded to without the necessity of applying compulsion. Even if the answer should not be adequate, we have but to apply and enlarge the scope of the Militia Acts to secure all the men required to finish our part of the war, without placing the nation permanently under the freedom-stifling heel of a military oligarchy.

Consoling facts of this description have no effect whatever upon minds congealed into the particular mould that may be said to have been supplied ready-made by Prussian autocracy, and the clamour or wail or whine goes up ever insistent to apply conscription! It comes loudest from men who would seem to have no conception of what we have already done, who have never heard of the millions of men under arms, of the stupendous labour that has been devoted to their equipment, of the noble martial ardour now animating our great, well-drilled, well-armed, and, let us trust, well-led armies of freemen. Lord Derby at that very Guildhall meeting laid great stress on the conscriptionist "if."



"If we fail by voluntary recruitment after having done our best, then we have a right to go to Lord Kitchener and say, 'There are other forces which you can employ; put them into operation.'" And Sir Edward Carson said, "We have set up against the German organisation the power to call up any class of any age on a bugle's call." "War voluntary recruiting has so far," he went on, "been successful, so we are told, but, my Lord Mayor, it is now on its trial, and does anybody doubt, if voluntary recruiting and the appeals of Lord Kitchener fail, that we ought to hesitate to apply compulsory service?"—with more of the same sort. Lord Lansdowne harped upon the same string in the House of Lords on Tuesday, and thus it goes on, the shrieking Press bawling chorus.

Naturally, the Harmsworth Press, most of all, accentuates this kind of thing—as it does every other defect or apparent weakness that may be calculated to discredit the Ministry and encourage the enemy. Its inspirers, too, are highly pleased with the success of their efforts in Germany, so at least we gather from what is appearing in the *Times*, *Daily Mail*, and others of their organs. Wednesday's *Times*, for example, recounts with obvious self-satisfaction the effect as traceable in German newspapers of all that is being said by the Harmsworth newspapers in derogation of our Army, of our equipment, of our Government, and, above all, of our War Office. Wrath is excited in the minds of intelligent people here, wrath and contempt, by such displays; but the feelings are misplaced, do our pro-Germans too much honour. We rather want the Germans to think us effete, to believe that when next they mass hundreds of thousands of their miserable human machines to try and bore their way through to Calais they will find the road comparatively empty. The more they deceive themselves as to our real condition and capacity to carry on this war, the more likely are they to hurry forward to their destruction, and the great events impending will, we feel certain, give the most convincing answer to all this howling and croaking, this complaining and suggesting of courses that savour of Prussian autocratic military despotism and nothing less.

Is it due to the infusion of this absolutist, Prussian military temper of mind into the Government that it has been betrayed into adopting an attitude of coercion towards the South Wales miners? We ask this question in no small anxiety of mind because satisfied that coercion there must fail, can do no good, may do a power of mischief. It may be that there is nothing markedly patriotic in the mental attitude of the South Wales miner—of Welshmen in any walk of life many will sneer, though the men have sent 50,000 of their number to take their places in the line of fire—but one thing is sure, the Welsh miners will not endure coercion. It is also the truth that they do not want to strike, and they blame the owners for the present pass, we fear not without reason. It is a haggle apparently over a few pence per hour or shillings per week which is leading to a stoppage of work, and superficially looks sordid enough; but cannot the Government—or Mr. Runciman, who is an enlightened, humane, and broad-minded man—try to get to the men's point of view before coming down on them with the cat-o'-nine tails? Probably the men think that colliery-owners are making larger fortunes out of the higher prices ruling for coal, although in reality profits seem poorer. The prices, however, for all kinds of coal have been raised to heights that are almost unprecedented in summer, and the men naturally draw hasty and erroneous inferences. They turn upon the employer and say, 'Give us a share. You have no right to keep the whole of these gains to yourself.' "You shall not have your share," the Government may seem to them now to say, and a proclamation has been issued and posted all over the South Wales coalfield putting the provisions of Part I. of the Munitions of War Act (1915) in force. This proclamation makes it an offence for men to take any part in a strike or lock-out unless the difference has been reported to the Board of Trade, and the Board of Trade have not within 21 days of such report

referred it for settlement by one of the methods prescribed in the Act. Breach of the law involves a very heavy fine—£5 a day. That is just the way to make the men harder to satisfy than ever, and might lead to the development of a labour revolt all over the country. Far better give the men the pay they want, or tell them that they shall have a definite share of the profits as ascertained by an independent Government-supervised audit at the end of the year, or half-year, over and above their regular pay. This is not a time in which to provoke domestic bickerings, through whose pernicious influence our power to supply our now enormous Army with all it needs to destroy the foe might be impaired. And if the colliery-owners by their aloofness, their obstinate determination to hear nothing, to concede nothing, have made the temper of the men white hot, then the control of their property will have to be taken out of their hands altogether. Is that what the Limitation of Coal Prices Bill is paving the way for?

The day the above went to the printer the miners reaffirmed by 88,950 votes against 47,450 their determination to strike at a meeting held in Cardiff, and now 200,000 men are idle—defying the Munitions Act, the Government, persuasion of friends, and mocking every consideration of patriotism. No doubt the precipitancy with which the attempt was made to apply coercion stiffened the resolution and stirred the passions of the men, but that does not afford all the explanation of their vicious disregard of the country's necessities. The *Daily Chronicle* asks, "Is German gold at the root?" and we unhesitatingly answer, "Yes, it is." Precisely the same tactics are being systematically employed here as in the United States to ensnare the people. That man in the Pontypridd train whose language the *Daily Chronicle's* correspondent describes and who spoke with a strong American accent was in all probability a paid emissary of the German Government. He, however, would only be a despicable tool, and the Cabinet will have to look much higher for the real fomentors of sedition. They are most probably to be found among naturalised aliens of great reputed wealth, some of them, likely enough, M.P.'s—or among the beings who profess—and often live by—philanthropy, or among the amiable philosophers who abound in leisurely and learned segments of the body politic, or, further still, among the multitudes of the vaguely humanitarian "pacifist," anti-war, "anti" everything, and, above all, idle and characterless beings who glue themselves on to any fad, cult, or form of cant that may seem to promise them a chance of notoriety. We could put names on not a few among all these pernicious or futile classes, but that is not our business. The Government must have men capable of unravelling the plot. But we may be allowed to ask why the secretary of a certain alien of the sham—"Lincoln, M.P.," type should be prominent at anti-patriotic meetings? How the money comes which permits of lavish and costly pamphleteering and public meeting propagandas of moleish organisations like the "Union of Democratic Control"—under alien guidance we hear—"The Stop-the-War" Committee and suchlike? Are not all these bodies connected by hidden "cross-trenches"? When Mr. H. C. Norman favoured THE INVESTORS' REVIEW with some communication of a type it resented, we took the trouble to ask, "Who is this Mr. Norman?" May we be allowed to put that question again, and to add to it these supplementaries? Is he a nephew of the Sir Henry Norman, the honoured and honourable Indian public servant, who died Viceroy-designate of India? Was he at one time known in India as Captain Norman, and had he considerable to do with the courts of native princes? Why do we ask? Because we want the Government to let us know exactly where we are and with whom we have to deal in these attempts to beguile the nation into a dishonourable peace, or to cripple it in its vitals at the most critical stage of the war. But do the rebellious Welsh miners imagine they can cripple us and force on a peace? They are fools if they do. The world has oil and there is anthracite coal in plenty out-



side South Wales. So in the end the men may find that they have only hurt themselves.

What to make of that other measure introduced by the Government, the limitation of the price of coal, we know not. It may be workable, and perhaps produce good results, but we must confess inability to see how, and fear the ultimate consequences even supposing the Government successful in making coal cheaper for the time being. It is a Bill of no great length, the point of which seems to be that the price of coal at the pit's mouth is to be kept down under severe penalties to 4s. per ton more than the average standard amount per ton realised in the 12 months ended June 30, 1914. Discussed at the Coal Exchange in the City, the opinion was expressed that the Bill, when passed into law, cannot do much good. Sub-Section II, to Clause IV. says, "This Act shall not apply to the sale of coal supplied in pursuance of a contract made before the commencement of this Act," from which clumsy jargon it is to be inferred that the whole of existing contracts will remain unaffected. Now, a coal agent pointed out that colliery owners have already sold a large amount of their output at prices ranging from 5s. to 6s. 6d. per ton above the figure of a year ago, hence the new law could only affect future contracts, and current business would remain almost untouched. Coal merchants, therefore, regard the Bill as difficult to handle, and if it is that to begin with, conditions will not improve as time goes on. We, in short, dislike the proposed innovation, and fear that it will give a powerful leverage to an agitation for the expropriation of private ownership nominally for the benefit of the community, really in furtherance of a new species of tyranny.

### Ceylon Tea Companies in 1914.

So far as the matter of price was concerned, the story told by the Ceylon Tea Plantations for 1914 is much the same as that of the Indian undertakings with which we dealt last week. For the greater part of the year the market jogged quietly along with values ruling at much about the same levels as in 1913, but then came the war and a sudden enormous increase in the demand, which sent quotations flying upwards. Probably the proportion of the season's crops still to be dealt with was comparatively small, but the rise was so rapid and so vigorous that it had an appreciable effect on the average for the whole year.

The Ceylon Tea Plantations, which is probably the largest producer in the island, benefited to such an extent that its average was the best obtained for 14 years, and was 0.25d. above that of 1913 at 9.52d. Of the other companies which usually command 9d. or over for their output the Ceylon Proprietary, Mayfield, Poonagalla Valley, and Pundaloya all showed more or less substantial increases on the year's comparison, while amongst those whose prices rule between 8d. and 9d. the Sunnigama is prominent with a gain of 0.74d. at 7.96d., and the Ederapolla, Kelani Valley, and Standard of Ceylon realised from 0.45d. to 0.55d. more. Exceptions to the improvement were confined to two out of the 21 companies of which we have examined the figures, the Kandapolla, which disposes of its crop locally, showing a drop of 0.42 cents and the Nuwara Eliya a decrease of 0.16d. at 8.63d. Only a comparatively small number of the companies have as yet followed the example set by the rubber industry of giving the cost per lb., and even those who do confine themselves to the f.o.b. cost in Colombo. No definite conclusion can be drawn from the differences between the gains in gross and nett profits, as in many cases the figures include the results from the rubber plantations, which are not stated separately. From the particulars which are given, however, it may be assumed that a good part of the improvement in tea prices was offset by the rise in freights and war risk insurance payments.

Quite a number of these Ceylon companies have made substantial progress with the cultivation of rubber as an additional product, and the growth of the trees is beginning to exercise a marked effect on the yield from the tea bushes. The Nahalma has adopted

the policy of gradually converting its estates from the one to the other, and the Ederapolla, Kelani Valley, and Sunnigama all showed big reductions in tea owing to the cutting out of bushes no longer profitable to pluck. Of these the Sunnigama obtained the greatest increase in its rubber crop, the total being 205,742 lbs. larger at 695,742 lbs., while the Kelani Valley harvested 58,059 lbs. more at 291,821 lbs., and the Ederapolla 33,989 lbs. more at 131,400 lbs. The Dimbula Valley, which has adopted a different plan, keeping its tea and rubber on different estates, so that the one does not interfere with the other, secured increases of 49,022 lbs. to 1,522,947 lbs. in tea and 73,860 lbs. to 274,310 lbs. in rubber. A similar arrangement seems to have been made by the Hunasgeria and Poonagalla Valley, which showed increases in both products.

As regards 17 out of the 21 companies the nett profits were higher, the gains in the case of the Ceylon Tea Plantations, Galaha, and Sunnigama reaching substantial figures, but only the two last-named raised their dividends. The Galaha set aside £4,230 more for depreciation, reserves, &c., and paid 15 per cent., as against 10, and the Sunnigama, after writing off £2,000 more at £5,000 to various funds, also paid an additional 5 per cent., making 45 per cent. for the year, but the Ceylon Tea Plantations not only paid the same dividend as for the previous year, but cut down its appropriations in order to carry forward a much larger balance of £20,469. Nearly half of the companies were content to repeat the distributions of 1913, but they displayed diversity of method in dealing with the additional profits at their disposal. The Alliance, for instance, after paying 12 per cent. set aside £5,000, or nearly the whole of its gain, leaving the balance carried forward practically unchanged, and the Dimbula Valley and Imperial Ceylon drew on the larger amounts brought in to the extent of about £500 in each case in order to make additional provision for reserves, while the Standard of Ceylon again put £2,000 to reserves, &c., and added the greater part of its surplus to the undivided profits. Apart from those just mentioned, the increases in dividend were only to the extent of 2 per cent., a figure which was added by the Highland, Mayfield, Poonagalla Valley and Yatiyantota, and in the case of the two last the extra payment was accompanied by the provision of £2,500 more. With small decreases in their nett profits, the Pundaloya and Rangalla both reduced their distributions by 2 per cent. to 10 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively, and the Ragalla also cut down its appropriations to reserve, &c., by £500, but the Pundaloya put by £1,500 more. These particulars can at best give only an imperfect idea of the position of the Ceylon plantations, and it would seem, on the whole, that they have not been so successful as their competitors in India. Very few of them, however, are producing on the enormous scale of the Indian companies, and in considering the outlook it must not be forgotten that the cultivation of rubber is likely to prove a much more important source of prosperity as the estates reach their full development.

### American Business Notes.

Perhaps by the time this article is ready to go to the printer President Wilson and his new Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, will have made up their minds on the terms of the reply they are now elaborating to the last insolent Note from the Kaiser's Government in Berlin. It was an astoundingly offensive Note that, a Note of defiance and contempt, such as only the pride-ichneumonised Prussian could be capable of. All through it runs the dominant sentiment, "We may say what we like to the Yankees; there is no danger of a declaration of war from them." So the old lies about the *Lusitania* were repeated and the old claims put forward about "freedom on sea for neutrals." Great Britain is childishly inveighed against in the usual fustian-furious style as the one offender and cause of all the trouble, and at the same time a mocking "offer" is once more put forward to the Washington Government. American ships will not be hindered "in



the prosecution of legitimate shipping," and the lives of American citizens on neutral ships will not be placed in jeopardy provided the said Government "will assume a guarantee that these vessels have no contraband on board, and that details of the arrangements for the unhampered passage of these vessels may be agreed upon by the naval authorities on both sides." Washington is to defy St. James's, in short, and nullify British efforts to bring the consequences of war home to the German people. "The Imperial Government is unable to admit that American citizens can protect enemy shipping through the mere fact of their presence on board," and so on. This is all, as the Kaiser's Foreign Office clerks very well know, wholly beside the mark, and the accompanying disquisitions upon international law are pitifully falsetto. What President Wilson claimed in that Note of his which ex-Secretary Bryan felt unable to sign was that "nothing but actual forcible resistance, or continued efforts to escape by flight when ordered to stop for the purpose of a visit on the part of a merchantman, has ever been held to forfeit the lives of passengers and crew." In other words, the United States Government protested with vigour against the claim put forward by the Germans that the submarines of the Kaiser's fleet had the right to destroy unarmed vessels at sea without warning and totally without regard to whom they were owned by or what they might have on board. Waiving all this aside, the Berlin Government simply repeats its old story, and the astonishing thing is that in view of the stand he apparently took a month ago, President Woodrow Wilson appears to require a long time to frame his answer. This looks like literary finicking, a desire to "compose" another finely turned literary essay—but it may not be, and we shall not judge until we know. The President's position—especially with an election coming on next year—is most delicate, even putting all personal ambitions aside.

Wherever we have inquired meantime into the opinion of the American people the view has been pressed upon us that there is not the least danger of war. One shrewd New Englander roundly told us the other day that "the almighty dollar" is still supreme, and implied that a strong grievance is entertained still against Great Britain because of her interference with the supply of ammunition, everything wanted, to Germany by the United States. To all appearance substantially this is the view the American Press is now maintaining, and so confident do the Germans in America appear to be that nothing will move Government or people out of their attitude of sentimental apathy that they have seemingly organised outrages on a large scale. Several ships have had fires break out in their holds on sea, and bombs have been discovered in cargoes, evidently placed there in the hope that the ship might be blown up. Moreover, the man who attempted to kill Mr. Morgan is now said to have been one of a gang, and his alleged "suicide" is ascribed to associates who took the precaution to make away with him lest he should "blab." How far the high personages serving the Kaiser in the United States can be implicated in any such diabolical plotting as this we cannot know and it may never be known, but it would appear that they are not so ignorant of what goes on as we at first impulse were willing to assume—witness the suborned lies about the *Lusitania's* "armament" and munitions cargo.

Let us put these stories aside, however, and try to imagine what the American people could do to assist civilisation and the Powers in Europe fighting for liberty were a real spirit of humanity instead of a lachrymose sentimentalism to hold sway over the public mind. Would it be necessary for the Republic to declare war against Germany to help us? We have never seen that it should be; in fact, Germany itself has shown a way to action that need not involve direct war, the Kaiser's Government having thus far abstained from declaring war against Italy, leaving the fight nominally between Austria and Italy while yet doing all possible to help Austria. Would it not, then, be possible for the United States to tell Germany that the time had gone by for word-spinning, exercises in

dialectic interchanges, models of style in diplomatic chicane, &c., and that if the outrages at sea continued on the lines illustrated by such crimes as the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the *Falaba*, and other unarmed merchant vessels, no matter what they contained or under what flag they sailed, all diplomatic and other intercourse with the German Empire would be stopped—all buying and selling—and the whole energy of the American people devoted to help the Allies. It would be a cheap investment in the long run, we are persuaded, were the United States Congress to vote £250,000,000 to be spent in furnishing supplies to the Allies now in death grips with militarism, absolutism, Hittite bestiality, every moral blighting force the darkest ages of man upon earth have disclosed his capacity to perpetrate. That would be better than war, better too than sending the American fleet here to help where it is not required, or than gathering armies together to come to our assistance, for we have men enough of our own. But is there any hope whatever that such a heroic policy would appeal to the nation whose head is Dr. Woodrow Wilson? We fear not.

A noticeable statement was made recently at a meeting of the Pan-American Conference by Mr. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York, to the effect that under the new Federal Bank Law the power of the national banks to expand credit is enormous. "On the present reserve," he said, "we can, I think, extend our loans by about £600,000,000." Conceivably enough this would be a most dangerous power in times of inflation. Another authority, a special committee on banking and currency, has reported to the National Association of Manufacturers that in all the added facilities may be considered as representing an increase of credit within the country of not less than £800,000,000. The banks have power in the Federal Bank, it should never be forgotten, to back each other up, to generate credit without regard to a cash reserve, in a manner altogether unprecedented. As Mr. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, told the Alabama Bankers' Association, "you have been given facilities, whether you borrow your money from the Federal Reserve Bank or not, of getting all the rediscounts to which you are entitled at lower rates than ever before." And he added, "There is no longer occasion for you to hoard money by carrying abnormally large reserves." Under the law, as we have again and again explained, the reserves necessary to hold are much reduced. In the central cities, for instance, the banks have to hold only 18 per cent. in reserve instead of, as formerly, 25 per cent., while country banks are bound to hold no more than 12 per cent. as against 15. And these reserves are not hard cash; they are in great part credit, or, in the banking slang of the day, "mobilised" reserves, forming the basis for the issue of Federal Reserve notes. Thus they are an engine of inflation which is almost certain to be dangerous by-and-by when peace returns and esurient hopes generate another speculative frenzy. The foundations for such an outburst are being steadily laid in the fine surplus balance American foreign trade is showing in consequence of the war demands of Europe. In the fiscal year ended June 30 last the value of merchandise exported exceeded that of merchandise imported by £220,000,000, and the excess is still being piled up, because while exports expand imports decline. Yet in some branches of United States manufacture the export trade is very poor. We, however, need only look at the broad results, which are as stated and indicative of a coming flush of bankers' money.

Last week's New York bank averages again showed an increase in the loans. It amounted to £6,396,000, bringing the total up to £509,632,000, but the surplus reserve was down £4,794,000 to £30,814,000, in spite of the fact that the increase in the deposit averages was less than £2,000,000 at £526,000,000.

A noticeable reduction occurred in the business done by the General Electric Co. of Schenectady, New York State, during the year 1914. The report is dated April 20 last, but only reached us this week. It shows that the value of orders was \$28,071,000 less at \$83,748,521, and that the sales shrunk \$16,009,747 to



\$90,467,692. The profits from all sources were \$2,210,406 smaller at \$11,855,384, and after paying the 8 per cent. dividend for the year the balance carried to surplus account was \$1,763,615 smaller at \$3,145,060. There was a decrease of about 25 per cent. in the value of the orders received, although the total number of transactions was practically equal to that of the previous year. Depression, however, affected business throughout, reducing the value of the orders while increasing the cost incurred in securing them. Thus the decrease in the number of men employed by the company and its subsidiaries was on the year about 15,000. It followed its customary practice of writing off against income all its expenditures during the year for patents, applications, licences under patents and other outlays, the total thus absorbed being \$408,537, or \$254,389 less than in the previous year. In this way the patent account is kept in the balance-sheet at \$1. In the balance-sheet, however, there are other items not quite so satisfactory, although it must not be forgotten that cash is \$7,684,678 higher at the handsome figure of \$22,528,888. But the company holds stocks, bonds and other securities at a valuation of \$29,667,213, an increase of \$3,702,896 on the figure at the end of 1913. Of this total \$21,056,355 represents securities in subsidiary companies and also \$3,481,511 of the total increase. The remainder, \$8,610,859, showing an increase of \$221,386, consists of securities of public utility and other companies. Now we should like to see it made plain that these two classes of assets are not representative of mere finance as between one company and another, not orders given by and executed for subsidiaries and connections which cannot be paid for in cash, but in liquidation of which bonds and notes are handed over. The total is about £6,000,000, and a very formidable one, especially when another \$19,091,026, representing current credits and notes receivable is added. This last, by the way, shows a decrease of \$7,119,432, so that the more liquid portion of the business is clearly much reduced. During the year the book value of the plants at Schenectady, Lynn and Harrison increased by \$1,636,163 to \$31,063,332, and the total capital stock outstanding is \$101,485,700. It is a great company, and seems to have been extremely well conducted.

### Insurance News.

The Government scheme for insurance against aircraft and bombardment risks was announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The scheme provides the public with a simple means of insuring at a very moderate premium, the rates being generally substantially lower than those which have been ruling in the open market. An expert committee was appointed on June 21 to consider a plan to provide facilities for covering loss and damage in so far as such loss and damage are not covered by the terms of the ordinary fire insurance policy. That committee decided that the best practical method of dealing with the problem was to invoke the assistance of the fire insurance companies. A special State Insurance Office is to be established to supplement the work of the fire offices which act as agents for the Government. Persons insured in an approved office will now be able to take out through the same company a policy either against aircraft risks only, or against aircraft and bombardment risks. Any company which elects to act as agents for the Government may not accept risks on its own account. A remuneration of 10 per cent. on the gross premiums will be paid to the offices to cover all expenses connected with the issue of the policies, the collection of the premiums, and so on. Claims are to be settled and paid by the State Insurance Office within 30 days of the adjustment of the claim. The rates to be charged will be the same for all districts, and the flat rate of 2s. per cent. for the aircraft risk on private houses compares with the minimum of 2s. 6d. which has been accepted by underwriters hitherto. About 50 of the larger fire insurance companies have been invited to co-operate with the Govern-

ment in working the scheme by acting as agents, but it is not proposed to limit the scheme necessarily to these 50 companies. It is not proposed to take over any insurances already effected. Great relief will be felt by merchants who, instead of having to pay £1 or 30s. per cent. per month on goods at the docks and public wharves, will now be able to insure them with the Government at a rate of 7s. 6d. per cent. per annum. Assuming the Government's invitation is accepted by the companies, it should be possible to begin the scheme next week.

Attention has already been drawn in these columns to the unfavourable results achieved by British companies transacting fire insurance business in the United States during 1914, but, unsatisfactory as the experience proved in most cases to be, that of the German and Austrian companies was still more unsatisfactory, no single company showing an underwriting profit. Of 11 companies, whose total premiums written amounted to some £4,000,000 sterling, the underwriting loss came to £238,000. In the case of the Hamburg Co., which was admitted to New York State in March, 1914, and whose premiums reached a total of £1,165,000, a loss of £70,000 was shown. The Munich Re-insurance Co., which had the largest turnover, made only a trifling loss, although £1,235,000 of premiums were written.

A further partial moratorium of two months, dating from June 26, has been accorded French insurance companies transacting life, personal accident and bond business, but the conditions have again been changed. Excepting as to life and personal accident insurance the partial moratorium was at an end in France in March last. It is now announced that 50 per cent. of a life assurance or of a bond which has become a claim, and the same percentage of a surrender value, must now be paid up to a maximum of £1,000 sterling; annuities, however, must be paid in full. As regards accident insurances, with the exception of very small indemnities, amounts of only 50 per cent. need be immediately paid. The tontine societies have been informed that they need pay only 20 per cent. at present of the amount of a claim, as it has been felt that in the interests of the members themselves a forced realisation of securities under present circumstances, in order to pay claims, would result in great losses. Sums unpaid by insurers or insured carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The present terms are extended to policies which fall due before September 1, provided that they were effected before August 4, 1914.

Owing to the losses arising out of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, American accident insurance companies are now attaching a rider to all their policies stating that they would not cover accidents in the war zone resulting from war conditions. The war zone specified includes the area about the British Isles and the Mediterranean and other waters where a state of war endangers traffic by sea. Policyholders have the option of signing the rules or having the policies cancelled. In insurance circles the view is held that the companies have the legal right to adopt the course indicated under the clause which reserves the privilege to a company of cancelling any policy upon repayment of paid-up premiums if any valid reason appears for so doing.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

The rest given to its trees by the Bukit Rajah Rubber Co. in 1913-14 seems to have been decidedly beneficial, as the total crop for the year ended March 31, although slightly below the estimate, was 104,908 lbs. above the previous output at 673,507 lbs. In spite of a reduction of 3.01d. to 2s. 2.36d. in the gross price realised, the revenue from produce was £2,886 up at £74,421, while, after debiting 20 per cent. of the total expenditure on the estates for general charges and cultivation to capital, as against 30 per cent. in the previous year, the "all-in" cost worked out at the very cheap figure of 11.82d. Although £1,819 less at £5,389 was brought forward, the disposable surplus was still £1,614 better at £46,353, and the dividend of 50 per cent. paid a year



ago is now repeated. Nothing is added to reserve compared with £3,000, but £5,000, or £2,000 more, is written off for depreciation, and the balance carried forward is increased by £2,614 to £8,003. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £4,061, bringing the total up to £89,508. Produce on hand is valued at £23,074, or £2,996 less, but debtors owe £1,008 more at £3,100, and cash has risen by £4,334 to £20,655, while current liabilities are £3,709 down at £10,160. For the current year a crop of 705,000 lbs. is expected, of which 144,053 lbs. had been secured at the end of June.

Satisfactory progress was made by the Perak Rubber Plantations in its year ended March 31, the output being 54,176 lbs. larger at 420,267 lbs., and the "all-in" cost 3.31d. down at 1s. 0.95d. The nett price realised, however, was 4d. lower at 1s. 11½d., and nett profits, after again writing off £1,000 for depreciation, only show a small increase of £952 at £22,526. With £7,828 brought forward the available surplus was £2,887 up at £7,828, and the directors feel justified in increasing the dividend from 18½ per cent. to 22½, after which £2,000 is again transferred to reserve, leaving £8,329, or £501 more, to be carried forward. During the year £1,849 nett was spent on the properties, making a total of £109,434. The company has ample funds in hand, and as the money is evidently not required immediately the directors have put £10,000 into Treasury bills and £4,750 in the 3½ per cent. War Loan, so that cash balances are £18,253 lower at £12,036. A crop of 460,000 lbs. is expected for the current year.

Everything appears to have prospered with the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Co. in its financial year ended March 31. In Ceylon the output of tea was 40,786 lbs. larger at 3,469,081 lbs., and the price rose by 0.78d. to 9.83d., while the cocoa crop was not only more than doubled at 5,119 cwts., but realised 1s. 2d. more at 76s. 7d. and rubber yielded 19,621 lbs. more at 83,552 lbs., while the price showed a trifling decrease of 1½d. at 2s. 3½d. The story from Mauritius was equally satisfactory, owing to unusually favourable climatic conditions. Including bought canes, 184,821 tons, or 28,991 tons more, were handled, and produced 20,630 tons of sugar, or 3,401 tons more than in the previous year, and the highest ever obtained. Nett profits from all sources, including £28,117 brought in, were £62,509 up at £150,626, and this has been disposed of on very fair lines. The dividend and bonus are increased from 20 per cent. to 30, and an extra £5,000 at £15,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £100,000, after which £25,000 is set aside to provide improved sugar machinery and £35,626, or £7,509 more, is carried forward. No change has been made in the property account, nor in the interests held in various estates, but investments are £23,627 up at £103,023, a figure which the auditors say is considerably below the market value. Stocks of tea, cocoa, &c., are £19,338 larger at £45,846, but the company had £11,202 less sugar in hand at £23,358, and debtors show a decrease of £8,579 at £17,325. Against these £44,606 more at £95,434 is due on current liabilities, but cash is £78,756 up at £117,254, and altogether the position seems very comfortable.

The Bukit Mertajam Rubber Co. was able to show further progress in the year ended March 31, when an increase of 140,971 lbs. to 394,847 lbs. in the crop was accompanied by a reduction of 5.31d. to 1s. 2.57d. in the all-in cost. Although the average price fell by 6.73d. to 2s. 1.53d., the nett profits, after writing off £355 more at £1,774 for depreciation and setting aside £1,500, or double last year's amount, for income-tax, were £3,802 higher at £15,986. With £2,094 brought in, the divisible surplus was £4,137 better at £18,081, out of which the dividend is increased from 7½ per cent. to 9, and an extra £1,000 at £3,500 is written off preliminary expenses, leaving £1,439, or £656 less, to be carried forward. For the current year a crop of 552,000 lbs. is expected at a

cost of 8d. f.o.b. Penang, and of this 119,058 lbs. had been harvested by the end of June.

A good display for the year ended March 31 is also made by the Kepitigalla Rubber Estates, all its products except tea showing increases. The rubber crop was 120,438 lbs. larger at 408,800 lbs., and a decline of 4d. to 2s. 1.88d. in the price was neutralised by a reduction of 3.22d. to 1s. 3.78d. in the all-in cost. Cocoa and tea both realised better prices, while the drop in the value of pepper was trifling, and nett profits, after writing off £3,640, or £2,496 more, for depreciation, were £7,010 up at £16,364. Of this £2,500 is again transferred to debenture sinking fund, and the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £4,000, leaving, with £9,845 brought forward, £19,708, or £9,864 more, to be dealt with. A year ago no dividend was paid owing to the heavy capital outlay, but the directors now resume their distribution with 5 per cent., tax free, as against 6 per cent. for 1912-13, and carry forward £1,386 less at £8,459. The crops for the current year are estimated at 513,000 lbs. rubber, 1,880 cwts. cocoa, 70,000 lbs. tea, and 9,500 lbs. pepper, and the visiting agent looks for a substantial reduction in the rubber cost in the near future.

Satisfactory results were again obtained by the Assam Oil Co. in the year ended December 31, although all that the directors say is that the production of crude oil was equal to that of 1913. Prices remained firm throughout the markets served, and the nett profits, after providing for administration charges and writing off £330 for loss on exchange, showed a further improvement of £9,195 at £40,981. To this is added £3,489 brought forward, giving a divisible total of £44,470, or an increase of £6,165, and advantage is taken of the extra profit to strengthen the position, £2,000 more at £12,000 being transferred to depreciation account and £5,857, as against £3,000, written off cost of the preference share issue. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 5 per cent., and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,324 to £4,813. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £17,843, but after deducting the amount now written off the cost of the property is practically unchanged at £382,629. At Hansa Poong the largest experimental well sunk reached oil, and the directors say that the conditions seem to be very favourable for a productive field. A second well is being drilled, and in order to expedite the work another rotary outfit has been despatched to Assam, while substantial additions have also been made to the other plant on the field. At the refinery the additional refrigerating plant is now at work with satisfactory results, and the quantity of wax produced has recently shown a material increase.

Active development of the Maikop field was considerably hampered by the war, but the most important wells were kept going, and on the whole the Maikop Pipeline and Transport Co. did better than might have been expected in the year ended January 13 (December 31 o.s.). The total quantity of oil received for pumping was only 799,092 poods smaller at 3,367,968 poods, while the revenue from operations rose by £5,811 to £37,444, but as dividends, transfer fees, &c., produced £10,299 less at £12,419, the total income showed a decrease of £4,488 at £49,863. This reduction, however, was practically offset by the savings in outgoings, with the result that the nett profits were practically unchanged at £20,608. Of this £2,939 is written off for balance of expenses in connection with relaying a section of the pipeline acquired from the Maikop Mutual Oil Transport Co., and £17,669 is added to the depreciation fund, compared with £20,000 put to that fund, £9,995 to the debenture sinking fund, and £1,751 applied in wiping out preliminary expenses a year ago. Very little change is shown in the book value of the Ekaterinodar and Krimskaya pipelines, but the Tuapse line has been written down by £14,893 to £217,296 on account of plant sold. Two complete water-pumping installations were purchased at Maikop and Krimskaya during the year at a cost of £19,557, and the directors say



that the results from this business are quite as profitable as was anticipated.

The operations of the Maikop Combine in the year ended January 13 (December 31 o.s.) did not extend beyond the development stage, but of the three wells in process of drilling, one struck a prolific oil source at a depth of 1,318 feet on March 23 last. Owing to the exceptional force of the fountain, and the breaking away of some of the ambars and embankments constructed to collect the oil, a portion of the initial production was lost, but the output was eventually got under control, and to date 51,613 tons have been pumped from the plot. The well has since flowed without interruption, and is at present producing at the rate of 1,370 tons per week, which is being disposed of at satisfactory prices. Two further wells have been located on the same plot, and two others are being drilled on a plot to the north-west. Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £20,058, but £12,500 was received from the sale of the waterline, leaving a nett increase in the property account of £7,558 at £232,337.

**BODE RUBBER ESTATES (1914).**—During the period from May 20 to December 31, 1914, this company harvested 39,309 lbs., in addition to which 11,238 lbs. were produced by the old company between January 1 and May 19, making a total output for 1914 of 50,547 lbs. The price realised was 1s. 11.16d. and the "all-in" cost 1s. 4.67d., giving a profit of 6.49d. per lb. This amounted to £1,063, to which was added £57 from profit on coffee, and the directors propose to write off the whole of the underwriting commission, leaving £248 to be carried forward.

**JASIN (MALACCA) RUBBER ESTATES.**—An increase of 33,321 lbs. to 78,242 lbs. in the output for 1914 was accompanied by a substantial reduction of no less than 7.62d. to 1s. 8.80d. in the "all-in" cost. The average gross price was 3.84d. smaller at 2s. 1.92d., and the nett profits, after writing off £130 for debenture issue expenses and providing £560, or £391 more, for interest, were £885 higher at £941. Adding £94 brought forward there is a total of £1,035, which is carried to the new account. Expenditure on development, including 70 per cent. of the general charges of the estate, amounted to £3,997, making a total cost of £51,833, exclusive of buildings and machinery, while, on the other hand, the final instalment of £2,500 was received on the £10,000 of 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures.

**TEMPEH (JAVA) RUBBER.**—The Dutch undertaking, of which this company holds all the shares, made a nett profit in the year ended December 31 of £2,823, or £1,146 less than in 1913. Interest on advances for working capital absorbed an extra £366 at £1,506, and instead of repeating the dividend of 3¼ per cent. the Dutch company has decided to increase the balance carried forward by £1,088 to £1,317. This balance has been placed to the credit of the English company's profit and loss account, and with receipts from interest, &c., gives a total revenue of £3,090. After providing for administration charges and reserving £483 against Dutch taxation, and depreciation of buildings and machinery, the nett balance, including £243 brought forward, was £1,115 smaller at £1,128. Of this £1,000, or half last year's amount, is applied to writing down preliminary expenses, &c., and £128 is carried forward.

**MERITINI RUBBER.**—In 1913 the directors decided that from motives of economy it would be better not to issue any accounts until such time as the company would be in a position to make some return to the shareholders. The rubber property has proved a failure, and apparently very little is expected from the coconut plantations, which are at present in charge of three native caretakers, but the negotiations for the sale of the estates which were mentioned in the previous report have had to be suspended owing to the war. Expenses have been reduced to a minimum, and for the period of one year and ten months to April 30 the directors are able to show a profit on the receipts from interest and commission of £1,232, out of which they pay a dividend of 3 per cent. and carry forward £33. The £5,000 received from the promoters of the company has been utilised to write off preliminary expenses amounting to £4,432, together with £178 for the outlay of the investigation committee, and the balance of £390 has been deducted from the expenditure on development.

**A. J. WHITE, LTD.**—No credit was taken in the accounts for the year ended March 31 for sales made by the agency at Lille, nor have any expenses been charged in connection therewith. What effect that had on the results obtained we are not told, but generally the company, which is a manufacturer of patent medicines, seems to have been hard hit by the war, its nett profits being £13,333 less at £16,997. Slightly more at £9,620 was brought in, and the directors by halving the dividend at 10 per cent. are enabled to increase the amount carried forward by £1,997 to £11,617. Stock is £6,111 down at £8,770, debtors owe £6,681 less at £22,555, interests in subsidiary companies have been reduced by £2,354 to £22,653, and cash is £1,558 lower at £2,728, while sundry creditors come to £9,812 less at £8,981.

## The Week in Mines.

No appreciable expansion in the volume of business has taken place in the Mining markets this week, but under the stimulus of the news of General Botha's triumph in South-West Africa prices in the South African market trended steadily upwards. The market it was found was none too well supplied with shares when a few buyers put in an appearance at the outset, and in the later dealings sellers were not numerous, nevertheless prices closed a shade below the highest points reached.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Both professionals and the public showed an inclination to take a little more interest in the leading South African shares, the knowledge that General Botha's expedition into South-West Africa had ended so satisfactorily putting more heart into the market, as the successful conclusion of the campaign puts an end to the recent heavy war expenditure which the Union Government has had to meet. The advance in prices was also helped by the gold output figures for the past month, which were of an encouraging character, while the labour figures were also more favourable than in the preceding month. Not only has the outlook regarding the native labour supply improved, but with the conclusion of hostilities white workers on the Rand will be released to continue the development of the industry. A fair amount of attention was directed to the Far Eastern group, and as the floating supply of shares was small prices readily responded to a quite moderate amount of buying. The principal movement was an advance of 1½ to 3 in Brakpan. Central Mining rose ½ to 6½, Goldfields 1½ to 1 13-32, after being 1½, Meyer and Charlton ½ to 5½, Modderfontein ½ to 14½, after being 14½, Modderfontein "B" 5-32 to 5 7-32, Modderfontein Deep 3-32 to 4 5-32, Rand Mines 1½ to 4 19-32, Gold Trust 2s. to 14s., City Deep 5-32 to 3½, and Van Ryn Deep 3-32 to 2½.

Among Rhodesians Chartered were notably firm, and it was said that a block of several thousand shares which had been hanging over the market was placed at first under 10s. a share; the price finally closed 1s. 9d. higher on the week at 11s. 1½d. Other Rhodesians which have suffered from neglect of late responded to a few inquiries, Bechuanaland Exploration rising to 4s. 6d. on the appearance of the report, the dividend of 3 per cent. being regarded as satisfactory. Cam and Motor hardened to 13s. 9d. The tone of the West African section was steady to firm, with Ashanti Goldfields a good spot at 16s. Diamond shares failed to participate in the general improvement, apart from De Beers deferred, which rose from 10½ to 10½, and closed 1½ higher on balance at 10½; the preference fell ¼ to 11½, Jagersfontein ½ to 2½, and Premier deferred ¼ to 4½.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

The tone of the market in copper shares was heavy during the early part of the week in sympathy with the weakness of the market in the metal, while Amalgamated followed the downward trend of prices in Wall Street, the quotation falling from 75½ to 72; from this point there was a smart recovery to 76. Stockholders will, beginning on August 30, receive one share of Anaconda of the par value of \$50 and \$3 in cash upon the surrender of each Amalgamated share. This is in accordance with the dissolution plan agreed to at the meeting on June 3. Rio Tinto declined from 57 to 56, which was the closing price. Anaconda fell ¼ to 7½, and Hampden 1s. 6d. to 31s. 6d. Among tin-producing companies' shares South Crofty and Tekka showed strength, but Dolcoath fell 9d. to 6s. 6d.

After remaining stationary for a considerable time Tough Oakes shares were sold down to 5s.-5s. 3d. on Saturday, as compared with the price of 9s. at which the previous deal was reported; the closing price was 5s. 6d. Camp Bird and Casey Cobalt both declined 9d. As regards the Broken Hill group, prices gene-



rally were easier, Proprietary closing 3d. lower at 44s. 6d. after being 44s.; North fell 1-32, and British 6d. South touched 7½ on the offer of a few shares on an unresponsive market, but the price recovered to 7½. Indian descriptions were dull for choice, Ooregum losing 6d. to 25s. 6d. The leading Russian shares showed a general decline, apart from Russo-Asiatic, which remained steady at 4½. Lena fell ¼ to 1½, and Spassky and Tanalyk were 1/16 weaker.

### MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The output for last month was £3,208,224, or £35,123 less than in May, and £158,666 more than in June last year. For the five months to date the production shows an increase of £1,364,376. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January ..	2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058
February ..	2,445,088	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March .....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514
April .....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651
May .....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347
June .....	2,655,602	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224
July .....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	—
August .....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,395	3,092,754	3,024,037	—
September ..	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	—
October .....	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	—
November ..	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	—
December ..	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total ..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	18,724,200

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The total at the gold mines shows an increase of 194 compared with the previous month.

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
June, 1914 .....	166,248	9,442	13,256	188,946
July .....	167,006	9,257	13,656	189,919
August .....	168,831	9,485	—	178,316
September .....	169,619	9,389	—	179,008
October .....	170,438	9,212	—	179,650
November .....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December .....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915 .....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February .....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March .....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April .....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May .....	183,961	8,557	—	192,518
June .....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174

### MINING OUTPUTS.

**Abbottiakoon.**—10,238 tons, £20,764; includes tube mills, £5,105; costs, £14,121.

**Antelope (Rhodesia).**—3,819 tons, £8,465; profit, £1,972.

**Eldorado Banket.**—4,013 tons, £10,932; profit, £5,156.

**Falcon.**—12,722 tons, producing 298 tons of 2,000 lbs. copper, 3,031 ozs. gold; value, £28,052.

**Gaika.**—2,927 tons, £7,284; profit, £3,235.

**Globe and Phoenix.**—6,147 tons, 7,587 ozs.; profit, £18,012; taken from reserve, 413 ozs.

**Kyshtim Corporation.**—Smelters produced 606 long tons blister copper, equivalent to about 593 long tons pure copper. Output of cathodes (copper refined from blister) 764 long tons; value at Kyshtim of cathodes and precious metals is £95,366.

**Mount Lyell.**—27,529 tons ore treated, being 17,289 tons from the Mount Lyell and 10,240 tons from North Mount Lyell; converters produced 600 tons blister copper, containing copper 593 tons; silver, 39,693 ozs.; gold, 797 ozs.

**Oroya Links.**—Crushed 12,000 tons, yielding £12,141; royalties, £219; expenditure, £11,550; capital expenditure, £158.

**Plymouth Consolidated.**—11,000 tons, £11,271; surplus, £4,503.

**Prestea Block A.**—Yield from mill, £20,997; cyanide works, £2,386; concentrates, £6,290; working profit from current ore treatment (subject to depreciation of machinery, plant, and buildings), £2,969. Official Note: The low tonnage treated is due to shortage of white miners. Arrangements have been made to remedy this, and miners from Canada have now arrived at the mine.

**Poderosa.**—Production shipping ore 320 tons of 2,240 lbs., assaying 24½ per cent. copper.

**Waihi.**—15,638 tons, yielding gold and silver value £26,689.

**Thistle Etna.**—3,175 tons; value, £2,869.

**Zinc Corporation.**—Crushed 9,039 tons, lead mill producing 1,741 tons lead concentrates; value of concentrates, on the basis of lead at £20, subject to realisation is £13,110.

**Venezuelan Oil Concessions.**—A message states:—Fourth borehole, gas and petroleum in evidence; total depth, 175 ft. Official note: The striking of oil at No. 4 borehole proves that the Santa Barbara anticline has a width of at least two-thirds of a mile. As already reported, No. 3 borehole proved the length of the anticline to be at least five miles. Oil is therefore proved in this district over an area of five miles by two-thirds of a mile.

### What Balance Sheets Tell.

#### GLYNN, MILLS, CURRIE AND CO.

In the statement of assets and liabilities at June 30 last given by this private bank, current accounts have risen by £2,994,154 to £14,227,260, and deposit accounts by £604,870 to £6,989,310. The fund for reduction of bank premises also shows an increase of £14,654 at £121,623, but the reserve is stationary at £500,000, or just half the issued capital. Strong cash resources are held by the bank, money at call and short notice being £2,717,770 up at £7,325,000, and cash £1,436,993 higher at £4,291,097. Securities of or guaranteed by the British Government are £1,230,331 up at £2,142,629, and £1,591,512 of the first War Loan has been bought at a cost of £1,500,000. Government of India and Colonial Government securities come to £7,505 more at £464,650, the total of £4,107,278 reached by the addition of these three items being £1,237,836 higher than a year ago. Bills discounted, loans and other securities have been reduced by £1,778,921 to £6,744,817, but bank premises remain the same at £370,000.

#### MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LTD.

For the first half-year of 1915 the available total of this bank, including £1,874 more at £14,871 brought in, showed an increase of £2,355 at £44,366, out of which the dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. is again paid. Reserve then gets £10,000 against £7,500 and £5,000 is once more applied in reduction of premises account, leaving £15,033 to be carried forward. To make full provision for the further depreciation in investments, £40,000 has been taken from reserve, which, with the present addition, will amount to £320,000. Deposits, current and other accounts have gone up £650,035 to £7,314,237, while the entire cash and floating resources come to £358,346 more at £1,869,066, cash on hand and in the bank having risen £276,116 to £841,227, and money at call and short notice £82,230 to £1,027,839. Consols and other Government stocks are £446,272 higher at £1,193,494, but corporation stocks, railway debentures, &c., have been reduced by £100,379 to £626,628, the aggregate of the securities being £345,893 larger at £1,074,817. Bills received are £53,540 down at £1,033,924, and advances on securities and current accounts are £25,406 lower at £2,911,380, but the balance-sheet total shows an increase of £627,390 at £7,868,604.

#### HIBERNIAN BANK, LTD.

Nett profits for the half-year ended June 30 were much the same as in the corresponding period of 1914 at £24,614, and with £3,021 brought in gave £27,635 or £112 more available. Out of this the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. is repeated and the transfer to reserve is doubled at £10,000, but nothing is set aside in reduction of bank premises nor to officers' superannuation fund, against £2,000 and £1,000 respectively, and £1,888 less at £2,635 is carried forward. Deposit, current and other accounts show an increase of £365,446 at £4,563,883, but the amounts due to sundry agents are £6,141 lower at £976, while the special reserve for depreciation of investments, which a year ago stood at £105,000, has apparently been utilised in writing down the bank's securities. Said investments, however, chiefly owing to the purchase of £250,000 of the first War Loan, are £192,363 up at £1,410,236. Cash also has risen by £324,165 to £692,306, but bills discounted have been reduced by £71,471 to £704,715 and advances on current accounts, loans, &c., by £183,549 to £2,259,825. Other changes are of little importance, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being only £260,614 higher at £5,229,166.

#### YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK, LTD.

Now controlled by most of the great English banks, this bank only publishes a balance-sheet, the last of which, covering the year ended June 30, shows that liabilities on deposits have risen £100,969 to £20,821,658. This increase corresponds with the growth of the balance-sheet aggregate, which is now £22,321,658, and includes £750,000 of paid-up capital and a like amount of reserve. Cash and Treasury and bankers' bills are both higher, the one by £167,932 at £3,474,519, and the other by £729,153 at £2,385,850. Consols, local loans and other securities are £2,984,629 down at £8,687,733, chiefly owing to the decrease of £2,866,879 in other securities, but Treasury bills and securities payable within one year form a new item of £2,015,100. Loans on security and other accounts show an increase of £169,922 at £4,709,544, and bank premises are £3,491 up at £448,912, the bank purchase account remaining stationary at £600,000.

#### NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Generally the position of affairs in South Africa during 1914 was an uncertain one. The year began with a widespread strike, and though it was energetically suppressed by the Government, there was a constant dread that it might break out again. Moreover, the outbreak of war and the subsequent occurrences in the Transvaal and Orange Free State restricted trade, and consequently there was very little demand for money. This circumstance, together with the fact that owing to unsatisfactory harvests in previous years the bank had been very cautious in giving credit, increased its liquid assets, but also considerably reduced the chance of earning profits, which, accordingly, showed a decline of £6,830 at £47,274. Expenses, however, were £3,311 lower, and the nett profits, therefore, including £285 brought in, were only £3,528 down at £10,257, but the dividend is reduced from 4 per cent. to 3, and nothing is transferred to reserve against £1,400, leaving £557 to be carried forward, after repeating the appropriation of £2,500 to internal reserve. Cash has risen £182,385 to £329,260, but bills dis-



counted, loans, &c., show a decrease of £219,778 at £251,439, while current accounts, deposits, &c., are £35,645 lower at £393,295, and bills held for collection come to £15,925 less at £72,519.

#### DAVID AND WM. HENDERSON AND CO., LTD.

Operations of this well-known shipbuilding firm in the end of last year were greatly interfered with by the war, and as the company was not then working for the Admiralty its troubles were accentuated by men being withdrawn to other yards. Matters, however, evidently improved very considerably later, as the nett profits for the full 12 months ended April 30, before providing for depreciation, were actually £4,209 larger at £44,853. A year ago the debit balance of £5,615 was wiped out, together with all arrears of preference dividend, and the way was therefore cleared for the resumption of the payment of dividends on the ordinary shares, which had received nothing since 1905-6. The amount now available for distribution, including £1,833 brought forward, is £11,658 up at £46,686, and after transferring £7,500, or £5,000 more, to the preference dividend reserve fund, raising it to £15,000, the ordinary shares get a dividend of 5 per cent. Out of the balance £5,053, or much about the same as a year ago, is written off for depreciation on buildings and machinery, and £1,700 more at £4,682 is set aside for additional depreciation on investments and directors' commission on profits, leaving £3,201 to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are mostly small, but we may note on the assets side a reduction of £7,328 to £422,873 in property account, which was partly due to sales, and an increase of £12,807 to £67,955 in cash and bills receivable, while, on the other hand, there is a decrease of £16,986 to £46,755 in the current liabilities. Work in progress is valued at £65,859, or much the same as in the previous balance-sheet, but the directors prefer not to make any forecast of the prospects in the present unsettled state of affairs.

#### MONTREAL WATER AND POWER CO.

In the year ended April 30 satisfactory progress was again made by this company, and the business done, notwithstanding the general depression of trade, showed an increase of some 5 per cent. over the previous year. True, gross revenue fell off \$8,227 to \$775,463; but it must be remembered that comparison is made with a year abnormal by reason of the large amount received from the City of Montreal for water supplied at the time of the breakdown of the city system. Working expenses were \$6,154 higher at \$330,494, and the nett profits, therefore, after providing for funded debt interest, came to \$13,086 less at \$195,727. This decline, however, was more than offset by the increase shown in the balance of \$189,043 brought forward, which was \$92,161 larger, so that the distributable total was actually \$79,075 better at \$384,770. Out of this \$40,000, as against \$60,000, is set aside for general depreciation, \$2,168 against nothing for office furniture, and much the same at \$29,936 for discount and expenses on sales of bonds, premium at maturity on prior lien bonds, &c.; but nothing is written off meters and stable stock, &c., compared with \$12,100 in the previous year, when \$15,000 was also put by for possible loss on disputed account, which, by the way, has now been settled in favour of the company. There then remained enough to justify the payment of a dividend, but, in view of existing financial conditions, the directors prefer to add \$123,623 to the amount carried forward, making it \$312,665. Cost of system, real estate, &c., is \$306,526 higher at \$7,124,808, and shareholders will doubtless be glad to know that, according to a recent valuation, this is well within the actual worth of the property. The company also possesses strong cash reserves, the total of which is \$120,563 larger at \$437,207. Amounts due to municipalities are entered for \$240,857 more at \$378,372, the reason for this large increase being the inclusion this time of certain liabilities, the exact amount of which and date of payment have not been determined. Ordinary liabilities have been reduced by \$27,184 to \$18,249.

#### W. AND J. AVERY, LTD.

Owing to the purchase in 1914 of Henry Pooley and Son, Ltd., the capital of this company was increased and reorganised, and the issued portion now consists of £124,835 5 per cent. "A" preference shares as before, £68,600 5½ per cent. "B" preference shares and £143,223 ordinary shares, the "B" preference shares being new and the ordinary shares showing an increase of £36,598. For the year ended March 31, after providing £9,027 for depreciation and including £9,997 or £1,495 more brought in, the distributable total was £5,643 larger at £47,680. Out of this the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 10 per cent. to 11, but the transfer to reserve is reduced by £4,500 to £7,000, and slightly less at £9,610 is carried forward. In connection with the above purchase, 4½ per cent. new debenture stock was offered to debenture stockholders of Henry Pooley and to the 4 per cent. debenture holders of this company. All the stockholders of the absorbed company accepted the offer, and apparently £33,000 of the old 4 per cent. debentures were also exchanged, reducing the amount of these still outstanding to £67,000. The total of the new stock, including accrued interest, is £102,547. Additions of £85,052 were made to property, plant, &c., account during the year, the aggregate, less depreciation, being £76,025 up at £278,029. Debtors owe £20,041 more at £98,574 and investments have been increased by £114,545 to £127,070, but stock, &c., has been reduced by £7,785 to £132,548. In addition to a decrease of £8,165 in its cash balances, bringing them down to £19,348, the company has obtained a mortgage for £10,000 on its Salford property.

#### LOCHGELLY IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD.

A heavy fall of £28,682 to £37,609 is shown in the nett profits of this Fifehire concern for the year ended May 31, and with £5,195 more at £22,085 brought in, the distributable total was £23,487 lower at £59,694. A year ago the dividend on the ordinary shares was cut down from 30 per cent. to 20, and it is now further reduced to 17½ per cent., while the reserve gets nothing, compared with £15,000, and the balance carried forward is only £2,755 larger at £24,840. Property account shows a reduction of £23,641 at £294,510, against which the reserve stands at £75,000. Stores are £4,534 up at £13,102, debtors owe £12,729 more at £49,148, and investment and loans have been increased by £9,800 to £90,000. Cash is £16,014 down at £52,390, while on the other hand £9,507 less at £31,085 is due to sundry creditors.

#### SCOTTISH AMERICAN MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

The report of this company for the year ended May 31 says that there was an active demand for loans over suitable security through the 12 months, and that rates of interest obtained were satisfactory. Gross income, therefore, was slightly larger at £142,333, but an increase of £4,754 was shown in expenses, income-tax, interest, &c., making the total paid out £41,999, so that the nett revenue was £3,123 down at £100,334. A distribution of 12 per cent., however, is again made, while £19,595 is utilised in writing down reserve investments to market value at May 31, compared with £15,000 transferred to reserve and £5,000 to contingent fund in 1914. After these appropriations there remains £1,189 or £2,718 less to be carried to surplus revenue account, which will then amount to £15,060. The above investments are entered in the balance-sheet for £135,277, the market value at the close of the accounts, according to Stock Exchange lists, being £115,682. Mortgages, vendors' lien notes, &c., have been reduced by £22,869 to £2,027,960, but the company has £39,952 on accounts with bankers, agents, &c., against £1,039 owing by it last time. Among the liabilities, terminable debentures have risen £34,225 to £267,153, but deposits at £51,004 show an almost similar decrease, namely, £34,411.

#### OREGON MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

In the 12 months ended May 31 this company's funds were fully employed at practically the same average rate of interest as in the previous year, and collections of interest were satisfactory. All things considered, therefore, the company has not done badly in showing a decrease of only £2,885 in its nett profits, reducing them to £32,418. The balance brought in, moreover, was £1,854 larger at £3,429, so that, by transferring nothing to reserve against £5,000, the directors are able to increase the carry forward by £3,960 to £7,471, subject to auditors' fees, after repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. and the bonus of 2 per cent. as well as the allocation of £4,000 to accrued interest reserve. There is at present no prospect of increasing the company's capital, but the effect of the war on its borrowing has not been adverse so far as prices of produce are concerned. Real estate is £8,256 higher at £11,894 owing to the partial failure of crops in some districts of the loaning fields, but loans secured on mortgage have been reduced by £14,867 to £760,973, while £15,000 of temporary loans to the company have been repaid, leaving £26,310 outstanding.

#### COSTA RICA RAILWAY CO., LTD.

This company obtains by far the greater portion of its income from the rent paid by the Northern Railway Co., and although the wet season of 1914 was one of the severest on record on the Atlantic slope and, owing to the war as well as to short coffee and banana crops, the traffics of that railway for the year ended June 30 showed large decreases, the rent was paid with customary punctuality. Including, therefore, the £149,100 so received and £9,061 from interest on investments and deposits, the entire income of the lessor company amounted to £158,184, or nearly the same as a year ago. After meeting various interest payments and contributing £1,300 to war funds, the directors repeat the dividend of 2 per cent., and transfer £2,437 less at £16,263 to reserve, raising it to £182,263. Investments have risen £35,032 to £231,767, but cash is £16,791 down at £53,847.

#### CHILI TELEPHONE CO., LTD.

In the year ended March 31 the number of subscribers fell off 880 to 13,095, and, owing largely to the increase of over \$27,000 in expenses, the nett income from all sources was \$20,585 smaller at \$1,515,597. A drop of 1.14d. to 8.46d. was also shown in the rate of exchange, and profits, therefore, were £8,030 down at £53,424, but of which £11,845 less at £3,838 was spent in replacements, &c., of plant. The transfer to general reserve was also reduced by £2,762 to £12,344, so that, after repeating the dividend of 8s. per share and setting aside £5,000 as a special reserve against loss on investments, the directors have £4,339 to carry forward, compared with £3,956 brought in. Bills receivable are £8,355 up at £9,500, but sundry debtor balances are £3,984 lower at £12,384, and investments, less the above reserve, amount to £20,059.

#### DOMINION TEXTILE CO., LTD.

In the year ended March 31 sales fell off \$1,256,044 to \$7,643,674, but the nett profits, owing to the writing off of \$90,313 less at \$204,049 for repairs and improvements to the mills, were \$33,777 up at \$1,230,768. Adding \$74,250 received as dividend of 2½ per cent. on the shares of the Dominion Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., the available total was made up to \$1,305,018, or \$34,642 more than in 1914. Out of this a dividend of 6 per cent. is again paid on the common stock, \$4,830 more at \$366,253 paid as rental for Dominion Cotton Mills Co., and



\$8,250 more at \$198,000 for rent of Mount Royal Spinning Co., while the amount written off for bad debts is increased by \$8,237 to \$24,227 and \$10,000 is set aside for a patriotic fund. These deductions leave a surplus of \$52,547, bringing the total up to \$881,926, and making with last year's annual dividend of \$74,378 on the stock of the Dominion Cotton Mills Co., received since the closing of the books, an aggregate of \$956,304 against \$903,630. Having regard to the general depression in business owing to the war, the directors consider these results satisfactory. In the balance-sheet commercial loans show a decrease of \$117,931 at \$2,484,921, but special loans are \$47,557 up at \$563,220, and open accounts have risen \$17,644 to \$314,133. The amount due to leased company less stock and bonds of other companies figures for \$52,356, against \$43,493 on the other side last time, but deposits have been reduced by \$129,336 to \$223,953. Land, buildings, machinery, &c., are valued for \$51,085 more at \$10,775,941, and raw cotton is \$19,172 up at \$737,486, but stock manufactured and in process is \$185,735 lower at \$1,558,315.

#### INTERNATIONAL NICKEL CO.

For several months following the outbreak of war this American company, whose year ends on March 31, experienced a curtailment in the demand for its products, but later on the demand was greatly increased, with the result that the volume of business was somewhat larger than in previous years. This is clearly shown by the increase of \$596,356 registered in the nett earnings, making them \$7,049,112. Other income brought in \$67,620 more at \$181,648, while depreciation of plants took \$720,000, against \$636,915, but the allowance for mineral exhaustion was reduced by \$302,079 to \$385,315, leaving \$5,598,071, or \$805,406 more, as nett profits, after providing for all expenses, taxes, &c., absorbing \$517,374. The directors, therefore, were able to pay an additional 2½ per cent. on the common stock, or 12½ per cent., against 10 per cent. last time, and to add \$309,378 to the accumulated surplus, which now amounts to \$5,315,625. Expenditure on property account amounted during the year to \$569,342, but, less depreciation, the total is \$535,973 down at \$44,016,051. Investments show a decrease of \$79,628 at \$58,210, inventories at cost of \$1,188,640 at \$3,100,381, and accounts receivable of \$199,312 at \$1,416,092, but cash has risen by \$1,298,867 to \$4,542,539, and loans on call (secured) and certificates of deposits form two new entries, the one for \$1,000,000 and the other for \$950,000. Accounts payable amount to \$637,239. The report states that the plan of extending to the employees the opportunity of purchasing stock on a monthly instalment basis, inaugurated in 1913-14, was continued in 1914-15, with equally satisfactory results.

#### MOLASSINE CO., LTD.

This company did much better in its year ended March 31 last than in the previous 12 months, its trading profits having risen £11,948 to £13,317. But for the war this profit would have been still larger, as very satisfactory contracts for raw materials had been made, while the demand for the company's goods was in excess of any previous year. Difficulties of transport and labour, however, the cutting off of the sources of supply of raw material, &c., all conduced to make the year an anxious one, but the directors look to the future with good cheer, owing to the high repute of the company's products. After providing for depreciation, &c., there remained a balance of £9,161, £4,656 of which was absorbed in writing down by one-half the share capital in subsidiary companies, in view of the depressed state of commerce in Canada and the practical suspension of business with that country and America. This deduction leaves a nett profit of £4,505, against a loss of £4,725, and, being subtracted from the deficit brought forward, leaves £12,365 still to be wiped out, so that the company has yet some ground to cover before shareholders can reap any benefit out of the profits earned. Debtors owe £10,757 more at £54,612, but cash is £4,917 down at £3,302, while the loan from bankers has been reduced by £2,963 to £22,307.

#### WILLIAM MURRAY AND CO.

Including £174 brought in, the gross profit for the year ended June 30 was £177 up at £5,698, and after providing for depreciation, directors' fees, &c., there remained £4,446 nett. Out of this the dividend on the ordinary shares is again made up to 4 per cent. and £1,000 transferred to reserve, leaving £383 to be carried forward. The reserve now totals £18,000, against a property, plant, and goodwill account of £49,991. Stocks have risen £1,146 to £10,042, cash balances are £5,781 larger at £30,353, and debtors owe slightly more at £16,446, compared with an increase of £5,376 to £15,189 in sundry liabilities.

#### S. HOFFNUNG AND CO., LTD.

For the year ended March 31 there was a decline of £8,974 in the trading profits of this company, reducing them to £78,751, while the nett, after meeting all charges, were £9,173 down at £59,002. The balance brought in was also slightly lower at £5,238, so that altogether the directors had £9,748 less at £64,240 to distribute, but they maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at the previous year's rate of 15 per cent., and again transfer £10,000 to reserve. Nothing, however, is set aside to the ordinary dividend special reserve, compared with £10,000, but £252 more at £5,490 is carried forward. Sundry liabilities, including open accounts and bills payable, aggregate £173,083, or £33,253 more than for the preceding year, while stock is £17,301 down at £349,795, debtors owe £12,020 less at £221,301, and cash has been reduced by £4,178 to £13,898. Bills receivable, however, show an increase of £10,318 at £41,779.

#### LAKE COPAIS CO., LTD.

During the calendar year 1914 some 5,000 more acres were cultivated than in 1913, but the crop on 4,743 acres was destroyed by a severe frost early in May, which followed very dry weather from February to April, and was immediately succeeded by a great rise of the thermometer. These conditions were prevalent throughout practically the whole of Greece, but were counteracted by the improvement in prices of all agricultural produce, with the exception of cotton. Labour and materials also increased in price, but profits were £8,018 larger, and the nett were £8,014 up at £15,591, a new charge of £1,345 for development and other small increases having been offset by a reduction of £2,815 to £4,484 in maintenance of works. From this £2,000 was transferred to reserve, £7,920, or £1,843 more, to the "A" debenture stockholders' interest account, making £8,082 available, and £5,671, against nothing, to the "B" stockholders' account, making £6,328 available. The "A" debentures then get a distribution of 4 per cent., against 3 per cent., and the "B" debentures one of 2½ per cent., to be made in 6 per cent. second prior lien bonds of the company at par, fractions of £5 being paid in cash. During the year £11,938 was spent on construction account, raising the total to £224,519, while buildings, electrical, and other plant are £4,818 up at £32,287 on balance. Cash also has risen £5,633 to £29,459, but stocks have been reduced by £9,368 to £9,512.

### COMPANY MEETINGS.

#### KINTA KELLAS RUBBER ESTATES.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on Wednesday in the Council Room, Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Edward Bedford, C.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The representative of the Secretaries (Messrs. Taylor, Noble and Co.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Last year I called attention to the reduction in costs of production from 2s. 3.57d. to 1s. 5.93d., and I then hoped to see the f.o.b. costs for the current year down to 1s. per lb. The actual f.o.b. costs are down to 11.05d. per lb., approximately 11d. per lb., while the total costs against crop, including freight, insurance war risks, &c., bring the total costs to 1s. 0.63d. per lb., which is, I think, satisfactory and decidedly creditable to the local management. The crop was 190,400 lbs., as compared with an estimate of 180,000 lbs. Of this crop, 170,252 lbs. has been sold at an average price of 2s. 1.55d. per lb. The balance of 20,148 lbs. is taken into the account at 2s. per lb., and since the report has been issued we have sold practically the whole of this at a price well over the average for the year. Of our rubber, our first latex formed 78 per cent. of our crop, which is a very satisfactory proportion and slightly better than last year. We have again done a great deal of thinning out of trees; we have tapped out a number of trees, and the average number of trees in the tapping area has been reduced from 140 to 115 per acre. It is satisfactory to note that simultaneously the yield per acre has increased from 258 lbs. to 316 lbs. per acre, and the yield per tree from 1.08 lb. to 2.45 lbs. The yield from some of our oldest rubber has been as high as 600 lbs. per acre, which is very encouraging for our younger rubber cultivation, reported as looking very well indeed. In each of our previous reports we explained to you the position of the land affected by the confluence of the Kinta and Sungei Rei rivers, originally 171 acres. Last year Mr. Fox reported that only 50 acres of this was worth anything; he advised it would be cheaper to abandon it and plant an equivalent area on the good land in division 2. I told you then that we had decided to let it go. We have this year taken a further £1,000 out of profits for working out this area, making, in addition to the £3,500 taken last year, £4,500 in all, which both writes down this area and gives us a very welcome contribution from profits towards capital expenditure. So much for the past, in which our company has had its infantile troubles, but it is now in a very good position, well round the corner, and I think we may henceforward look for steadily progressive dividends. We are proposing to utilise a portion of our profits by writing out of the accounts any doubtful items. Last year we took 5 per cent. for the rate of depreciation on buildings and machinery; this year we have made it 10 per cent.—that is, £690. We have provided £537 against depreciation on our reserve fund investments; we have written off the whole of the underwriting and other costs of debenture issue; we take, as I have said, a further £1,000 for writing out swampy areas. The balance-sheet is now a thoroughly sound and healthy one, and as our revenue will be coming in at a rapidly increasing rate, we consider that we can safely recommend the distribution of a further 3 per cent. now, making with the interim dividend a total distribution of 7 per cent. for the year, leaving £3,162 to carry forward to the current year, which opens well and with considerable promise. The estimate of crop for the year is 315,000 lbs., which is certainly a conservative estimate, and we expect to see it considerably exceeded. The estimated cost is 9.38d. per lb. for 280,000 lbs. in Division 1 and 2s. for 35,000 lbs. for the new area just coming into tapping in Division 2, making the average cost 11d. per lb. over all the tapping area, old and new. In the following year, when our whole area will be in bearing, we expect to see the f.o.b. costs well below 9d. per lb. upon a crop of over 500,000 lbs.

Mr. A. T. Macer seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.



## Answers to Correspondents.

**\* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

L. G. R.—We cannot advise you to sell just now, but if there is any rally, it would be as well to consider parting with some, if not all. There seems no danger of any assessment, but one cannot be sure. The company's finance is hampered by its short note liabilities.

D. W. W.—Some arrangement may be possible, but we cannot say definitely yet. You might ask your broker if he can do anything, but there is no pressing haste.

A. C. W.—We cannot advise you to sell, though recovery in value cannot be looked for until the war is over.

H. S. M.—No announcement has yet been made, but a small dividend is expected.

E. W. S.—Yes. The 5 per cent. issue is, perhaps, the more attractive.

D. S.—No, certainly not. Have nothing whatever to do with them.

H. G. A.—We believe the company has no possible chance of succeeding, and should advise you to put all communications from that source in the wastepaper basket.

D. H. W.—Your selection seems a satisfactory one. The reports recently issued show that all three have good prospects, especially No. 3.

## BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

**BROWN BROTHERS, LTD.**—This business of dealers in general hardware, cycle accessories, &c., managed to hold its own in the year ended December 31. Including a slightly larger balance of £15,619 brought in, the nett profit was £471 up at £42,840, and after providing for directors' remuneration and income-tax, and repeating the dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, £5,000 is again transferred to reserve and £16,268, or £649 more, is carried forward. Goodwill and patents stand in the books at £149,864, out of a total capital of £250,000, and represent a very heavy handicap, which is only partly lightened by the reserve, which now amounts to £55,000. Otherwise, however, the position seems sound enough. Current liabilities have been reduced by £24,815 to £101,050, while, on the other hand, stocks are £2,027 smaller at £84,267, debtors owe £6,644 less at £131,850, and cash is £4,957 lower at £29,341. Investments which were taken into the balance-sheet last year at £5,636 have now disappeared, and the directors say that they were all sold at the higher prices current before the war and the money has been employed in the business.

**CANADA CO.**—During the five months ended May 31, 3,819 acres, or 406 acres more, were leased with the right of purchase, and 85 acres less at 467 acres were sold for cash. Prices were substantially lower and the average was \$3.90 down at \$15.14, but the sales would appear to have consisted of outlying lands of lower value, as this figure represents an increase of 14½ per cent. on the 1912 valuation as against 8½ per cent. a year ago. Income from land sold or converted to freehold was £4,802 smaller at £9,781, and minerals and prospecting fees yielded considerably less, while rent and miscellaneous charges only brought in a trifle higher. The total available for distribution consequently showed a reduction of £6,950 at £15,627, and the dividend for the half-year ending the 30th inst. is cut down from £2 per share to £1 5s.

**FRANK JONES BREWING CO., LTD.**—After its glimpse of better times in 1913-14, this American brewery again did very badly in the year ended February 28, and the directors lay the blame on the general conditions arising from the European war and the increased tax on malt liquors. Nett profits, after providing for depreciation and London office charges, were £13,954 down at £21,641. Debenture interest and provision for redemption require £27,947, so that the nett outcome was a deficit of £6,306, compared with a surplus of £7,207 in the previous year, and the debit balance is increased to £19,224. No dividend has been paid on the preference shares since 1906-7, when they got 4 per cent., and as the arrears now amount to £254,000, the outlook seems pretty hopeless.

**TEDCASTLE, McCORMACK AND CO., LTD.**—Profits of this Dublin business of shipowners and coal merchants for the year ended March 31 showed an increase of £5,794 at £18,654, after writing off an extra £2,000 at £8,000 for depreciation. In addition, £5,000 is set aside as a reserve for war risks, and as £811 less at £3,158 was brought forward the divisible surplus was a trifle smaller at £12,378, but a dividend of 5 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, which leaves £3,211 to be carried forward. On balance property account has been reduced by £4,071 to £155,944, debtors owe £6,965 less at £41,512, and investments are £2,072 down at £145,647, but cash comes to £23,657, or £18,334 more, while current liabilities are much the same at £32,926.

**VENTURE TRUST, LTD.**—This company continues to struggle hard against adversity, and in the 15 months ended June 30 was actually able to show an increase of £1,870 to £3,381 in its income. At the same time expenses were substantially reduced, and the nett outcome of its operations was a small profit of £491, which is deducted from the debit balance of £4,123 brought forward. Further realisations of the assets taken over from the old company reduced the amount by £2,935 to

£168,572, but investments acquired since January 1, 1913, show an increase of £12,029 at £52,494. The valuation made as at the date of the balance-sheet, however, shows a depreciation of £8,729 on this figure.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and July 10, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	—	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 10, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to July 11, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—		£	£
Bank of England .....		81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....		1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.	£	83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	—	10,907,000	9,654,000
Excise .....	—	13,910,000	9,230,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	—	10,148,000	8,935,000
Stamps .....	—	1,735,000	2,582,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	250,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	—	12,509,000	6,439,000
Land Value Duties .....	—	40,000	40,000
Post Office .....	—	7,400,000	7,840,000
Crown Lands .....	—	110,000	120,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	6,472	771,816
Miscellaneous .....	—	846,071	606,185
Revenue .....	—	57,921,543	46,518,001
Total, including Balance .....		141,372,495	56,952,520
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		230,000	180,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	500,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £201,177,000 in 1915-16) .....		202,177,000	—
Total .....		379,321,840	58,382,520
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	—	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 10, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to July 11, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	11,676,420	8,828,387
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	395,012	—
Road Improvement Fund ....	—	281,038	379,759
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	—	1,273,540	1,215,267
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	—	763,312	666,570
Supply Services .....	—	284,385,298	43,084,303
Expenditure .....	—	292,775,620	54,174,286
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		320,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		30,457	30,457
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		26,519,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		700,000	800,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (i) (b) .....		30,000	55,000
Section 16 (i) (c) .....		—	53,000
	1915. July 10.	1914. July 11.	
Balances in Exchequer—	£	£	
Bank of England .....	35,795,759	2,309,558	
Bank of Ireland .....	228,504	590,219	
Total .....		379,321,840	58,382,520

### MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 10, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	*179,313,000
Total .. .. .	£251,813,000

\* Includes £5,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 12, 1915.

## CITY OF TOKYO 5 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1906 FOR £1,500,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPON due 1st August, 1915, will be paid on and after the 13rd August (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,  
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, E.C.,  
17th July, 1915.



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## Passing Events.

A deputation of bankers headed by Earl St. Aldwyn waited on the Prime Minister last Thursday to urge upon him the desirability, nay necessity, of increasing taxation. The Earl was accompanied by Viscount Midleton, Mr. Harold Cox, Sir Robert Balfour, M.P., Sir Felix Schuster, Sir Frederick Banbury, M.P., Mr. Vassar-Smith, Mr. Walter Leaf, and Mr. Stanley Machin, Vice-President of the London Chamber of Commerce, while Mr. Asquith was supported by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. All will agree that the deputation was in season and represented a desirable object, for nothing can be more true than that a large and permanent increase of revenue is imperatively required if the unprecedented masses of credit called into existence in order to meet the war expenditure are to be successfully coped with in after days, or even to-day. Bankers have stretched out their credit in every direction in order to give loyal support to the Government, and the consequence to them must be diminished power to help trade in all directions, not only now but for many a day to come. This is all quite true, but it is one thing to recognise necessity and another to suggest a remedy. When we come to the proposals laid before Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna they amount to little more than a demand for protective duties and for a readjustment of the income-tax. Earl St. Aldwyn chanted in unison with Sir Felix Schuster in supporting duties on imports, and Mr. Harold Cox was emphatic upon a spread downward of what may be called the taxation area embraced within the bounds of the income-tax. But none of the suggestions were very definite or practical, and no speaker seems to have grasped the fact that high import duties will stop revenue instead of increasing it, and do mischief in many other directions, as is pointed out below. We have long advocated an extension of the income-tax down to the wage-earner, because we believe that direct taxation is in the end more equitable and certainly the less expensive to the taxpayer than indirect, but we cannot have a readjustment of the income-tax in the direction Mr. Cox, like THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, indicated, without making extensive further demands at the upper end of the scale. Settled incomes, the product of realised wealth, will have in future to bear perhaps more than even their fair share of the burden if the working classes are to be in any measure reconciled to what they may very probably

regard as an interference with their liberty. It is good that the subject should be agitated now, and that the agitation should be kept going so as to familiarise people with the coming changes, but the practical outcome of such demonstrations as that of the bankers to Mr. Asquith is not yet visible.

A remark made by the Earl of Cromer in the House of Lords last Tuesday will surprise his fellow-Free Traders. "With regard to revenue," he said, "although a Free Trader, I am strongly of opinion that the time has come when indirect taxation ought to be imposed, and the least objectionable form of indirect taxation would be a low duty on all imports, whether manufactured or unmanufactured, raw material, or food." To make an observation of that description would appear to show that his lordship has never really taken the trouble to ground himself well in the fundamentals of Free Trade doctrine. His proposal would add to the miseries of the people, because low duties upon all articles of import must be recouped in the price paid for those articles by the consumer. Surely Lord Cromer knows that the "foreigner" does not pay taxes levied in this fashion, and if consumers pay them then the added cost augments the strain upon those with small incomes. During time of war that strain may pass almost unnoticed, but when peace returns the artificial prosperity, as Mr. James Mason, the member for Windsor, well observed, would disappear. Then would come discontent augmented by the duties-increased cost of living. What does his lordship think the end of that sort of policy would be? He is not one of the great landowners of the United Kingdom, and may consequently think but lightly of the risk of losing all their possessions the adoption of his policy would cause such to run, even as the privileged nobility, lay and clerical, of France lost theirs in the Revolution. Nor does he think of the cruelty implied in his proposals, but we are sure that when he comes to turn the matter over in his mind he will recognise that only direct taxation, imposed wherever it can be most readily made fruitful, will enable us in time to surmount our difficulties.

In talking to his shareholders last Wednesday on the affairs of the Union of London and Smiths Bank,



Sir Felix Schuster, its governor, had difficulty in expressing what he felt with regard to the splendid way in which the bankers have risen to the height of their responsibilities during the war. Especially does it seem to him almost impossible to speak in measured language of the extraordinary success of the War Loan. That has, indeed, been marvellous, and there is no use now in hiding the fact that we felt a certain apprehension lest the arrangements made giving the subscribers the right to pay in full last Tuesday might have caused a temporary disarray in credit machinery. Anything more than that we never feared for a moment, but there was no room for any fear whatever. The money has been found, and the payments in full have been effected without the slightest hitch. Hoards have been poured into the Bank of England to an extent which should do more to give doubters confidence in the ability of the Allies to sustain the advance of civilisation than the winning of many trench battles. And yet great although the manifestation of financial strength has been, and large although the hidden reserves of all types and sizes may still be—Sir Felix thinks that there are still large concealed reserves of gold in the country—it remains the fact that only by rigid and systematic thrift extending through all ranks of society and habits of living can we hope to work off the immense burden these war loans are piling up upon our backs, and not only upon ours, but on the backs of all the nations now wrestling with the Teutonic chimera. Sir Felix Schuster did well, therefore, to call attention to the necessity for additional taxation, but before mentioning his suggestions thereon we should like to ask him how he would propose to carry out his suggestion that the converted Consols might have 10s. of their additional income diverted to form a cumulative sinking fund to redeem the whole debt in about 35 years. As he pointed out, those who have acquired the necessary amount of the new War Loan by purchase are entitled to exchange £100 of their Consols for £66 13s. 4d. of the new War Loan, this involving a capital loss of £33 6s. 8d. If, however, holders of the new stock acquired on these terms will adopt the self-denying plan of surrendering the 10s. in excess of 4 per cent. which would remain as interest, they would get back their reduced capital intact about 35 years hence. It is most enticing, this prospect—for the taxpayer, but has Sir Felix considered the channels through which the money thus kept back from the annuitants could be invested? Would not each year see the difficulty of putting away the accumulating mass of capital increased unless a much wider range of investment by the National Debt Commissioners was allowed than any hitherto seen? Coming back to the tax side of his subject, Sir Felix seems to be of opinion that we should begin by putting heavy taxes on imports. He is thus in accord with the Earl of Cromer. All imports, except those of absolute necessities of life or of raw materials needed for our manufactures should, he asserts, be taxed, and heavily taxed, although it is not through taxation alone that the necessary increase of revenue or available resources could be reached. This also looks nice at first thought, but how about our capacity to sell? Are not luxuries from abroad sold here in order that the vendors may be able to buy something from us? That is the ultimate object in view, and, therefore, if we shut these imports out, how are we to increase our exports to the extent necessary, not only for the maintenance of our population, but for the increase in our wealth? Perhaps Sir Felix did not have time to look at that side of the question, but he was right in insisting on the duty of self-denial, and his remark that the saving of a penny a day by each head of the population in the kingdom would mean an annual thrift of £68,000,000, or a sum sufficient to pay the interest on a debt of £1,500,000,000, was at least suggestive of what might be done by a people resolute, not only to be victorious in the field, but to attain the moral elevation of the free.

Why did not the Government apply some measure of coercion to the mine-owners last week? It was surely a great pity that they should clutch at the bludgeon placed to their hands by the Munitions Act and fulminate pains and penalties against the men. That could do no good; it only exasperated and made more exacting the miners already excited to great heat of feeling against the employers. It also weakened the position of the Ministry as mediator between the two classes, and the result has been an almost complete surrender to the men by the Cabinet. Three Ministers held conferences with masters and men at which terms were drawn up conceding nearly the whole of the men's demands. A good many had been granted already under what are called the "Runciman terms," and there were consequently few of the points in dispute remaining to be cleared away. It would have been just as well to have told the masters last week that they had better be patriotic enough to cease to stand in the way. Into the full details of the treaty of peace arranged between Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues Messrs. Runciman and Henderson on the one hand and the representative of the South Wales Miners' Confederation on the other it is unnecessary for us to enter, but the sum of them is—much higher scales of pay. A new clause, for instance, runs: Standard rates for underground day wage men which at present are less than 3s. 4d. per day shall be advanced to 3s. 4d., plus 50 per cent.—that is, shall be 5s. per day. For other underground men the day wage will either be existing rates or the rates applicable to them under the Minimum Wage Act, whichever is the higher, also plus 50 per cent. To these terms there are sundry qualifications interesting to the trade, but that is the essential point, and the agreement is to continue in force until the expiration of six months after the termination of the war and thereafter until the lapse of three months after notice has been given by one of the parties to terminate it. No wonder the mine-owners are discontented, but are they not principally to blame? Did they not get the ear of Mr. Runciman sufficiently to persuade him that the terms they advised him to offer would satisfy the men if he only showed a little sternness, and was conduct of that sort patriotic? We are disposed to speak ill of no man in present circumstances, but it does look as if the masters had been at least as shortsighted in their political outlook as the miners themselves. And can it be alleged now that the scale of wages accepted is plutocratic? "It means dearer coal." We are by no means sure. What about labour-saving agencies and inventions?

Australasian banking figures for the first quarter of the current year, as analysed and presented in the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, do not indicate any particular change in the position. Compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year, deposits have increased by £5,273,000, and advances by £4,912,000. Deposits have gone up almost solely in New Zealand, while the rise in advances has been confined to Australia. Essentially, however, the position appears to be much the same as a year ago, and in the March quarter compared with the December one the liabilities of the banks on deposits rose by £8,311,000, of which increase £3,264,000 fell to New Zealand. Why the liabilities of New Zealand banks should go up at such disproportionate speed we do not know, but the Australian figures do not include those of the Commonwealth Bank. It would not, however, make much difference if they did. One thing seems obvious enough—the banks have, broadly speaking, more credit thrust upon them than they can use. They are also losing a little gold at the same time that they have increased their liabilities to depositors and owners of current account balances. On the year the coin and bullion held by all the Australasian banks declined £379,744 to £39,711,605, and compared with the December figures the decrease has been about £605,000. Australian notes in circulation, on the other hand,



show a nett increase of £9,667,878, but to get at the true meaning of that expansion we ought to have before us the amount by which Commonwealth notes have superseded the notes formerly issued by the individual banks in the colonies. Altogether the advances made by all these banks, 22 in number, came to £147,900,715 at the end of March last, the largest bank of all being that of New South Wales, whose advances amounted to £27,597,000. Four great Australian banks, indeed, had advanced amongst them about £76,000,000, or more than half the aggregate made up by all the banks. Next to the smallest of the great Australian banks comes the Bank of New Zealand, with advances of £11,526,000. The sub-joined summary table will give the skeleton facts illustrative of the position as at December 31 last.

AUSTRALASIAN BANKING RETURNS.

Assets	Australia.	N.Z.	Total.
Coin and bullion .....	£33,291,047	£6,420,558	39,711,605
Australian notes .....	15,159,935	—	15,159,935
Notes and bills of other banks .....	850,333	324,049	1,174,382
Balances due from other banks .....	1,950,064	81,166	2,031,230
Advances, &c. ....	122,536,464	25,364,251	147,900,715
Landed property, &c. ....	4,897,222	548,687	5,445,909
Total assets .....	178,688,065	32,738,711	211,426,776
LIABILITIES.			
Notes in circulation .....	281,835	2,639,584	2,921,419
Bills in circulation .....	1,132,612	105,673	1,238,285
Balance due to other banks .....	3,025,367	67,276	3,092,643
Deposits .....	155,920,119	30,085,954	186,006,073
Perpetual inscribed stocks of the E. S. and A. Bank .....	1,987,880	—	1,987,880
Total liabilities .....	162,347,813	32,898,487	195,246,300
Excess of assets (capital, reserves, &c.) ..	16,334,252	9	16,334,261
Ratio, a year previously .....	17,056,287	4,086,748	21,143,035

\* Excess of liabilities, £159,776.

There is an amusing side even to the agitation now being organised against the presence of such numbers of married men in our citizen Army. Lord Devonport has drawn attention to the subject in the House of Lords, and said that it was estimated that 1,000,000 of the 3,000,000 men enrolled were married. He complained that the cost of the Army was in this way made excessive. If the average separation allowance, he said, was £1 a week, the Government were paying £1,000,000 a week on this ground alone. According to any Continental system, the number of married men in our Army would be 400,000, so that we were paying out £600,000 more a week, or over £30,000,000 a year, than ought to have been necessary. There was more of the same sort, and the Paymaster-General, Lord Newton, had not enough that was really effective to say against that Hun contention. Altogether, he admitted, there were 843,000 married men in the Army, of whom 606,000 were in the Regular forces and 237,000 in the Territorial. The annual cost of the separation allowances made to these men was £25,000,000, and that certainly looks a formidable total, though nothing like Lord Devonport's. But whose is the fault? The fault chiefly lies with newspapers owned and controlled by the Harmsworth syndicate. In the *Daily Mail* especially and in Lord Northcliffe's pet paper, the *Weekly Dispatch*, the clamour was continuous for the granting of generous allowances to the dependents of these very married volunteers, now sworn at as the wrong sort of men. In the *Weekly Dispatch* no theme was more constantly harped upon than the "niggardliness" of the Government towards the wives, sweethearts, or other connections of men enlisting. So much was this the case that the chief exponent of the Northcliffe mind (?) on that newspaper, the man who by his rough force of writing gave the tone to much that appeared in the other papers owned by the syndicate, was nicknamed by us "£1-a-Week Blatchford." These very same papers are now girding against the Government for its waste. Its writers talk of the Government's "rake's progress" in extravagance, and print in heavy type the amount of the charge imposed. Could anything be more disgusting we were going to say, but call it comic, than this sort of affectation of political wisdom and power to guide the public mind? That there is serious extravagance is undoubted; the women benefited, who are having "the time of their lives," will themselves admit that their treatment is most generous; and that it must be reduced is certain, but we hope the

reduction will be made with care and discretion, and that we shall not be driven to the other extreme by the clamour of a Press whose only object is to embarrass and to produce the most noisy sensation for the day or the hour, without the slightest regard to principle or rationally grounded public policy, a Press, too, that has taken up the protectionist yelp purely for selfish and class interests.

It would seem from German official statistics that the estimates made in this REVIEW on more than one occasion last year and this regarding the position of the food supply was sufficiently accurate for practical purposes. The wheat crop was only 3,971,995 tons, compared with 4,655,956 tons in 1913. In like manner rye produced 10,426,718 tons, or 1,795,646 tons less than in 1913. In barley also the decline was about 535,271 tons to 3,137,983 tons, and in oats the reduction was 675,780 tons, making the total only 9,038,185. Even the potato crop, which we were told at first was a bumper one, totalled only 45,596,559 tons, a decline of 8,550,000 tons. Why the Germans should have issued these statistics now it would profit little to guess, but if accurate, they should warn the enemy not to be too much cast down by the optimistic estimates coming from the same source with regard to the present year's harvest, which is not yet reaped. Probably all that was said last year about the necessity of adopting extreme measures to prevent famine in Germany was not exactly the truth. Theatricality entered into the *kriegsbrot* demonstrations and statements cooked for foreign consumption, but there was more truth in all that was alleged than in the present assertions regarding the assured abundance of food grains and roots for the current harvest year. And we still persist in our belief that behind the fighting lines and the ostentatious displays of what we are meant to take as invincible might the gnawing of hunger and disease is making itself more and more felt throughout both the lost empires. How, indeed, could it be otherwise, since the whole Russian and most of the Lower Danubian supplies of grain and other eatables are shut off from Germany, since no German merchant ship is on the sea laden with corn from America or India, and when the amount of food necessary to keep perhaps 10,000,000 of fighting pawns with their necessary camp followers from perishing of hunger must be rapidly consuming all available reserves?

It has already been stated that the dividend of the London County and Westminster Bank for the first half of the calendar year was reduced by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 9 per cent. actual, so that we have now nothing more than a few figures to set down, as there is no interim report nor any profit and loss account. The most remarkable thing in the June exhibit is an increase of £23,633,513 in the current and deposit account liabilities, raising that entry to £111,138,286. It must not be inferred that the increase means more business, more clients, or any expansion of a nature dependent on trade. It, as with other banks, is the outcome of the demands made by the Government for assistance in raising the funds with which to carry on this war. When we come to such entries as "circular notes, letters of credit," &c., we find a shrinkage of £1,102,080, bringing the figure down to £2,258,270. Also the cross-entry acceptances are £2,150,183 lower at £3,879,980. "Endorsements on bills negotiated" have reduced the liability under that head by £273,718 to £81,083. Amongst the assets, however, bills discounted—always a very strong branch of this bank's business—show an increase of £235,600, raising the total to £19,463,686, against which rebate is increased by £61,188 to £143,675. Further proof that the country has not required additional accommodation is found in the advances, which at £40,353,242 are £1,673,427 down, but the most significant indication of all is the increase in cash. This has risen £18,742,912 to £31,242,440, a mass of unemployed bankers' means only slightly reduced by the £1,265,441 less shown under call and short notice money, that



entry, however, being still £12,402,966. Altogether, therefore, the cash and credit at the Bank of England, together with the market money possessed by the bank, form a group of assets £17,477,471 up on a year ago at £43,645,406. Investments have not altered much, except under the head of Consols and British Government securities. These are up £7,084,153 to £12,448,938, but every other class is down, Indian Government securities by £142,932, Colonial, British Corporation, British Railway stocks, &c., by £349,081 to £974,360, and miscellaneous investments by £453,154 to £1,278,292. The aggregate, however, is still £15,813,128, and the total of the balance-sheet is £19,837,057 up at £125,190,180.

As might have been expected, the nett profits of the Bank of Ireland for the June half-year were £23,001 above those for the first half of 1914, and amounted to £214,120. Adding the £24,240 brought forward, which was £1,207 up, the entire available total of £238,360 was £24,208 better, and the board is able to continue the dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax. Unfortunately the depreciation of investments continues, and in addition to £210,000 withdrawn from the "rest," reducing it to £600,000, it was necessary to take £90,000 from the profits of the half-year. In the preceding half-year £60,000 of the profits was set aside, so that in 12 months the profits have been absorbed in writing down securities, making the total draft upon the bank's resources caused by this troublesome source £360,000 for the year ended June 30 last. After paying the dividend £24,322 will remain to be carried forward. The liability of the bank on deposit, current and other accounts rose £986,907 compared with the corresponding half year to £13,857,980. There was also an increase of £2,791,860 in the notes and post bills in circulation, making that entry £5,976,626, but the balances on Government and other public accounts were £65,323 lower at £2,955,484. Cash has risen £1,870,685 to £3,614,386, but call and short notice money is down £826,927 to £995,561. The old more or less fixed investments of the bank show an increase of £366,584 at £7,407,797, this increase being entirely due to the British Government stocks held, which include £1,000,000 of the 3½ per cent. War Loan, and the aggregate of which, £2,658,694, shows an increase of £1,027,522. Holdings of Indian and Colonial Government securities are down £104,734, and in railway and corporation debentures, &c., £556,204 to £2,895,625. Outside these marketable securities there is a new entry of £2,450,000 in British Government Treasury bills. The ordinary trade of the bank represented by bills discounted, advances to customers, &c., shows a contraction of only £362,754 at £9,062,895. Gross profits were £31,445 higher for the year at £322,194, but working expenses increased £8,444 to £108,074. The total of the balance-sheet is now £26,307,682.

Barclay and Co., Ltd., is one of the few great English banks which make up their accounts for the previous 12 months on June 30. Its report shows results quite as good as might have been looked for, gross profits, after providing for rebate and bad and doubtful debts, being £55,387 better at £1,629,612. The balance of £140,671 brought forward was also £15,309 better, so that the total of £1,770,283 thus attained shows an increase of £70,696, and the working costs increased this again by £12,656, that being the amount by which they were reduced to £725,615. Nett profits, indeed, were £67,569 better at £890,968, and the available aggregate, including the balance brought forward, shows an increase of £67,569 at £1,031,639, out of which £500,000 has been placed to the investment reserve. Bank premises, however, get only £15,000, or half the assignment of a year ago, and compared with the £500,000 now placed to the investment reserve a year ago £200,000 was assigned to bank purchase account, £21,341 given as bonus to staff, £20,000 added to the staff pension fund, and

£50,000 to other reserves. All these designations are this time omitted, and although the dividend is retained at 10 per cent. on the "A" shares of £4 each fully paid and the dividend on the "B" shares of £16 each £4 paid is kept at 17 per cent., all less tax, the "B" shareholders this time get no 1s. a share bonus, equal to an extra 1½ per cent. Even then the balance of £70,623 left to carry forward is £70,047 down. Changes in the balance-sheet are notable from their magnitude, and liabilities on current and deposit accounts are £14,550,132 higher at £76,431,069. Acceptances have also risen £686,449 to £1,008,580. Among the assets, cash in hand, at the Bank of England, and with other banks is £7,078,386 larger at £16,107,564. Call and short notice money is also £199,300 larger at £6,978,800. Bills discounted, too, show an increase of £5,238,114 at £13,874,365, and the aggregate book value of investments, entered at £14,354,863, is up £2,856,234 notwithstanding a decrease of £1,658,783 in the bank's holdings of American Railroad bonds and short-dated securities, a class of possessions now reduced to £518,922. But then the holdings of British Government securities are £4,173,046 up at £8,441,830, and there is an increase of £574,961 in the Indian and Colonial Government securities held, making the value of that group £2,021,902. Other minor movements need not be specified, but it should be noted that the aggregate of investments just given is exclusive of the £1,600,000 representing the reserve which is separately invested in Exchequer bonds and Egyptian guaranteed bonds. Add this, and the investments of the bank account for £15,954,863 of its assets. Advances to customers are down £883,034 to £26,879,809, this total including loans to stockbrokers under the Treasury Minute of October 31 last. Altogether, the balance-sheet is £15,236,581 larger at £82,639,648.

To have made £11,614 more of nett profit in the June half-year was a satisfying result, and that is what the management of the Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., has done. After providing for all bad and doubtful debts and deducting rebate, the nett earnings were £103,512, but the balance of £8,182 brought forward was £3,931 down, and expenses rose £2,862 to £45,328, so that the distributable £111,694 is only £7,683 above the similar aggregate of 12 months ago. One additional branch, making 89 in all, was opened during the year, but that would not account for all the additional outlay, which must be attributed to the war upset, no less than 25 per cent. of the whole male employees of the bank having joined his Majesty's forces, including Lord Rochdale, who is serving with the Army in Gallipoli. Necessarily, although the work has been efficiently and willingly carried on by the reduced staff with such temporary assistance as it has been possible to obtain, expenses would go up. Now, as last year, £3,000 has been written off premises and furniture and £2,000 added to the pension fund, the dividend being as already announced at the same rate of 12½ per cent., less tax, and after setting aside £5,000 to meet income-tax, there is £25,571 left, from which £15,000 is withdrawn in reduction of the price of the bank's investments. A year ago £5,000 was placed to reserve, which gets nothing this time, and consequently the balance left to carry forward is only £8,447 lower at £10,571. In mentioning the further depreciation in the first-class investments held—they are practically all British Government securities—the directors state that the values have been written down out of the profits of the half-year to, or below, the official market prices of June 30 last, and the bank has subscribed for £1,200,000 of the new War Loan. Its balance-sheet shows an increase of £663,094 in the current, deposit and other accounts and of £113,128 in the bills accepted, making the one £7,023,547 and the other £418,077. Open credits, foreign bills negotiated, &c., make another cross entry of £266,780, which shows an increase of £132,769. Cash and call and short notice money aggregate £1,438,633, or £431,324 more, and investments, exclusive of the War Loan just mentioned, show an increase of £429,437 at



£1,205,182, but bills of exchange are down £185,464 to £654,076. Loans and advances are also £20,154 lower at £4,372,331, and the total of the balance-sheet is £901,109 higher at £8,654,769.

The accounts of the Port of London for the year ended March 31 last reveal an increase of £143,185 in the surplus revenue, bringing it up to £1,359,816. The balance of £91,904 brought forward was also £5,267 up, and in spite of some slight declines in other items of nett income the aggregate of £1,457,230 is £143,351 better. Of this total £956,765 is taken away by interest charges, that upon the 4 per cent. inscribed stock being up £57,151 to £65,559, while the interest on temporary loans and advances was £28,996 less at £10,401. There is likewise an increase of £22,848 in the sinking fund charges, bringing them down to £30,995, but other charges, such as are involved in expenses and discount on issue of Port stocks, cost of dredging, additional plant, cost of displaced or demolished works, &c., show a reduction of £15,309 at £13,619. On the other hand, £19,720 against nothing has to be applied in meeting depreciation on investments and £145,435 is debited to special repairs, including £115,276 entered as provision to meet expenditure already sanctioned and in progress. Moreover, £75,000 is this time set aside as provisional reserve towards the Authority's contemplated pension scheme, and even then the balance of £187,807 left to carry forward is £95,903 higher, so that neither the German submarine blockade nor the loss of German shipping business has done anything whatever to injure the port. All losses of that kind have been compensated, and more than compensated, by the transfer of business formerly done by the competing port of Antwerp to the River Thames. Capital expenditure last year amounted to £966,384, making the aggregate £27,252,711. Other changes in the balance-sheet are of quite transitory importance. The Authority, for instance, owes £146,255 more to creditors at £612,346, and debtors and debit balances show an increase of £151,677 at £427,573. Accrued charges on goods and shipping are also, as might be inferred, £141,163 larger at £438,277. As for investments, they are up £100,376 to £419,857, of which £42,932 represents the sinking funds for the redemption of Port stock.

Why should the business of the British North Borneo Co. be affected by the war? some people may ask, but not many. A change from the pre-war prosperity was inevitable, and the court of directors states that until that calamity occurred it had every reason to anticipate that the increase of about £34,000 gathered in 1913 would be exceeded in 1914. As it was, business at once began to fall off, and for the year railway earnings show a reduction of £2,031 and Customs of no less than £7,280, but £1,407 more was credited as profit on coins, and in the end the revenue account was £942 better at £235,872. Expenditure, however, swept away this gain and more, so that the final nett income was, at £106,119, £3,577 down. As the balance brought forward was £60,051 less at £27,444, it follows that the clear total of £133,564 shown by the two items together is £63,628 worse. The company, however, had nothing to pay this year on account of the cost of the debenture issue, which took £40,550 the year before. Against this £22,500 additional had to be paid as debenture interest, which now absorbs £45,000, that in turn being more than balanced by a reduction of £36,792 in the writings off, now brought down to £18,247. Even so, the £70,317 left for the shareholders shows a reduction of £49,337, out of which the court recommends a dividend of 2½ per cent., as against 5 per cent. for 1913. This was earned last year, but cannot be paid just now, because all the funds the directors can command are required for the conversion of the company's Consols into War Loan stock, and also because various subsidiary companies whose finances have been seriously affected by

the war demand assistance. Shareholders will, therefore, have to wait, and the amount of reduced, postponed, or obliterated dividends causing embarrassment or diminished means to tens of thousands of people throughout the country must now run to a good many millions a year. The balance-sheet shows that the 4½ per cent. debenture stock has been doubled, and now amounts to £1,000,000, also that even this has not sufficed, since £114,000 has been borrowed from Martin's Bank, Ltd., whose managing director, Mr. G. E. B. Bromley-Martin, has been elected to the vacant seat on the board. Capital expenditure on lands, railway works, and buildings was about £110,000 last year. There is also an increase of £114,442 in the debts due to the company, mostly advances to subsidiaries, whose total is now £519,759. Investments likewise show an increase of £160,711 at £517,657, and cash is up £106,649 at £157,241, which would be a comfortable amount to have at hand in present circumstances could it be made revenue-producing. There is still £82,707 representing cost of the debenture issue and discount on its issue price remaining unpaid. One way and another the amount involved in this carefully managed and most promising business is now £3,402,072.

If any of the shareholders in the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., expected a better report than its board has been able to present, they must now be grievously disappointed. They have no reason to be, however, because the position of the company has always been financially precarious, and it is to be feared that one effect of the present thrift campaign being conducted in all strata of society, in Parliament, on every platform, in pulpits, and at gatherings of workmen as well as of leaders of society, cannot fail to be further depreciation in this kind of property. The high charges of such hotels are, moreover, being severely competed against by the new comparatively cheap Lyons' hotels, and, what with one thing and another, prospects are the reverse of cheerful. For the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., they are made worse by the fact that the company possesses three hotels abroad, none of which can be expected to help it much for years to come. In the 12 months ended May 31 these Continental hotels alone are said by the directors to account for a difference of upwards of £30,000 in the profits compared with a year ago. Altogether the nett profits were only £2,298, or £79,392 down after paying debenture interest. Adding in the balance brought forward, there was £6,891 left, or £53,189 less than a year ago, when not only was the preference dividend paid in full, but 3 per cent. imprudently distributed to the ordinary shareholders. It would have been better to have left that money with the company, for it is now unable to pay any dividend whatever, preference or ordinary. A further £9,937, or £190 more, has, however, been added to the lease-

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holds redemption funds, raising them to £167,145. As for the reserve, the addition made was £1,916, bringing the gross total up to £97,413, but £50,807 was taken to credit of profit and loss to pay for improvements, together with £3,709 for loan interest. This was in all £3,488 less than the similar withdrawal of the previous year, but still brought the reserve fund down to £46,605, to which the balance at credit of the premium account, £238,960, is added, making £285,565 in all, representing accumulations, mostly capital. This is £48,891 less than the figure of a year ago. The only pleasant items are cash, up £11,359 to £57,453, and the reductions in the amounts due to sundry creditors or by sundry debtors. These are over £7,000 on each side of the account, and no doubt mean diminished business as well as reduced liabilities. Moreover, the cash resources would seem to have been refreshed by borrowing, for there is an entry of £115,000 called a "secured" loan, not shown last year, which is over and above the fixed debenture debts of the company aggregating £1,665,000. The directors took only £2,000 as fees, or £1,000 less than usual, but unfortunately interest on the new debt took £3,709, which had to be paid out of the reserve, so that altogether the charges are higher and prospects of business decidedly lower.

The report just issued by the directors of the British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., covers the year ended April 30, and includes, therefore, nine months of war trading. In the first quarter of the company's year there was a normal demand for Portland cement, and a reduction in manufacturing costs owing to improvements in the works, but for the rest of the time business was seriously affected. A grave shortage arose both in labour and materials, so that, despite the decline in orders, production was not equal to the demand. Moreover, the cost of manufacture was considerably enhanced, particularly in fuel, and as these adverse factors were only partly offset by the advance in the selling price, trading profits were £45,234 down at £285,028. A large portion of this decrease, however, was met by the increase in the balance brought in, which, at £64,323, was £31,754 more than a year ago. In addition, therefore, to paying debenture interest, which requires an extra £13,039 at £62,686, and setting aside £13,462 against £10,499 to debenture stock redemption account, the directors again transfer £40,000 to general depreciation reserve, and put by £7,400 more at £12,000 for income-tax. They further appropriate £2,000 for barge and rolling stock depreciation compared with a like sum for that purpose, and £2,500 for sack reserve in 1914. The ordinary dividend is reduced by 2 per cent. to 5, representing a decrease of £27,536, and as nothing is written off preliminary expenses, against £11,756, the balance carried forward is £6,445 up at £70,767. Additions to property, plant, &c., amounted to £122,351, making the total £2,335,087, against which there are various reserves aggregating £179,389. Investments and loans show an increase of £125,258 at £1,438,037, but stock has been reduced by £45,192 to £173,734, debtor balances are £21,364 down at £274,033, and the company has £129,342 less at £90,470 in cash and bills receivable. Sundry liabilities, on the other hand, are £13,404 up at £173,844. We may also note that £4,000 of debenture stock was issued and £14,484 redeemed during the year, thus leaving the aggregate £10,484 lower at £1,245,938.

Trade conditions during 1914 were very much against the successful working of steel companies both in Canada and in the United States. The first five months of the year were particularly dull, and although a fair increase in business was noticed during June and the early part of July the outbreak of war brought chaos into the trade, orders were cancelled, and with the reduction in demand there was a natural decline in prices. All this is disclosed in the report of the Steel Co. of Canada, Ltd., which shows that the profits for the 12 months ended with the calendar year, after

providing \$341,587 for maintenance, improvements, &c., fell off from \$1,640,011 to \$539,811. Nothing was set aside for depreciation, renewals, &c., nor was anything written off Sunnyside works plant against \$56,739, but some \$40,000 more at \$521,138 was paid in bond interest, and \$104,475 had to be deducted for underwriting bonds, this last a new item. In view, however, of the generally unsettled state of finance, the directors only pay the preferred dividends for the first half of the year, as against the full 7 per cent. in 1913, and even then there remains a deficit of \$313,172 compared with a surplus of \$511,031 in the preceding 12 months.

Only a *pro forma* report has been issued by De Bruyn, Ltd., an old Belgian business turned into a British limited company in 1912, or 76 years after its foundation. In consequence of the war, the board is unable to present the usual accounts for 1914, it having been quite impossible to obtain the necessary particulars and information from the Continent. Moreover, the development of the company's retail trade in Canada and the United States has been unavoidably suspended, it having been impracticable by reason of the war to obtain deliveries of the company's productions—nut butters, margarine, and the like. All the directors can say, therefore, is that they are doing everything in their power to keep the business connection of the company together under most difficult conditions, and that they have recently rented small premises in London and Liverpool with a view to commencing manufacture in England. Every effort is also being made to protect the assets of the company, but it is thought inadvisable at present to make any public statement in regard to the company's position on the Continent in the interests of shareholders.

In its past year Fletcher's (Meat Importers), Ltd., made a profit of £58,159, or £31,532 more than that of the preceding year, and after paying the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture interest and the 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares, as well as setting aside £10,000 to the debenture redemption reserve account, £22,192 remains, or £19,242 more than a year ago, all of which is carried forward. We should not have mentioned this here but that the vendors of the company, Sir William Vestey and Mr. Edmund Hoyle Vestey, seem to have gone back on their bargain. A year ago, owing to the gloomy aspect of affairs, they handed back to the company without payment £20,000 of its debenture stock to be cancelled. Now it is announced that arrangements have been made by the board with these two gentlemen, who hold all the ordinary shares, to give £17,000 in cash for the £20,000 of debenture stock gratuitously handed over to the company "for cancellation for the years 1912 and 1913." In exchange for this payment, Sir William Vestey and Mr. E. H. Vestey undertake that if in any of the next five years the profits shall be insufficient to enable the company to set aside the amount referred to in the trust deed, after providing for the usual prior charges, they will without payment hand over to the company in respect of each such year debenture stock for £10,000 for cancellation, but the amount so handed over without payment is not to exceed £30,000 of debenture stock during the five years. This looks a somewhat peculiar arrangement, but may work out right enough, although superficially it has the appearance of going back upon an accomplished fact.

Naturally there can be no report or accounts from Apollinaris and Johannis, Ltd., for the past year, and its board is unable to pay any dividend on the preference shares, although the debenture interest amounting to £34,000 was paid when due. Shareholders in this company and the board as well deserve every sympathy, for the war is entirely to blame. It is to give expression to that sympathy that we notice the report here, but the auditors' certificate given by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. and Price, Waterhouse and Co. is also something remarkable, unique we should say.



Its second clause runs thus: "We are of opinion that, owing to the war, and the dislocation of business and means of communication caused thereby, you"—that is the directors—"are not in a position to draw up a balance-sheet which would exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the company's affairs at March 31, 1915." That is frank, unconventional and true. Let us hope that before another July comes round the business may be in full swing again.

A pamphlet has been issued by the National Committee for the Relief of Belgium descriptive of "How Belgium is Fed," and is charged with facts that move. It is really extracts, with illustrations, from an article in the *North-Western Miller*, written by Mr. William E. Edgar, its editor. That gentleman has from the first interested himself wholeheartedly, and induced others to interest themselves, in the tremendous task and humanitarian duty of succouring the afflicted, starving, and cruelly oppressed Belgian people. It requires more than £1,200,000 a month to feed Belgium, or £1,500,000 if cost of transit be included, and as long ago as March 6 last the liabilities of the Relief Commission organised by Americans exceeded its cash assets by some £1,400,000; but "the indomitable chairman," Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, went on with his work, determined to keep the nation alive. Private benevolence can do much, has done most nobly, not only in the United States, but here, in all countries, but other calls have to be met—from France, from Russia, from Serbia, in our own Empire—and there is danger that the means required by this Commission may fail. Nothing could exceed the unwearying kindness of the Netherlands in helping, and Belgium meets with like sympathy and generous help more or less everywhere. That help will go on, and do much, but it cannot accomplish the impossible, and public credit will have to be drawn upon to aid in bearing the stricken nation through its horrors. Great is the need, infinite the pity, but purses grow ever leaner and more lean.

Considering how much treating of recruits and how many farewells of all kinds that have been drunk since we began to make our great Army, it is almost surprising that the Bodega Co., Ltd., did not show better results for the past year ended March 31 last. Perhaps, however, its shareholders have reason to be thankful for the fact that the profits were £512 more at £17,504. Including the £10,166 brought forward, there is £27,670 left to deal with, or £934 more. In spite of that, no final dividend is paid on the ordinary shares, so that they get just  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the past year, as against  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the previous year, which rate included a bonus of 1 per cent. Instead of paying a final dividend, a balance of £9,670 is carried forward. Several changes are to be noted in the balance-sheet. The cross-entry relating to the sinking fund policy, amounting to £18,083, has completely disappeared from the accounts. Credit business has been larger, as is proved by the increase of £6,275 in the item sundry debtors, which is now raised to £9,342. Cash, on the other hand, is down £2,488 to £3,891, but against that we have £9,000 paid off the loan due to the company's bankers, leaving it at £17,000. Some balancing of this reduction, however, is to be noted in the entry, "mortgage and interest, £6,433," which is new, as is also £1,500 devoted to the amortisation of leases as a separate entry in the balance-sheet.

Profits of Watney, Combe, Reid and Co., Ltd., increased only £5,929 in its year ended June 30 last to £414,792. In the preceding year, however, the increase was no less than £48,027, so that it is rather satisfactory to have been able in times like these to add to that handsome improvement, and the report otherwise is encouraging in that it shows a reduction of £143,240 in the debenture stock outstanding and of £64,000 in the 5 per cent. first preference stock, these amounts having been redeemed or bought in and cancelled. Out of the profits for the year left after paying

the debenture interest and preference dividend the directors again make up the dividend given to the preferred ordinary stockholders to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the year by a final payment of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This will leave £7,835 more at £33,979 to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of material significance, as indicating any tendency, that is, and need not be given in detail, but it may be noted that the company owes sundry creditors £163,432 more at £296,971, and that the value of the brewery buildings, freeholds, leaseholds, goodwill, &c., &c., has been reduced by £66,807 to £10,022,354. There is also a reduction of £13,266 in the loans and advances to and the rents owing from publicans, making that item £872,854. Amongst the investments is £168,854 in Treasury bills and War Loan, of which £80,000 has been taken and is partly paid. Cash of all kinds is down £124,723, but still amounts to £132,678. Miscellaneous investments of the brewery show a decrease of £52,212 at £250,796, that being the book value. The actual value at date, however, was £243,505, quite a small depreciation. This is exclusive of trade investments, which have gone up £20,648 to £128,423. Stocks and materials of all kinds show an increased value of £10,689 at £365,382, but the position on the whole is satisfactory, although we must not forget that gross profit on trading was actually £18,888 down at £643,580. In fact, the entire revenue is £18,738 worse at £885,486, and the improvement in the nett income was entirely due to savings in expenses, which were reduced by £8,786, by £4,294 less spent on repairs and depreciation of plant, and by a reduction of £12,443 in the cost of repairs and depreciation of freeholds and leaseholds, bringing that outlay down to £156,648. Bad debts went up £7,641 to £8,636, but there was a reduction of £4,479 in the compensation fund levy and licence duties, bringing them down to £56,244. Cooperage was also reduced £3,403 to £16,859, but salaries of staff went up £1,904 to £31,701, the entire cost of working the business being about £471,000.

As usual, the Tanganyika report is full of hopeful sentiment and empty of tangible results so far as the shareholders are concerned. We are used to the cheery optimism of Mr. Williams, which is different from that which other dividendless concerns indulge in sometimes in order to cover up directorial mistakes, for in a great pioneering undertaking such as the Tanganyika controls hopefulness is the spirit of success when it is based on steady, if very slow, progress. Of course, the war interfered with the business of the Union Minière Co., and its office was transferred from Brussels to London. It has been able successfully to carry on mining and smelting operations, and the output of copper continues to increase. The Union Minière produced in 1911 997 tons of copper, in 1912 2,492 tons, in the following year 7,407 tons, and last year 10,722 tons with an average of two furnaces in operation. This year three furnaces have been working, and in the first six months produced 6,932 tons of copper, and the total for the year is expected to reach 14,000 tons. Next year it is anticipated that the output will rise to 25,000 tons. It is not stated what profits the Union Minière made, as owing to the war it has been impossible for the Union Minière to have its balance-sheet passed, or to declare a dividend, so that Mr. Williams's prognostications last year have been upset by the war. The working of the Benguela Railway resulted in a profit of £15,807, but, of course, the results will improve when the railway is connected with the mines. In consequence of the war, which cut off communications with Brussels, the directors were unable to carry out the arrangements made for the payment of the debenture interest due in January last. Having consulted as many holders as it was possible to communicate with, a scheme was arranged under which the company was empowered to defer payment of all interest accruing during the war until six months after its conclusion, all interest deferred carrying 5 per cent. interest. Owing to the impossibility of transporting copper, and other difficulties arising from the war, operations at the Kansanshi mine have been sus-



pending for the present. The profit and loss account shows a deficiency of £136,825 as compared with £176,245 in the preceding 15 months, and £136,116 for the year to September 30, 1912, so that the yearly deficiency remains about the same. The share premium account, out of which the debenture interest has hitherto been paid, has risen from £427,925 to £436,925 owing to the issue of 9,000 shares at a premium last year. But the year's deficiency is deducted therefrom, leaving £300,100 at the credit of this account, and at the present rate of the deficiency this will disappear altogether in about two years' time.

### There is Really No Room for Pessimism.

What people call "optimism" seems more necessary this week than ever. Russia is being forced back and back by the surging hordes of German and Austrian troops, and is apparently much over-matched in artillery—short also, and, above all, of rifles. It is indeed gossiped that 6,000,000 rifles ordered from the United States by the Petrograd Government have not been, and will not, be delivered, the contractors preferring—under alleged German pressure—to pay the forfeit rather than carry out the bargain. So it is retreat and retreat, always retreat. The Kaiser's longing for the spectacular in despotism is at last to be gratified, so the bulletins tell us, and he has sent for his wife to take part in a *revue* procession of triumph into Warsaw. Soon, too, the city and port of Riga will be in German possession, and then, with her German-speaking Baltic provinces shorn away, with her northern and southern armies torn asunder by the Teutonic wedge thrust between, with Bessarabia perhaps invaded, and the hand of help extended by the Teuton to that other savage, the Turk, it will be all over with Russia. Her power of resistance will be broken for good. The millions of the duped and cudgelled—or what may remain of them—now marching, fighting, and dying in Poland and Russia for the glory and aggrandisement of the mad Kaiser will be set free to pour westwards and throw themselves on the French armies, and on ours, compelling victory over them as over the Russians in Poland. Thus will be shaped the final triumph of the all-conquering Teuton. It will soon be all over with the Allies, in short, and we may as well reconcile ourselves to our fate—make ready to help in a gala show of Kaiser and Kaiserin parading the streets of London in smirks, ape-grins, and salutations, amid bunting infinite—and the stony silence of a beaten people.

Is that "pessimistic" enough for you, oh, unhappy reader? It will perhaps be both a surprise and disappointment to you to be told that there is little or no foundation for any lugubrious moanings of this kind. The Russians are retreating, to be sure, and before this is under the reader's eye it is just possible, though very far from probable, that both Warsaw and Riga may be in German hands, but all that and more signifies nothing material, does not in the least imply that Russia is defeated, for Russia is retreating strategically, and in no sense running away. It at worst means that the Russian commanders are "jowking to let the jaw gae by," as the old Scotch proverb has it. They give way before the flood because that is better generalship than the fighting of many battles without conclusive result, with severe losses of men, but they are never overwhelmed or beaten down. And never forget that as long as the four Great Powers now standing together against the insane, loathsome aggressor remain loyal to their troth, *they cannot be beaten*. Try, good, if too miserable, pessimist, to grasp that fact! Thanks to their unity in refusing to make separate peaces, or peace of any sort, with the foe, these Powers can defy all his furies and mock at his "victories" not only for this campaign, but for years, can withstand him until he has used up his means and his manhood to an extent that will throw the populations of the two Germanic empires back to the middle ages in

civilisation, and beyond them. From this point of view alone the progress the Austro-German troops make against the Russian front is of no significance whatsoever, except as hastening the end of the Teutonic capacity for aggression.

Remember, too, that we are getting all our impressions of German progress and of "great victories" from German sources. The always boastful Hindenburg is swelling out his chest more and more braggartly with every stage in his harassed and costly, because by no means unopposed, advance, and sets down as "victories" mere marches after an elusive enemy who empties the country as he deliberately steps back. Contrast the German vauntings with the studied sobriety of the Russian accounts of stern rear-guard fights; note the continual arrests of the German legions, their frequent defeats, or hold-ups or hurl-backs—note and take courage. Until the Russian commanders have had time to clear everything out of the way the enemy is seldom permitted to go far. By the slowness of the German or Austrian advance at most points, by its halts and recoils at others, by the frequent tales of slaughter, of prisoners captured in thousands, of guns and ammunition left in Russian hands, we can plainly enough see that the Teutonic losses have hitherto been much heavier than the Russian, and that their "victories" have not only been dearly bought, but barren. What we cannot see is the increasing severity of the strain put upon the invading hosts, the growing difficulties of transport, and the rising percentage of waste through exhaustion and disease.

Probably enough the two middle empires have had more than 4,000,000 men in all actively occupied with the attempt to beat Russia down. That number of combatants would mean at least 6,000,000 men, and probably more, engaged actively one way or another in the enterprise. To feed these men day after day, let alone clothe and shoe them, to keep up the supply of transport animals, or of motor vehicles, to drag forward the artillery and supply it with ammunition must be growing daily more difficult for the Germans, and will soon become impossible. The very fury of the plunge ahead proves that it is so, reveals a fever of haste to get it over lest the extinguisher of ruin should come down suddenly and end all. Germany must conquer now, immediately, or prepare to reconcile herself to disappear from among the "Great Powers" of the world for ever. Were the moral fibre of the race less soft it might save itself from the fate it has invited by revolution, but the behaviour of German Socialists and the eagerness with which all classes and races in the two empires appear to have given their souls to the devil in a dream of rapine and conquest deprives us—and them—of even that hope.

From the baffling of the aggressor point of view, how calmly magnificent in its cool confidence is the strategy of the Grand Duke Nicholas and his staff of able commanders. They display no nervousness, are never surprised out of their serenity, never tempted to play the enemy's game, never yield to sentimentality and throw precious lives away when more may be gained by the retreat that baffles the foe and drags him on, ever on. They may even be said to "shepherd" the enemy often into positions of disadvantage, are probably enough doing that at this very moment, preparing to make fools of headlong Hindenburg and his slap-bang emulator Von Mackensen—we add the *Von* here as precaution lest some hasty impressionist might think the new field-marshal a degenerate Scotch Highlander, a bad Mackenzie—and they may soon know it to their cost. In short, we retain our unshaken confidence and belief in the power of Russia to deal with the mad Junkers and their oppressed pawns after a fashion that will continue to render all the Allies most effective help until the day when we all stand united together in triumph, victorious and free, chastened but rejoicing, because in winning our own freedom we shall have liberated mankind. Our debt to Russia—the debt of France, Italy, and the United Kingdom to Russia—is already quite unpayable; it must be the basis of a perpetual accord which will make another



such war impossible. Do you not behold the silver lining?

And what are we in the West doing to help forward the day of deliverance? "Not much," according to the pessimist. In fact, if papers of the type produced by the Harmsworth syndicate of detractors are to be listened to, we are just wasting money and muddling towards defeat, and the French and Italians are alone putting up a proper fight. Is the truth anything like that? Oh no, we, too, are steadily "holding" the Germans and wearing them down, forcing them to consume their munitions and their pawns in futile attacks, taking care that we inflict heavier losses than we have ourselves to bear. It looks slow work, but it is sure, the surest possible, and we must try to school ourselves to an understanding of the nature of the warfare in which we are engaged. Let us cease to look for battles of the Austerlitz or Waterloo type, and try to grasp the fact that the Germans are besieged along 500 miles of front; that they, as the hemmed in ones, are continually driven to attack in the hope of being able to break through the containing lines in order, if possible, to secure sufficient hold for bargaining purposes of one portion or another of the foreign countries they have wantonly squatted upon—and that they always fail. In the course of this siege warfare tremendous battles may be fought—as, for example, that last week of fighting in the Argonne, in which the German Crown Prince degenerate received a good hiding—and may seem to lead to nothing, and all the time the day of our triumph is being sensibly brought nearer. Why should we dash our armies—splendid armies the French and British now are—against fortifications in order to *brusque* a peace when peace must come before so very long of itself—our peace—through persistence in the policy of nibbling and wearing down adopted early in the war by General Joffre? We must hold on and hold back until the enemy begins to flinch, and then the time of spectacles, of sensational advances, of great *coups* of strategy may arrive in a way that looks sudden. We do not know that it will do so, because the end of such war as the Germans are now waging against us in the West may be a sneak off. All we are sure of is that ours will be the victory!

Lovers of the sensational in siege warfare should find it in the Dardanelles, where the progress of the Allied French and British forces is also slow-looking, but yet more swift than in the West. For there the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Ian Hamilton, has every motive for forcing the pace. And forcing it he is with admirable persistence, so that he may the sooner open the channels of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to free commerce between East and West. He is succeeding, too, we are persuaded, much faster than we think, and if Rumania holds fast to her refusal of passage to German supplies through her territory—and there is every motive for her to do so—the finale of Turkish dominion cannot be long delayed. In Gallipoli the generalship needed is aggressive, unceasing assault night and day, and Sir Ian is busy applying it with all his force, destroying we hope at least ten to one, for thus alone can speedy triumph be insured.

Of Italy's heroic assaults on her ancient and ever-implacable foe we have left no room to speak. That her troops are fighting as heroes fought, as Garibaldi's Thousand fought in Sicily, is patent to the eyes of all, and any day now the news may come that Trieste has been delivered from tyranny. Thus on all sides there is abundant room for rejoicing, all the more when we think how long the Prussians have been preparing for the attack that was designed to place them and their docile German slaves in supremacy over Europe. Never did a long-matured plan so completely miscarry.

The National Bank of South Africa has opened a branch at Beaufort West, Cape Province.

Lord Emmott, G.C.M.G., has been appointed a director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited. It will be remembered that Lord Emmott was M.P. for Oldham, 1899-1911, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Ways and Means, House of Commons, 1906-1911, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1911-1914, and First Commissioner of Works from 1914 until the formation of the Coalition Government.

## A Poisonous Propaganda.

Many striking letters from the front have been published, but one of the most striking and at the same time the most pathetic that we have ever seen appeared lately in the *Daily Express*. It was written by a young officer to his sister a week before he met his death in the trenches. He had a strong presentiment of his approaching fate, and in this letter he wrote a word of solemn warning to his fellow countrymen; it has reached them now as a message from the dead.

"If I thought that I were to die in vain, I would, frankly, as I have told you, rather live and do something useful with my life. All the time I was on leave I was watching, and listening, and watching: but, watch and listen as I did, I could not persuade myself that dear old England really understood—that she was really in earnest. And the thought is a nightmare to me. Up to the moment I die I shall be wondering whether my dear, kind, generous, forgiving, fat-headed fellow-countrymen will go and muck this war.

"A few successes—and then peace. An inconclusive peace, with all the bother to come again after a few years of anxiety, and then—our being wiped out the next time war comes along. If that happens I shall have died in vain, and so will all the splendid fellows who have died before me, and who must die after me.

"I think I would give even my soul to be sure that England understood, and would never give up the struggle till the Germans, with all their loathsome doctrines and their filthy methods, were smashed once and for all. If I were certain of that I would die as cheerfully as I have lived, and so would thousands more. But I'm NOT certain; and though I hope I don't funk anything that is coming to me, the agony of the doubt is great. Up to the last moment the question will be thrashing about in my mind—SHALL I HAVE DIED IN VAIN?"

Is not that brave young fellow's anxiety justified? He has gone to his death for England with thousands more; what is to be their final reward? On all sides in this country, openly where openness is possible, secretly where openness might be dangerous, a specious, ingenious, plausible peace propaganda is being carried on. The main object is always the same—to save Germany from a disastrous defeat and a humiliating peace. But the methods adopted vary in quite a chameleon-like way. To use the colloquial expression, you "pay your money and you take your choice." All tastes, opinions, and temperaments are catered for. If you decline to cherish large ideas about a federation of Europe, about international tribunals and democratic diplomacy whose peaceful and self-sacrificing character is so strikingly illustrated by the ceaseless industrial warfare in which we are engaged, then it is the Union of Democratic Control that will appeal to you under the inspiring leadership of Mr. E. D. "Morel" and Mr. "Norman Angell." Curious that for purposes of propaganda both these gentlemen should have found it desirable to discard their original surnames!

If your love of peace and your hatred of your neighbour who may happen to possess a shilling more than yourself burn with equal fervour, you will naturally join the Independent Labour Party and follow the banner of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Keir Hardie, both of whom are in the present enjoyment of £400 a year from the over-burdened taxpayer, and are enabled to give the whole of their energies to slandering their country and assisting her enemies.

Then the British "Stop-the-War" Committee may attract you, and certainly its title has the superior merit of frankness; or the "Fellowship of Reconciliation," or the "No Conscription Fellowship,"\* or the League of Peace and Freedom, or the National Peace Council, or the Peace Committee at Devonshire House, or the Peace Campaigns set on foot by the *Herald* or the *Labour Leader*.

\* The "No Conscription Fellowship" does not aim at supporting a voluntary as against a compulsory system of enlistment, but at leaguering together young men of military age to refuse to enlist on any terms.



We do not think that even now we have exhausted the full list of these organisations for "comforting the King's enemies," to use the old phrase, that have sprung into existence during the last few months, and that are carrying on a most active and—an important point—a costly propaganda.

Where does the money come from? It has been hotly denied that any is received from alien enemies. Mr. Ponsonby, M.P., on behalf of the Union of Democratic Control, states that the Union is quite willing to let a Government official examine its list of subscribers. From a believer in democratic control the proposal is grotesque; the nation has a right to know who these hidden enemies are. Are they naturalised Germans? Are they firms or business houses nominally English, but really of an alien character?

Are they firms or financiers or business men who have large material interests in Germany, and who in this desperate struggle are trying to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds"? Are they those purblind friends of peace who would have destroyed our Navy and left our land at the mercy of Germany, and who have not even yet learnt the lesson of what defencelessness would mean, written though it is in blood and fire on the desolate fields of Belgium?

This legion of peace organisations are not in any way connected with each other. At least so we are assured. Each one can at any time repudiate with a clear conscience all the activities of the others. Yet the prominent men in each society are the same. It would appear as if there were about a dozen or a score of energetic preachers of peace and pro-Germanism, and they decided to found a dozen societies and then divided the posts among themselves by lot. The secretary of one society will be a lecturer in another; a chairman in one union becomes a humble member of committee in a second. For instance, the mysterious Mr. C. H. Norman is the treasurer of the "Stop-the-War" Committee and a member of the committee of the "No Conscription Fellowship," and a prominent member of the Independent Labour Party. Then Mr. Carl Heath is a member of the council of the Union of Democratic Control and also secretary of the National Peace Council; Mr. Ponsonby, M.P., figures in the Union of Democratic Control, in the Devonshire House Peace Committee, and was present at the conference which founded the League of Peace and Freedom. So the game goes on.

To a considerable extent all these societies have a double organisation ready to their hand; first through the branches of the Independent Labour Party, which, though often extremely small, are yet to be found all over the country, and are natural Caves of Adullam for all the discontented and the unpatriotic; and, secondly, though to a less degree, through the P.S.A. Brotherhood movement. We are far from suggesting that Nonconformists generally agree with this poisonous propaganda, but there are, unfortunately, a certain proportion of chapels where the authorities seem always willing to provide a hall and an audience for any crank that comes along. In quiet times of peace there may be a good deal to be said for this universal tolerance, but when we are in the throes of a life and death struggle, and when so much depends on the courage and endurance of the people, in throwing open their pulpits to these misleading preachers, ministers and elders are not acting the part of good citizens.

The danger of this pacifist propaganda is, we are convinced, a very real one; and everyone who believes that unless this war ends in a decisive defeat for Germany it is certain to be repeated within the lifetime of our children or grandchildren should set his face against it, and strive actively to counteract it. There are—there must be—moments in such a struggle as this when the heart begins to fail, when the slaughter appears so appalling that human nature cries out for it to cease. That is Germany's hope; an inconclusive peace that will separate England from her Allies, time to recover her strength and time to prepare again, and then a real chance of crushing her hated enemy. We owe it not only to ourselves and to our Empire and

to those who will come after us so to carry through the war that this shall never be, but even more we owe it to the unnumbered dead of our blood from every part of the world. They have left us a great trust.

Over a lonely grave in Africa where some of those men are sleeping, whose names we shall never know, these words were found: "Tell England we lie here content."

Are there any men or women with souls so dead that they can read that message in its majestic simplicity without being stirred to the heart? Let us all take a deep oath that our men's ungrudging gift of life and youth shall not be wasted; that, whatever the cost, what they fought for shall be assured—the safety and freedom of England and the Empire.

### The Latest Vote of Credit.

Compared with those that have gone before within the past 12 months, it is but a small affair, a mere £150,000,000. It is small, however, not because the costs of the war are beginning to slow down, but because the time during which the credit will be available to draw upon is limited. "The Government," said Mr. Asquith, in moving the vote, "expects the money to last to the end of September," and assuming the outlay to continue at £3,000,000 a day, £150,000,000 would just suffice for 50 days of war, but then the previous credit is not yet all used up. Such is the tremendous strain put upon us by this conflict, since its outbreak £1,012,000,000 has been voted. The first vote of credit was that of August 6 last, and amounted to £100,000,000, the second was for £225,000,000 voted on November 1, and the final one for the past financial year ending March 31 was £37,000,000, so that altogether the total new money required for the war up to March 31 was £362,000,000. That was the sum over and above the ordinary expenditure provided for in the Budget of the previous April. But expenditure has become more fast and furious, one may almost say, with each day that passes, and since April 1 the Government has had to ask first for £250,000,000, which was expected to carry us on to the end of June, but did not quite, and, secondly, on June 16 for another £250,000,000, asked for and granted, making £500,000,000 in all voted within the first three months of the current fiscal year. For the first 17 days of July the actual expenditure has amounted to £54,190,000, or about £180,000 per day above the estimated £3,000,000. Consequently up to this latest date votes of credit to the amount of £301,000,000 have already been consumed. Of this total the Army and Navy have taken about £241,700,000, and loans and advances to the Dominions and our Allies £43,916,000, leaving approximately £15,302,000 which has been expended on food supplies and other miscellaneous purposes. Mr. Asquith went on to explain that the figure of £300,911,000, to be exact, exceeds the actual cost of the war up to date, since it includes the provision of the ordinary naval and military expenditure on a peace footing, which at £220,000 a day for 108 days may be taken at £23,760,000. Even allowing for this the nett war expenditure from votes of credit, including loans and advances up to the 17th inst., has been £277,000,000 since the present financial year began.

That is the past. As for the future, an expenditure of £3,000,000 a day would leave enough of the existing votes of credit to last for 66 days, or until September 21, but it is not alone the outlay on the war which has to be provided for. As Mr. Asquith reminded the House, it is proposed to pay back to the Bank of England advances made by it in respect of what are called pre-moratorium bills and other purposes. This is really a readjustment of credit, an acknowledgment by the Government of its obligation to make good these advances to the Bank of England, and apparently the deficit on that head is a very large sum, running into a great many millions, said the Prime Minister, but he declined to give the exact figures, and therefore could not assign a date short of



the 66 days for the exhaustion of the existing vote of credit. It would disclose the amount to be handed over to the Bank, he explained. Furthermore, we shall want additional amounts of money because the area of our assistance to our fellow combatants of other nationalities is expanding. Perhaps it will be best to explain this matter in Mr. Asquith's own language, because it seemed to indicate that we are on the eve of welcoming further participants on our side in this appalling war. The Balkan States, all of them except Serbia, have been waiting to get their price. Greece, though willing enough, continues to be held in leash by her Hohenzollern-controlled king, but terms would seem to be on the eve of settlement between the four Great Powers, engaged in the life and death struggle with the two Teutonic Empires, and Bulgaria and Rumania. These two Balkan States are much in the position the South Wales colliers held, and have us all at their mercy; but even were they to come forward with the generous earnestness of Italy, they are without money, Bulgaria especially. Therefore, like Austria in the great Napoleonic wars, they will look to us to equip them, and to sustain them in the conflict. Here is what Mr. Asquith said upon this subject, and the significance of his observations was immediately understood in the House of Commons, and received cordial approval:—

"In the last vote of credit the language used was this: 'Advances by way of loans or grants to his Majesty's Dominions or Protectorates outside the United Kingdom and to Allied Powers for the purpose of war expenditure or needs arising out of the war; to local authorities and other bodies for undertaking public works for the relief of distress in their immediate districts.' The House will observe that in a note attached to the present vote wider language is used, or at least words of limitation are omitted. We now suggest that the money granted may be expended 'in advances by way of loans or grants for purposes connected with the war.' On the last occasion Mr. King called attention to the former words, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated with perfect accuracy that no advances had been made, nor were any in contemplation to any States or Governments which did not fall within the description of his Majesty's Dominions or Protectorates and Allied Powers. We have purposely left out that limitation on the present occasion. I am sure the House will not ask me to go into any details. (Cheers.) Of course, we are subject in the end to strict accountability to Parliament for the manner in which this money or any part of it is expended, and we think it desirable, in view of the existing situation, that we should have a rather wider power than was conferred on the last occasion in respect of the countries or States to which advances may possibly be made. (Cheers.)"

When talking about the financing of this war, and especially about the condition of Germany, people often say to us, "What is the use of declaring that Germany cannot go on fighting long because her resources will soon be exhausted? No war was ever stopped for want of money." Is not that a half-truth which may be more misleading than a falsehood? That a nation may continue to fight regardless of consequences after the most rudimentary instincts of self-preservation, let alone prudence, would have dictated a submission to terms of peace is in a sense true. We see it is true in the German position at this very hour, on the road to triumph though the enemy claims to be. It does not follow, however, that finance can be ignored, nor that the nation, or nations, regardless of the warning of actual or approaching exhaustion given by credit, or finance, is not in the end compelled to pay for its folly, to drink to the last dregs the brewage of its crimes. If we are feeling the pinch, looking forward with apprehension to the probability of having to find still another £1,000,000,000 within the next 12 months, what must be the condition of our enemies Austria and Germany? Is it possible that Germany, the richer of the two brigand Powers, can continue to carry on, or to sustain Austria in carrying on, a campaign over some 2,000 miles of frontier on the present

gigantic scale and survive as a solvent nation? We do not believe that it is possible, our own experience demonstrates that it is not, and we therefore insist continually that Germany—the name covers both the Teutonic Empires—is furiously busy bringing about her own destruction. Whatever the sources from which their supplies are obtained, the Austro-German armies, six to eight millions strong, cannot be clothed, fed and munitioned for £3,000,000 a day. But the two empires together cannot furnish £1,000,000 a day, and therefore the more furious the fighting, the more ruinous the waste, the more irretrievable the ruin. German newspapers truculently boast that they will do as much trade as ever with other countries when the war ends. Well, let them boast.

Bearing in mind the inexorability of debt, we may confidently reply that victory, supposing it possible, would now come too late for these barbarians to be able to profit by it. Not one generation or two would be able by its labour to obliterate the devastation. There is not much consolation in that fact, not at the moment, but we must bear it in mind when pressed by our own necessities, and draw from it one more incentive to economy, to strenuous effort towards fuller brotherhood between class and class, more harmonious co-operation between all the productive forces of the country with a view to make the best and the utmost of our opportunities of what will be left to us when the murder ends.

What is going to happen to us and our Allies when the war ends and leaves us all a group of nations loaded up with a debt of perhaps between £3,000,000,000 and £4,000,000,000 it would be quite useless to discuss at present; but we must not altogether turn away from the problem the outlook presents. It would be an outlook of despair were we not as a race and empire braced up to endure all things rather than submit to be slaves, and were we not able in the end to impose our own terms upon the lust-devoured braggart foe. As for the Germans, well, only a little time now can be needed to show that even their ingenuity will be unable to get round the stern logic of debit and credit. Another German loan is to be arranged for next month, to be issued in September, the newspapers say. It may be voted by a subservient Reichstag, but where will the money come from? And what will be the value of German promises to pay when the order is given to them by the Allies: "You pay our costs and damages first, please"?

We have received a copy of *Halifax: A Commercial and Industrial Centre*, being a volume issued under the auspices of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Trade and Advertising Club, for 1915. The volume is full of information, but not quite so full of business information as we had looked for. Perhaps the brevity of the facts set forth regarding the woollen industry, the manufacture of machinery, of confectionery, and other products is not meant to be very extensive lest information should be conveyed to the ever-watchful and wide-awake enemy. At the same time, it seems rather a pity to devote so much space to what may be called the "pleasure" side of this great business centre, or to its philanthropies and provisions for education. This, however, makes the book bear the aspect of a skilfully drawn-up advertisement, and, measured by the standard thus suggested, it is very good indeed.

## LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.

30th JUNE, 1915.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	-	-	£22,947,804
PAID-UP	-	-	4,780,792
RESERVE FUND	-	-	4,000,000
CASH	-	-	36,356,672
DEPOSITS	-	-	142,388,314



## Rubber Companies and their Prospects.

When the cultivation of rubber first began to attract the serious attention of planters in the Middle East, it was confidently predicted that plantation rubber would at no very distant date drive the wild variety out of the market. The realisation of that dream has, perhaps, taken rather longer than was anticipated, but great strides have been made during the past two years, and the cultivated product now completely dominates the market. To achieve this position the planters have had to overcome the distrust of manufacturers, who were accustomed to using Para, and who feared that they would not be able to depend on obtaining adequate supplies of a uniform quality from the new sources. With the yield from the older trees increasing rapidly and the steady extension of the areas in bearing, that attitude was a serious menace to the welfare of the industry, but the planters set themselves to improving their methods of preparing the latex, and have evidently been very successful, as little or nothing is now heard of objections. The rapid increase in the output, which exceeded all the estimates, was itself another difficulty to be faced, and it is not so very long since the market was apprehensive of the supplies outrunning the demand. To prevent this, steps were taken by the Rubber Growers' Association and others to encourage the discovery of new uses for the material, and prizes were offered for the best suggestions. While the market was in this state it was inevitable that prices should crumble, but the drop was evidently a blessing in disguise, as it stimulated efforts to bring down the cost of production, and so put plantation rubber on a really firm basis. From the character of the work to be done, the collection of wild rubber was expensive, and, at the low level of values reached, the margin of profit either disappeared altogether or was so infinitesimal as to make it not worth while to continue in the outlying forests.

Planters, however, were in a much better position in this respect, as, having the trees under their hand, as it were, they were able to practise economies which were not possible to the collector in the forests, while the steadily increasing yield per tree also helped automatically to reduce the cost per lb.

During the past year the value continued to fall, and the average prices obtained by the Malaysian companies ranged between 2s. and 2s. 2d., representing a decline of from 3½d. to 6d. Many of the companies brought new areas into the tapping round, and the smaller initial yield from these naturally affected the average cost for the whole of the bearing area. In other cases the adoption of a more conservative method of tapping, having for its object the prolongation of the life of the tree, or the thinning out of the number of trees per acre, had the effect of reducing the output and making the decrease in cost less than it would otherwise have been. For these reasons the decrease last year seldom exceeded 2½d. or 3d., but even so, the cost was brought down to about 1s. 2d., and a few companies were fortunate enough to be able to produce their rubber at under 1s. The Riverside and the Kapar Para were conspicuously successful in this respect with 9.8½d. and 9.92d. respectively, and the Sungei Kapar at 10.40d., the Highlands and Lowlands at 11.12d., and the Bukit Rajah at 11.82d. were nearly as successful. At the other end of the list came those undertakings which until recently only had a comparatively small part of their planted areas in bearing, and yet are charging a good proportion of their standing charges to revenue. The Allagar and Ayer Kuning, for instance, could not reduce their costs under 1s. 6½d., the Cluny, although effecting a reduction of 11.24d., still spent 1s. 5.84d., and the Changkat Salak and Klabang were also fairly high at 1s. 4.13d. and 1s. 4.76d.

Probably few people outside the trades interested have realised to what extent rubber has become a necessity in the life of the present day, or the many different uses to which it is put. Yet it is estimated that the world's output and consumption last year amounted to

over 120,000 tons, of which 71,000 tons was plantation. The war has stimulated the demand for rubber enormously, owing to its free employment for many purposes, including the use of cars, 'buses, lorries, and other vehicles using rubber tyres, either pneumatic or solid, for transport. It is obvious—impossible that these vehicles can receive the same care and attention that they would in ordinary circumstances, and that there must also be a considerable amount of unavoidable waste, which will have to be made good. A substantial increase in the output from the plantations is expected in the current year, and, allowing for a further reduction in the supplies from other sources, it is estimated that there will be about 140,000 tons available. It is, however, believed that the United States alone will require nearly as much as the plantations can produce, and the market is now talking of the possibility of a shortage of anything between 15,000 and 20,000 tons. The price has recently improved to about 2s. 4½d., and as the demand is likely to continue on a large scale after the war is over, there seems to be little reason to fear a relapse in the value for some time to come. Even, however, if it should go back to 2s., it must not be forgotten that the limit to reduction of cost has not yet been reached, and the well-managed undertakings should still be able to show a margin of profit large enough to pay handsome dividends.

## American Business Notes.

Although not engaged in war with any country, the Washington Government contrives to show an expanding outlay every year. In the 12 months closed June 30 last the total expenditure, including \$29,187,000 on account of the Panama Canal, was \$760,762,147, and the outlay on the Canal was \$5,629,000 less than that of the previous year. This meant that the expenditure exceeded the revenue by \$65,099,000, because the revenue for the 12 months was \$35,681,000 less than that of the preceding year at \$695,663,190. Turned into sterling the revenue was £139,133,000 and the expenditure £152,133,000. Protectionists make great play of the fact that the principal source of decreased revenue was Customs. As recently as 1909-10 Customs revenue was \$333,683,000, and even in 1912-13, which came within the period of the reduced tariff, the yield was \$318,142,344, whereas last year only \$209,268,107 was received. This shows what a mistake it was to reduce the tariff, the Protectionists insist, and the mistake is made all the more emphatic by the contrast the revenue presents with the volume of the imports. That has been little reduced compared with recent years, and yet here is the revenue fallen away after this dangerous fashion. Our own idea would be that bad trade, obstruction in the importation of taxed luxuries or manufactured articles due to the war, had made the lower scale of duties more of a bar to income than the higher scale had been in the days when war did not interfere to dry up the buying capacity of all peoples. Let that stand, however, and note the fact that some compensation was found in direct taxation and in the new war taxes. These last alone gave \$27,214,000 more than in the previous 12 months at \$335,828,377. The corporation and income-tax also gave \$8,443,000 more last fiscal year than in the previous one at \$79,828,675. The original estimate of revenue from this tax was only \$75,000,000, so that the power of the people to pay direct taxes would seem to be demonstrated, and it might be advisable for fiscal reformers to take notice of the fact with a view to future operations. Altogether the internal revenue from all sources gave no less than \$486,395,000 last year, or fully \$44,000,000 more than in the previous one. And in the matter of expenditure there was even a little saving on pensions, which absorbed only \$164,388,958 last year, against \$173,092,064 for the previous year. Even so, pensions still take £32,880,000 per annum, and they are supposed to be pensions for veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. Altogether the Panama Canal has cost £76,451,000, or \$382,252,644, and only £27,720,000, or \$138,600,869, of this total has been drawn from borrowed money, the remaining



\$219,471,636 having been paid out of the current revenue or Treasury balances. That is a very fine piece of finance that we only wish this country may be in a position to imitate when the time comes to pay for the Channel Tunnel.

It is useless to discuss the attitude of Dr. Wilson's Government with regard to the last German essay on how to be neutral so as to assist the enemy, because we have only anticipations as to its contents. These reports point to the probability that there will be another display of firm language of no immediate consequence. Perhaps that is the best to be expected. The President, it is asserted, will uphold the point of view he has adopted, and warn Germany that there must be no repetition of the "Lusitania" atrocity, but that does not imply war, or that there is any warlike disposition behind his words or in the minds of the American people. They are not going to fight in our quarrel, and we do not particularly want them to. Germany, however, may provide them with a cause of quarrel all their own.

Meantime the attitude of the Southern planters and their spokesmen should surely induce men of sense and character to modify their language about the contraband cotton question. Whatever the German Government may desire to do we have no intention of picking a quarrel with the United States, and because we wish to remain real, not sham, friends with them, our Government has wisely held back hitherto from adopting an uncompromising attitude about cotton. The question of making it contraband is complicated not only by the rights of neutral States in Europe, but by the anger excited in the Southern States of the Republic, and among all who deal in cotton there, by any hint of an attempt to interfere with their business.

Already they have suffered much by the war-induced fall in the price, and if to that source of loss we add others arising from the seizure and confiscation of cargoes at sea, it might be Great Britain, and not Germany, to whom the most threatening diplomatic Notes would be sent. Our grievance is great and legitimate. The war might, probably would, be shortened could we stop supplies of cotton to Germany, and therefore something should be done. Let it be done by agreement, say we. The American Government has been reasonable over the carrying of guns, or a gun, on our merchant ships for self-defence only. Cotton offers a far more dangerous and knotty problem for solution, but with goodwill we may solve it, and yet retain the friendship of the great American nation.

According to the preliminary statement issued by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, there was a decline of \$7,349,506 to \$91,814,503 in its gross revenue for the year ended June 30. Working expenses, however, were reduced by no less than \$10,441,001 to \$63,962,388, \$5,627,417 of this decrease being in the running or traffic-handling expenses. Maintenance of equipment, too, was \$1,193,583 lower. In 1913-14 over three-quarters of the revenue was swept away in expenses, but this time the ratio was only 69.66 per cent., and the nett revenue of \$27,852,115, therefore, showed an increase of nearly \$3,100,000. After meeting taxes and including other income, the balance amounted to \$29,462,412, or \$2,084,391 more, but the dividend on the common stock is cut down from 6 per cent. to 5, leaving a surplus of \$635,632, compared with a deficit of \$2,272,830 in the previous year. That looks healthier, anyway.

The July 10 issue of the *New York Chronicle* contains a most interesting report by the president of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of America on its transactions during 1914. On the whole, the year was a most satisfactory one, and the progress made before August of that year was so marked as to much more than offset the loss of revenue caused by the outbreak of war. Message traffic was naturally much curtailed in the last five months of the year, for although the revenue from ships flying the American flag was greatly increased, there was a considerable loss owing to the withdrawal of so many foreign vessels from American waters. During 1912, however, the tangible assets of

the United Wireless Telegraph Co. were acquired, with the resultant control of all the important coast stations on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In addition, practically the whole of the American mercantile marine is now fitted with wireless, the number of ships and shore equipment now operated by the company being approximately 20 times that of three years ago. Further, all the new equipment for the army and the revenue cutter service was supplied by the company, and this doubtless also helped to raise the gross earnings for 1914 to \$756,573, compared with the \$177,914 reached in the last 11 months of 1913. Other income brought in some \$63,000 less at \$150,272, and the nett income was only \$60,405, up at \$271,889, the large increase in expenses being, as far as we can gather, in part due to higher rental charges. Out of the above sum \$59,511 was set aside to depreciation reserves, \$50,000 to reserve against expiration of patents, and \$12,500 to contingencies, leaving a surplus of \$149,878, against \$178,251, and making an aggregate of \$364,571. On August 1, 1913, an initial dividend of 2 per cent. was paid, but no distribution seems to have been made since.

### Insurance News.

Although the war has greatly affected insurance business generally the amount of new contracts entered into by the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society, making allowance for the stress of the war, has been well maintained, the figures for the year ended May 31 being only slightly below the total recorded a year ago. The new life business consisted of 401 policies, assuring the sum of £253,303, as contrasted with 534 policies assuring £269,251 for the preceding year. Notwithstanding the losses due to the war the total death claims were about £47,000 less than the amount expected according to the mortality tables on which the reserves of the society are based. These claims, which included £27,462 in respect of 22 members who were killed in action, amounted to £306,502, including £13,028 due as interim bonus. The funds increased by £22,106 to £4,823,815, and the average rate of interest, subject to tax, on the invested assets at the close of the year was £4 3s. 3d. per cent. as compared with £4 3s. 2d. per cent. Expenses of management were reduced to £6 16s. 8d. per cent. on the premium income, after including almost the whole of the cost of the society's Act of Parliament obtained last year; the previous year's ratio was £7 3s. 9d. per cent. The year just closed is the fourth of the present quinquennium, and, since the profit from ordinary sources has been well maintained during the four years, the directors state that it would have been reasonable, under more auspicious circumstances, for members to look forward to a distribution of bonus next year at the exceptionally high rates which the society has hitherto been able to declare. But, in view of the fact that the depreciation in the value of the securities will call for consideration, the directors think that it would be unwise to offer any forecast regarding the results of next year's valuation, as it is impossible to say how the question of a surplus of profit available for distribution among the members may be affected. The society has already received a considerable amount of new business, which but for its new Act of Parliament could not have been taken.

Judging from the number of inquiries and the business already done, the State insurance scheme against aircraft risks is one of the most popular steps the Government has taken. The scheme came into operation on Monday, and the offices and staffs of most of the fire insurance companies have been put at the service of the Government. By agreement, there is to be no competition among the companies for the aircraft insurance of their respective fire policy-holders, the presumption being that property owners naturally will desire to place business with the same companies with which they have effected their fire insurances. Any company will, of course, be able to accept aircraft insurances on property which is insured against fire risks with offices or individuals remaining outside the scheme or on property which is not insured at all against fire risks. Policies are issued and signed by the com-



panies on behalf of the Government Brokers and agents are to be entitled to a commission of 5 per cent. on all the business they introduce. The companies themselves receive 10 per cent. on the gross premiums to cover their expenses, an amount none too large in view of the fact that much labour will be entailed, and that the ordinary expense ratio of a fire office is much higher than 10 per cent. Unfortunately, the additional clerical work will fall on offices at a time when their staffs have been depleted by the large number of officials who have joined the Forces. The Board of Trade announces that now that a public scheme has been established, no liability can be accepted by the Government, and no claim can be entertained in respect of damage to property by aircraft or bombardment unless the property has been insured under the scheme. As it is now possible to insure house property against all aircraft risks—hostile or otherwise—at a flat rate of 2s. per cent. per annum, many householders who have been deterred hitherto by the high premiums asked for covering risks in certain localities will doubtless avail themselves of the Government scheme. The contention of the insurance companies is that the ordinary fire policy excludes both direct and indirect damage caused by a foreign enemy, and that equally there would be no liability for damage to a house which had been set alight by a fire caused in another house by an incendiary bomb.

Shareholders of the Catholic and General Insurance Association have approved of the proposed sale of the undertaking to the Consolidated Assurance Co. As already announced, the purchase price is £47,666, which is to be satisfied by the allotment of £1 shares in the purchasing company, each holder of shares 10s. paid receiving one fully-paid £1 share for every three partly-paid shares, while holders of fully-paid shares are to have two fully-paid £1 shares for every three shares held.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### RAILWAYS.

Central London.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 on the undivided ordinary at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum, and on the preferred ordinary at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

City and South London.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 on the whole of the outstanding 5 per cent. preference stocks, 1891, 1896, 1901, and 1903, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Clonakilty Extension.—2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago, carrying forward £159.

Cork, Bandon, and South Coast.—Interim at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Cuba.—3 per cent. on the preferred, payable Aug. 2.

Dublin and South-Eastern.—Interim on the consolidated preference at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30. A year ago the ordinary received  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—2½ per cent. for year ended March 31, 1915, on the preference, against 5 per cent.

Great Eastern.—At the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, against  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. a year ago.

Great Northern.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, with £69,000 forward, same as a year ago, with £98,000 forward.

London, Chatham, and Dover.—Interim for half-year to June 30 of £2 per cent. (being at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum) on the arbitration preference, against £2 5s. per cent. a year ago, payable Aug. 14.

London Electric.—Interim for half-year to June 30 on the ordinary at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

London and South-Western.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for past half-year, same as a year ago.

Metropolitan District.—Interim for half-year to June 30 on the 4 per cent. guaranteed at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum, on the first preference at the rate of £4 10s. per cent. per annum, and on the second preference at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Metropolitan.—For six months ended June 30 an interim at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, against 1½ per cent. a year ago. The Surplus Lands Committee announce that the balance for half-year ended June 30 will allow of the payment of an interim at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 20.

Midland.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the deferred, same as a year ago.

Midland Great Western of Ireland.—Interim on the consolidated stock at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, to be paid (less tax) on Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

North-Eastern.—At the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

South-Eastern.—For first half of 1915 of 10s. per cent. (being at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum) on the undivided ordinary, same as last year. This distribution permits of an interim of £1 per cent. on the preferred ordinary, same as last year, payable Aug. 5.

Taff Vale.—At the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, against 4 per cent. a year ago.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

American Trust.—The directors have decided not to declare an interim on the ordinary, but to delay consideration until the end of the financial year. Last year 2½ per cent., less tax, was paid.

Annfield Plain and District Gas.—The ordinary at the rate of £7 7s. per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Anton Jurgen's United Margarine Works.—For the half-year ended June 30 on the "B" preference at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Average Trust.—Interim on account of the current year's working of 15 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary, payable July 19, same as last year.

Bank of Victoria.—The preference and ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £49,454, same as a year ago, with £20,000 to reserve, and £18,341 forward.

Belgravia Dairy.—2 per cent. for half-year ended May 29, less tax, making 4 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, but tax free.

Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 16, same as a year ago.

Burns Bros., New York.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 16, same as for preceding quarter.

Butters Salvador Mines.—25 cents per share.

Commercial Banking of Sydney.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for past half-year, with £25,000 to reserve, and £72,734 forward, same as a year ago.

Commercial Bank of Australia.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the preference, with £9,575 forward. The decreased profits are due to exceptional exchange conditions. Australasian business and profits have been well maintained.

Consett Iron.—Final on the ordinary of 2s. per share, and 8 per cent. on the preference.

Eastern Smelting.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary.

Gas Light and Coke.—At the rate of £4 4s. per cent. per annum for past half-year, carrying forward £436,059, against £4 17s. 4d. a year ago.

Holzapfels, Ltd.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 4½ per cent. (less tax), payable 31st inst., against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Hunter, Barr and Co.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

Jeremiah Rotherham and Co.—Interim for six months ended July 15 on the ordinary at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

London General Omnibus.—6 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary for the half-year to June 30, as compared with 8 per cent.

Manchester Trust.—On the ordinary of 1s. 6d. per share; £13,303 has been written off assets, with £4,748 carried forward, against £4,891 brought in. For the previous 10 years the dividend has been 1s. per share, free of tax.

Morrison and Fleet's Dairies.—To pay, on the 31st inst., interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

National Explosives.—Interim of 5 per cent., payable 31st inst. This is the second dividend paid this year.

Pegoh.—Interim of 7½ per cent., free of tax, payable Aug. 9.

Rahman Tin.—Final of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent., free tax, for the year, carrying forward £5,161, subject to directors' fees.

Rezende Mines.—Interim of 6½ per cent. in respect of 1915. Last Sept. a dividend at the same rate was declared.

Ramsbottom Paper Mill.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, tax free, same as a year ago.

Royal Bank of Canada.—3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for three months to Aug. 31, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Scottish Wagon.—Interim of 3½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Standard Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. for six months ended June 30, payable Aug. 4, same as a year ago.

Tottenham District Light, Heat and Power.—For half-year to June 30, statutory of 7½ per cent. per annum on the "A" consolidated and 6 per cent. per annum on the "B" consolidated, same as a year ago.

United States Debenture.—Interim for half-year ending the 31st inst., less tax, on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable 30th inst., same as a year ago.

## MINING OUTPUTS.

Braden Copper.—Report for June states:—Mill treated 91,029 tons of 2.10 per cent. ore; produced 7,249 tons concentrates 19.37 per cent.; minerals separation treated 88,633 tons of 1.71 per cent., concentrates 19.94 per cent.; copper produced, 1,271 tons.

Camp Bird.—Ore crushed, 2,754 tons; profit, £12,000.

Ouro Preto.—6,450 tons produced £9,950.

Ropp Tin.—Output, 29 tons; shipped, 23 tons.

Sissert Company.—Sissert Mining District Company reports:—Ore raised, 2,096 long tons, averaging 4.8 per cent. copper; copper produced (best selected), 71 long tons.

Troitzk.—2,200 tons, 821 ozs.; value, Rs.29,840.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	1892	£	1893	£	1894	£	1895
Belfast and County Down ..	July 16	7,292	—	284	+	103,388	+	10,752	
Grand Canal ..	" 16	1,116	—	221	+	2,457	+	357	
Great Northern ..	" 16	28,435	+	85	+	631,915	+	22,415	
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 16	35,437	+	1,362	+	891,966	+	85,297	
Midland Great Western ..	" 16	12,395	+	305	+	349,678	+	10,715	

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	1892	£	1893	£	1894	£	1895
Beira ..	Apl. *	32,402	—	9,662	—	53,790	—	199,100	
Canadian Northern ..	July 14	\$279,100	—	\$95,900	†	\$3,301,000	—	\$1327,000	
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	\$1,635,000	—	\$650,000	†	34,645	—	18,244	
Egyptian Delta ..	June 30 <sup>a</sup>	3,979	—	1,536	a	4,126,832	—	411,588	
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	July 14	161,955	—	19,919	†	771,585	+	7,187	
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	29,301	—	1,171	†	270,345	+	7,825	
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	12,092	—	1,643	†	21,960	—	12,170	
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 14 <sup>b</sup>	10,427	—	5,609	†	184,435	—	127,088	
Mashonaland ..	May *	36,180	—	25,885	5	40,536	—	43,983	
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	5,795	—	4,952	†	290,218	—	137,891	
New Cape Central ..	June 19	2,070	—	518	†				
Rhodesia ..	May *	61,504	—	26,653	5				
W. Pass & Yukon ..	July 7	\$68,208	—		—				

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. a April 1. b The earnings of the Lake Superior Branch Line, which has been leased to the Canadian Government from July 1st last, will not be included in future traffic returns.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	1892	Rs.	1893	Rs.	1894	Rs.	1895
Assam Bengal ..	June 12	97,000	—	36,186	†	13,53,000	+	8,775	
Barsi Light ..	" 12	16,900	—	3,800	†	2,84,900	—	84,700	
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 19	3,79,080	—	47,882	†	46,46,047	—	7,70,186	
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 5	7,88,000	—	8,000	†	55,35,000	—	2,72,000	
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 17	10,22,000	—	1,18,000	†	1,93,84,000	—	5,86,000	
Burma ..	June 12	3,81,576	—	58,261	†	43,73,586	—	7,81,420	
Delhi Umballa ..	July 17	65,100	—	16,728	†	10,30,472	—	1,38,000	
East Indian ..	" 17	20,05,000	—	1,29,000	†	3,57,58,000	—	7,33,000	
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 17	13,18,600	—	1,44,200	†	2,55,17,769	—	14,22,083	
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	June 19	38,928	—	3,623	†	4,77,776	—	39,254	
Madras and S. ..	" 26	9,10,000	—	14,980	†	1,19,51,499	—	2,455	
Mahratta ..	" 19	1,24,515	—	8,565	†	13,77,501	—	1,52,139	
Nizam's Guaranteed	" 19	33,325	—	7,495	†	4,44,591	—	39,254	
Rohilkhand and ..	" 19	5,80,790	—	12,341	†	65,36,847	—	4,50,121	
Kumaon ..	Feb. 8	5,88,334	—	135,255	†	30,57,567	—	5,07,641	

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		1892	1893	1894	1895
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 7	618,000	—	53,000	†
Chicago G.W. ..	" 7	233,000	—	13,000	†
Colorado & South'n ..	June 21	241,000	—	11,000	†
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	July 7	450,000	—	48,000	†
Inter. of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	42,400	—	138,900	†
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	July 7	924,000	—	94,000	†
Mexican ..	Nov. 21	103,600	—	102,900	†
Do. ..	Oct. *	262,500	—	126,300	†
Do. ..	"	905,600	—	84,200	†
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	June 21	496,000	—	48,000	†
Missouri Kansas ..	July 14	539,240	—	51,247	†
Missouri Pacific ..	" 7	1,018,000	—	39,000	†
National of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	628,408	—	395,370	†
Do. ..	June a*	197,000	—	197,000	†
Southern ..	July 7	1,128,000	—	150,000	†

a 1914. † Nine Days. \* Nett. † Includes Wisconsin Central.  
† From July 1. † Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Dols.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fe	May	2,842,000	—	285,000	11	33,101,000	—	3,561,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	565,000	—	64,000	11	6,630,000	—	1,953,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,133,000	—	1,247,000	11	24,707,000	—	1,410,000
Canadian Northern	"	322,900	—	158,700	11	4,493,400	—	1,395,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	2,443,000	—	520,000	11	30,897,000	—	8,193,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,215,000	—	208,000	11	10,843,000	—	542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,562,000	—	552,000	10	20,393,000	—	791,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Apl.	1,395,000	—	358,000	10	26,859,000	—	227,000
Chicago G.W. ..	May	208,000	—	15,000	11	3,092,000	—	51,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	1,694,000	—	136,000	11	21,894,000	—	2,466,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	169,000	—	45,000	11	3,133,000	—	749,000
Cuba ..	"	540,877	—	78,876	11	4,749,143	—	16,656
Do. ..	"	260,049	—	111,000	11	1,688,244	—	143,315
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	643,000	—	13,000	5	2,864,000	—	492,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	593,000	—	93,000	11	5,864,000	—	233,000
Erie ..	"	1,100,000	—	250,000	5	4,787,000	—	530,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	\$215,950	—	\$29,050	11	\$7,765,000	—	\$38,250
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	\$1,200	—	\$8,700	11	\$7,600	—	\$5,500
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	\$7,300	—	\$1,200	11	\$26,400	—	\$13,050
Gt. Northern ..	"	1,050,000	—	162,000	11	27,687,000	—	1,144,000
Illinois Central ..	"	681,000	—	153,000	11	10,398,000	—	479,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	267,000	—	36,000	11	2,845,000	—	313,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,220,000	—	108,000	11	9,899,000	—	780,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	829,000	—	227,000	11	9,218,000	—	2,274,000
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	"	337,000	—	63,000	11	7,599,000	—	104,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	\$39,259	—	\$50,205	11	\$1,742,556	—	\$1,187,462
Missouri Pacific ..	"	778,000	—	118,000	11	11,962,000	—	1,027,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	3,716,000	—	1,463,000	5	13,477,000	—	4,953,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	1,738,000	—	478,000	11	15,850,000	—	2,525,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	176,000	—	21,000	11	1,957,000	—	130,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,367,000	—	202,000	11	11,670,000	—	90,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	1,341,000	—	41,000	11	19,446,000	—	58,100
Pennsylvania East and West Lines ..	"	6,766,000	—	777,000	5	20,292,000	—	1,050,000
Reading ..	"	556,091	—	114	11	6,119,201	—	57,204
St. Louis & San F. ..	Apl.	915,000	—	591,000	10	10,273,000	—	1,045,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	May	473,000	—	73,000	11	4,890,000	—	1,516,000
Southern ..	"	1,338,000	—	382,000	11	12,260,000	—	3,277,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	2,653,000	—	141,000	11	32,091,000	—	2,573,000
Union Pacific ..	"	1,827,000	—	227,000	11	27,354,000	—	1,711,000
Wabash ..	"	295,000	—	17,000	11	5,692,000	—	320,000

Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

The Union Bank of Canada has opened a branch at Pennant, Sask.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.			Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July 17	Ps. 13,000	—	Ps. 6,000	†	Ps. 380,900	—	Ps. 8,050	
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 18	29,690	—	3,340	†	623,655	—	408,129	
Arauco ..	May *	6,150	—	2,700	†	32,625	—	9,662	
Argentine N.E. ..	July 17	6,757	—	1,357	†	14,058	—	1,088	
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	" *	3,655	—	70	6	26,573	—	5,921	
Bolivar ..	" *	8,250	—	1,648	12	86,169	—	25,698	
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	—	M239,757	4	M12,681,000	—	M787,340	
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Feb. *	Mis. 28,250	—	M6,250	2	M55,750	—	M10,250	
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 17	73,000	—	5,000	†	185,000	—	4,000	
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 18	78,000	—	3,000	†	198,908	—	15,033	
Do. Western ..	" 18	44,000	—	4,000	†	105,000	—	1	
Central Argentine ..	" 17	115,000	—	8,300	†	305,000	—	14,000	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 17	10,876	—	533	†	26,550	—	2,049	
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 17	3,703	—	892	†	8,556	—	1,503	
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 17	2,110	—	168	†	4,694	—	547	
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 17	1,681	—	350	†	3,309	—	123	
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	—	500	4	37,900	—	1,733	
Cordoba Central ..	July 17	37,150	—	265	†	88,350	—	8,960	
Costa Rica ..	Feb. 27	7,608	—	5,050	†	224,179	—	85,033	
Cuban Central ..	July 17	8,041	—	1,240	†	18,774	—	1,733	
Dorada Extension ..	June *	8,400	—	1,400	6	44,500	—	4,100	
Entre Rios ..	July 17	9,200	—	2,000	†	21,100	—	1,500	
Gt. South. of Spain ..	" 10	Ps. 68,959	—	Ps. 10,445	†	Ps. 581,513	—	Ps. 61,554	
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 17	6,300	—	3,400	†	296,100	—	98,000	
Havana Central ..	July 10	5,544	—	589	†	7,550	—	226	
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May c*	16,233	—	1,356	†	80,959	—	52,099	
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	6,250	—	1,750	†	42,250	—	17,250	
Leopoldina ..	July 17	26,037	—	13,849	†	804,311	—	166,756	
Manila ..	" 17	3,933	—	898	†	169,303	—	32,905	
Midland Uruguay ..	June *	10,532	—	500	12	113,751	—	14,636	
Mogiana ..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	—	M125,225	4	M6,570,000	—	M 517,804	
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$22,300	—	\$333	12	\$232,228	—	\$66,325	
Nitrate ..	July 15 <sup>  </sup>	18,820	—	10,758	†	145,541	—	237,100	
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	12,627	†	8,634	—	12,627	
Paraguay Central ..	July 17	\$315,000	—	\$160,000	†	\$853,000	—	\$179,000	
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	—	M59,123	4	M7,359,000	—	M 339,662	
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	June *	\$759,374	—	\$244,044	12	\$8,359,705	—	\$471,249	
Puerto Cab. & V'len.	Apl. *	3,415	—	585	4	16,121	—	879	
Salvador ..	July 17	\$24,500	—	\$2,500	†	—	—	—	
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 11	33,283	—	5,335	†	—	—	—	
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	—	M132,722	4	M5,440,000	—	M 94,558	
Taital ..	May *	8,243	—	17,850	10	122,386	—	162,467	
United of Havana ..	July 17	23,802	—	2,880	3	57,995	—	4,956	
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 6	\$64,400	—	\$6,200	6	\$403,900	—	\$54,300	
Uruguay Northern ..	June *	1,936	—	132	12	18,266	—	7,862	
West'n of Havana ..	July 10	5,054	—	759	†	7,407	—	1,786	
Zafra and Huéla ..	May *	7,553	—	6,981	5	36,187	—	36,520	



# BANK OF LIVERPOOL

ESTABLISHED 1831.

LIMITED.

**Subscribed Capital, £13,866,920. Paid-up Capital, £1,733,365.  
Reserve Fund, £900,000.**

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COUTTS & CO.; and UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LTD.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING, TRUSTEE, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

**NOTICE.**—Owing to the August Bank Holiday  
**THE INVESTORS' REVIEW** will next  
week be published on Friday Morning, and the  
office will be closed from the Friday evening  
until the following Tuesday morning.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent.  
to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent.  
on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per  
cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

Everything has been War Loan in the Money Market this week. The instalments due on Tuesday required £57,000,000, but if this had been all, the market would have been able to provide it without much disturbance. It was, however, clear from the outset that the generous discount of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. offered for payment in full would appeal very strongly to the ordinary investor, and preparations had therefore to be made for an enormous turnover of credit. Most of the joint-stock banks began calling in their funds last week, and considerable sums had been lifted up to Monday night. Naturally, this meant that the market had to go to the Bank of England to fill the gaps, and later the joint-stock banks instead of making further demands on the market's resources themselves went to the Bank for assistance, with the result that a huge business was done in loans and discounts on the terms mentioned in our last issue. Instructions for payment in full came from all parts of the country, and it is believed that the total was greatly in excess of the highest estimate. Altogether it is calculated that between £250,000,000 and £300,000,000 was transferred to the Bank of England, but the preparations made proved to be ample. The physical impossibility of dealing with the mass of cheques received delayed their clearance for a day or two, and with this additional relief the transaction went through much more smoothly than at one time seemed likely. Not-

withstanding this, the market was not overwell satisfied with the arrangements, and claimed that the strain put upon it might have been mitigated if not entirely avoided had a little more consideration been shown them. For one thing, the offer of so large a discount as  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was regarded as unnecessarily generous, while the market claimed that its task would have been made very much easier if instead of calling in loans an arrangement had been made for the joint-stock banks to borrow what they required from the Bank, and to raise their own charge to borrowers to a corresponding extent.

With the available resources so greatly depleted, the charges for accommodation in the open market naturally became very much heavier. Overnight loans could be obtained at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 per cent. in the beginning of the week, but the rate was speedily raised to  $4$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Apparently the Government let out money this afternoon as usual at the end of the week, and after being wanted in the morning supplies became more plentiful, and were offered at the end at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. For weekly fixtures borrowers had to pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. when they could get any at all outside the Bank. The loans obtained from the Bank last week, which fell due on Wednesday and Thursday, were renewed, and a little more was taken, but to-day the indebtedness was slightly reduced on balance. The joint-stock banks have increased their rate on deposits by 1 per cent. to 3 per cent., and the discount houses put up their allowances by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. at call and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. at short notice.

Business in the discount market has been almost at a standstill, as brokers were not only too much occupied in other directions, but were unwilling to work with any freedom until they could judge more clearly what the effect of the War Loan payment would be. Here and there, however, a little disposition was shown to take the shorter-dated maturities up to three months, and a few parcels of fine paper changed hands at 5 per cent. The general quotations were 5 per cent. for 60-day bills,  $5$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for three months, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for fours and sixes.

Amongst foreign exchanges, the Petrograd rate has again moved in sensational fashion, rising in the beginning of the week to over 150, and relapsing again to 143. The Paris cheque also fluctuated widely, ranging between 26.45 and 26.90, closing at about 26.82 $\frac{1}{2}$ . New York hardened to 4.77 $\frac{1}{2}$  for cable transfers.

In view of the large turnover in connection with the War Loan, the market had expected the Bank return to



show a reduction in the proportion of the reserve to liabilities, and it was therefore very agreeably surprised to find an increase of  $\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. to 18 per cent. This was apparently due, on the one hand, to the fact that the return did not fully reflect the War Loan payments, and, on the other, to a larger increase in the stock of gold than had been anticipated. Receipts of the metal from abroad during the week amounted to £2,622,000, but the coin and bullion was up by no less than £6,300,000 at £59,426,000, and while a good part of the domestic increase was probably due to drawings on the "old stocking," it was understood that Sir Edward Holden, of the London City and Midland Bank, had transferred some £3,000,000 from its vaults to the Bank of England. The addition of £5,624,000 to Public Deposits and the decrease of £23,363,000 in "Other" Deposits were much smaller than had been looked for, mainly, it would seem, because a large proportion of the cheques received for the War Loan were not cleared in time to affect the return. Borrowings by the market were known to have been on a huge scale, the total being put at from £75,000,000 to £100,000,000, but "Other" Securities were only £24,546,000 up, and it was assumed that the Government had carried out its intention of repaying to the Bank a large amount on account of the advances on pre-moratorium bills.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended July 21 £1,760,529 in £1 notes and £388,343 in 10s. notes were issued. In the same period £3,310,868 in £1 and £1,750,211 in 10s. notes were cancelled. A new entry appears on both sides of the returns of £3,040,000 currency notes certificates issued and cancelled. There was therefore a decrease on balance of £2,912,207, leaving a total of £46,386,264 10s. outstanding, made up of £35,348,722 in £1 and £11,037,542 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £303,236 5s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £5,399,673 3s. 4d. at the Bank of England, while £3,204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue.

SILVER.

Neither India nor China have taken much interest in the silver market this week, and practically the whole support has consisted of a moderate demand from the Continent. Supplies, however, have again been very small, and the price, after dropping to 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. on Saturday remained at that figure until yesterday. A small increase in the amount offered then proved more than the market could absorb, and the quotation has relapsed to 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to only Rs. 20,000 in bills, which were allotted at 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 20th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,74,16,978, realising £1,825,467, compared with Rs. 4,57,23,332 for £3,052,482 to July 21 last year.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 21, 1915.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. .. .	£ 76,909,540	Government Debt .. .. .	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. .. .	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	58,459,540
		Silver Bullion .. .. .	—
	£76,909,540		£76,909,540

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital .. ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities .. ..	£ 53,157,910
Reserve .. .. .	3,381,176	Other Securities .. .. .	164,567,210
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	109,226,335	Notes .. .. .	43,135,230
Other Deposits .. .. .	134,620,428	Gold and Silver Coin .. ..	966,686
Seven Day and other Bills ..	46,097		
	£261,827,036		£261,827,036

Dated July 22, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year, July 22.		July 14, 1915.	July 21, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,446,453	Rest .. .. .	3,274,566	3,381,176	106,610	—
13,735,393	Pub. Deposits ..	52,986,503	109,226,335	56,239,832	—
42,185,297	Other do. .. .	157,983,549	134,620,428	—	23,363,121
14,796	7 Day Bills ..	53,056	46,097	—	6,959
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
11,005,126	Gov. Securities ..	51,747,910	53,157,910	—	1,410,000
33,632,762	Other do. .. .	140,020,855	164,567,210	—	24,546,355
29,297,051	Total Reserve ..	37,081,909	44,101,916	—	7,020,007
				56,346,442	56,346,442
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
29,317,290	Note Circulation ..	34,494,590	33,774,310	—	720,280
40,164,341	Coin and Bullion ..	53,126,499	59,426,000	6,299,747	—
52 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Proportion .. ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	18 p.c.	$\frac{1}{8}$ p.c.	—
3 "	Bank Rate .. ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £2,622,000 in.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 2, 1915.	June 25, 1915.	June 18, 1915.
	£	£	£
old coin and certificates—			
Settlement Fund, &c. ..	6,368,000	6,272,000	5,872,000
All Other .. .. .	46,489,600	44,765,400	43,432,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c. ..	4,968,200	9,569,600	9,783,200
Total reserves .. .. .	57,825,800	60,607,000	59,087,400
30-day bills and loans .. ..	2,664,400	2,866,600	2,876,600
60-day bills and loans .. ..	1,947,000	2,014,000	1,996,000
90-day bills and loans .. ..	1,619,400	1,470,200	2,245,200
Others .. .. .	1,006,600	1,394,400	—
Total .. .. .	7,237,400	7,745,200	7,117,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. .. .	1,530,400	1,520,200	1,441,600
Municipal Warrants .. ..	2,478,000	2,301,800	1,932,800
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. .. .	1,972,400	1,662,200	1,629,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett. ..	1,520,200	1,824,800	1,550,600
All other assets .. .. .	732,000	1,100,200	1,306,600
Total assets .. .. .	73,296,200	76,761,400	74,065,800
Paid-up capital .. .. .	10,825,600	10,840,000	10,840,200
Reserve deposits—nett. .. ..	59,570,600	62,269,800	59,872,200
Note circulation—nett. .. ..	2,559,400	2,573,400	2,420,000
All other liabilities .. .. .	331,400	658,000	933,400
Total liabilities .. .. .	73,296,200	76,291,800	74,065,800

PROTECTORS



NORTH BRITISH and MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."

"Low rates a distinctive feature."—The Times.

Funds - £24,000,000.

LONDON - 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.  
EDINBURGH - 61, Princes Street.



## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £2,554,000 of the first batch of Treasury Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. The reduction in the amount outstanding, however, was only £2,316,000, so that the sales of new bills during the period apparently amounted to £238,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3½
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6	2 13 1½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
*176,997,000			
249,497,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday—Sovs. (released) .. £ 100,000	Saturday—Bars .. £ 100,000
Monday—India (set free) .. 1,000,000	Wednesday—Bars .. 100,000
Tuesday—Sovs. (released) .. 25,000	
" Straits " .. 94,000	
Wednesday—Sovs. " .. 100,000	
" Bars .. 826,000	
Friday—Egypt (released) .. 65,400	Nett Influx .. 2,010,000
£2,210,000	£2,210,000

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	233,285,000	306,206,000	—	72,921,000
" 9	231,525,000	285,464,000	—	53,939,000
" 16	225,460,000	329,729,000	—	104,269,000
" 23	236,435,000	275,105,000	—	38,670,000
" 30	266,789,000	445,419,000	—	178,630,000
July ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 14	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" 21	394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
Total ..	7,235,603,000	9,803,017,000	—	2,567,414,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended July 17.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. £ 328,000	National Debt Service .. £ 6,325
Excise .. 2,395,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 637
Estate, &c., Duties .. 771,000	Development & Road Impvt. .. 137,913
Stamps .. 89,000	Payments to Local Taxation .. 376,720
Land Tax and House Duty .. 10,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax .. 254,000	Charges ..
Land Values Duties .. 1,000	Supply Services .. 21,976,000
Post Office .. 1,000,000	Bullion Advances .. 25,000
Crown Lands ..	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	on Exchequer Bonds issued
Miscellaneous .. 48,801	under Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid .. 30,000	(Money) Act, 1904 .. 30,457
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) .. 21,000
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 ..	demption Act, 1910 ..
War Loan, 1925-45 .. 28,500,000	Under Telegraph (Money)
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Act, 1913 .. 130,000
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
1913 ..	Under Military Works Acts,
Under Military Works Acts,	1897-1903 ..
1897-1903 ..	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Issue of War Stock and War	penses Act, 1903 ..
Bonds ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8,
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	issued under Section 9
East Africa Protectorate	of Finance Act, 1908 ..
Loan repayments ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11,
Cunard Loan—repayment on	issued under Section 16
account of principal ..	(t) (b) of the Finance Act,
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	1911 .. 20,000
China Indemnity ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12,
Ways and Means Advances .. 220,000	issued under Anglo-Persian
Temporary Advances De-	Oil Company (Acquisition)
ficiency ..	Act, 1914 .. 250,000
Decrease in Exchequer	China Indemnity, issued
balances ..	to reduce debt under the
	Finance Act, 1911 ..
	Deficiency advances repaid
	Ways and Means Advances
	repaid .. 2,554,000
	Increase in Exchequer
	balances .. 8,158,749
£33,646,801	£33,646,801

† Reduction.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	July 17, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	July 18, 1914.
Loans ..	£ 119,068,000	£ 119,274,000	£ 117,772,000	£ 115,781,200
Specie ..	9,740,000	9,810,000	9,796,000	8,652,200
Deposits ..	122,736,000	119,568,000	120,474,000	115,701,800
Legal Tenders ..	1,948,000	1,966,000	1,892,000	1,983,300

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 17, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	July 18, 1914.
Loans ..	£ 510,010,000	£ 509,612,000	£ 503,236,000	£ 414,012,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	86,640,000	84,766,000	89,904,000	91,116,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	25,482,000	25,170,000	25,562,000	25,562,000
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	7,080,000	7,126,000	5,964,000	5,964,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	502,086,000	499,192,000	499,316,000	390,292,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	26,718,000	26,780,000	27,724,000	27,724,000
Circulation ..	7,592,000	7,580,000	7,576,000	8,350,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	32,448,000	308,140,000	35,608,000	3,148,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 22, 1915.	July 15, 1915.	July 8, 1915.	July 1, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 162,052,240	£ 159,458,960	£ 157,709,450	£ 157,262,000
Silver in hand ..	14,685,920	14,701,160	14,760,360	14,862,840
Bills discounted ..	10,499,280	10,715,280	10,442,600	10,820,440
Advances ..	24,294,160	24,592,120	24,598,640	24,672,880
Note circulation ..	500,511,360	497,937,760	493,129,600	488,633,880
Public deposits ..	7,718,920	3,866,400	2,654,040	3,280,560
Private deposits ..	95,018,880	95,600,960	95,356,360	94,609,720
Foreign Bills ..	55,000	67,080	68,760	65,520

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35½ per cent. against 35 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £252,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £42,899,200, decrease £700,600, and at the branches to £43,615,680, decrease £404,880.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 6, 1915.	June 29, 1915.	June 21, 1915.	July 6, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 7,448,100	£ 8,743,100	£ 7,722,300	£ 5,313,100
Cash in reserve ..	157,946,000	157,719,200	157,280,200	159,748,300
Gold in reserve abroad ..	10,565,400	10,858,700	10,922,700	14,250,500
Circulation note issue ..	377,000,000	367,000,000	359,500,000	170,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	24,737,100	34,729,700	39,263,200	51,255,100

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 15, 1915.	July 7, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	July 15, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,001,800	£ 121,799,550	£ 121,737,200	£ 83,441,250
Treasury Notes ..	14,158,100	9,165,050	22,009,000	2,955,200
Bills discounted ..	232,720,650	244,020,500	245,887,650	40,382,550
Advances ..	670,600	730,900	782,950	2,984,800
Note circulation ..	270,612,300	280,180,750	292,016,700	99,778,000
Public deposits ..	86,819,950	86,878,150	89,964,800	44,752,050

Clearing House returns during June £235,431,975 against £208,056,720 in May.

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 17, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	July 18, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 27,869,124	£ 27,632,001	£ 27,595,344	£ 21,679,450
Silver ..	29,644,053	29,563,048	29,685,677	29,140,743
Foreign Bills ..	4,901,033	4,894,179	4,976,171	7,029,534
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,074,428	27,073,539	27,269,837	27,242,288
Treasury Account, &c. ..	31,480,278	32,803,961	32,670,941	26,976,586
Notes in Circulation ..	79,846,351	80,378,150	79,875,577	76,774,107
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	27,171,434	27,926,474	27,533,038	19,302,093
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	2,208,297	2,153,229	2,411,173	1,877,737
Government Securities ..	2,662,441	2,726,319	2,892,680	5,310,401

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 15, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	June 30, 1915.	July 15, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 11,868,628	£ 11,784,252	£ 11,772,328	£ 7,790,100
Bills ..	5,606,560	5,681,960	5,961,540	3,829,932
Note circulation ..	16,105,600	16,399,136	16,902,272	10,858,440
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,847,568	3,316,936	2,976,412	1,850,008

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 20, 1915.	June 10, 1915.	May 31, 1915.	June 20, 1914.
Total cash ..	£ 55,052,440	£ 55,228,600	£ 56,240,600	£ 48,600,320
Inland Bills ..	35,232,160	36,524,160	38,555,960	16,993,160
Foreign Bills ..	859,040	835,360	1,623,800	3,303,000
Advances ..	7,764,320	8,698,440	10,564,040	4,225,600
Government securities ..	8,219,600	8,305,360	8,373,960	8,226,960
Circulation ..	115,001,880	115,361,280	114,189,360	62,876,640
Deposits at notice ..	12,861,800	12,561,480	12,071,560	5,915,440
Current accounts ..	19,819,120	18,976,800	17,591,680	2,695,240

## BANKS' MONTHLY STATEMENTS, JUNE.

BANK.	Deposits.	Cash in Hand, &c.	Cash at Call, &c.	Bills, Advances, &c.	Proportion of Cash to Deposits.
Capital and Counties ..	£ 47,885,909	£ 9,336,489	£ 8,583,264	£ 22,982,131	19.5
Coutts & Co. ..	13,072,000	2,395,000	3,650,000	5,383,000	18.3
Lloyds ..	134,524,366	12,673,211	5,881,998	76,219,421	24.3
London & Provincial ..	24,630,539	4,381,936	4,192,183	13,431,911	17.8
London & South Western ..	25,038,814	5,127,174	2,925,409	13,145,832	20.5
London City and Midland ..	142,388,314	36,356,672	9,529,997	82,506,567	25.5
London County & Westminster ..	113,396,556	31,242,440	12,402,960	59,816,928	27.6
London Joint Stock ..	45,172,086	10,346,998	3,800,398	28,895,584	22.9
National ..	15,259,869	2,952,457	2,940,500	10,288,018	19.4
National Provincial ..	85,184,187	13,226,909	4,442,618	53,997,290	15.5
Parr's ..	58,441,003	13,932,751	11,279,370	25,822,213	26.8
Union of London ..	50,201,178	11,008,456	8,150,588	24,626,157	21.9
Williams Deacon's ..	20,772,457	3,933,904	3,087,799	11,223,998	18.9



BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	June 26, 1915.	July 11, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£ 6,297,000	£ 6,300,000	£ 6,302,000	£ 5,878,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	4,496,000	4,525,000	4,533,000	6,328,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,703,000	2,732,000	2,769,000	1,556,000
Discounts and Loans ..	7,706,000	7,918,000	7,479,000	5,671,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,340,000	15,920,000	15,073,000	12,146,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,614,000	4,180,000	4,367,000	3,670,000

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 20, 1915.		July 22, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland.. .. .	Three months' bills.. ..	12.2	12.3	12.2	12.3
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	11.79	11.84	11.85	11.90
Italy .. .. .	Three months' bills.. ..	29.55	29.75	29.90	30.15
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	29.15	29.35	29.50	29.75
Lisbon & Oporto..	Cable transfers .. .. .	36½	35½	36½	35½
New York .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	4.76½	4.77½	4.76½	4.77½
Do. .. .. .	Cheques & mail transfers ..	4.77	4.78	4.77½	4.78½
Paris .. .. .	Three months' bills.. ..	26.85	26.95	27.20	27.30
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	26.45	26.55	26.80	26.85
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	150	155	149	145
Scandinavia.. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	18.55	18.75	18.45	18.65
Spain (Bnk. plcs.)	Three months' bills.. ..	46½	46½	46½	46
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	25.00	25.15	25.00	25.25
Switzerland.. ..	Three months' bills.. ..	25.75	25.95	25.95	25.15
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	25.35	25.55	25.55	25.75

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. .. .	chqs.	26.57½	26.90	Antwerp .. .. .	short sight	—	—
Brussels .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. .. .	sight	29.25	29.70
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.91½	11.89	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. .. .	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro..	90 dys	13 d.	13½ d.
Hamburg .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres..	90 dys	48½ d.	48½ d.
Vienna .. .. .	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. .. .	T.T.	1/32 d.	1/32 d.
Petrograd....	3 mths	143	143½	Bombay .. .. .	T.T.	1/32 d.	1/32 d.
New York .. ..	sight	4.77	4.77½	Hong Kong....	T.T.	1/97 d.	1/97 d.
Lisbon .. .. .	sight	36	36½	Shanghai .. ..	T.T.	2/24 d.	2/24 d.
Madrid .. .. .	sight	25.12½	25.10	Singapore .. ..	T.T.	2/40 d.	2/40 d.
				Yokohama .. ..	4 mths	2/0½ d.	2/0½ d.

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. ..	2½	2½
Six months .. .. .	3½	3½
Nine months .. ..	3½	3½
Twelve months ..	3½	3½

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5	5
Three months .. ..	5	5-5½
Four months .. ..	5-5½	5½
Six months .. .. .	5½	5½
Three months five inland bills	5½	5½
Four months .. ..	5½	5½
Six months .. .. .	5½-6	5½-6

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
" short loan rates .. ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2	3½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	2½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	3-4	4½
" for call loans .. .. .	2-2½	3½-4½

The Week's Stock Markets.

It is still waste labour to talk about stock markets, for the amount of business being transacted on the Stock Exchange is so minute as to deprive price movements of any character. Yesterday, for example, the old War Loan hardened in price to 93½ buyers on very small dealings. A little more buying and we may see the price again at 95; indeed, the Treasury is credited with a determination to put the price up to that point before dealings in the new War Loan begin on the 29th inst., and that would certainly be a strategic move of considerable value, because any rise in Government stocks would not only facilitate the dealings in the new loan itself, but help to sustain quotations everywhere. These are still disposed to droop, and the Metropolitan dividend disappointment does not encourage the hope of better things in the immediate future. Why this loss of ½ per cent. per annum? Why should not our railway dividends be maintained? is a question nobody is able to answer because no accounts are made public. Shareholders are completely in the dark, but have no cause to grumble, for the reason of the reduction in the dividend is wholly outside the concern of the Government, as explained below. It is, however, probable that

all the dividends to be declared for the past half-year have not been earned, certainly not by the ordinary traffic of the railways under Government control—which, by the by, the underground lines, apart from the District and the Metropolitan, are not—for that has been smaller than for the first half of last year and goes on dwindling. The stoppage of tourist and excursion tickets, a necessary measure perhaps, must still further reduce earnings in the current half-year, and as the Government business, however enormous, is not paid for by scales of rates and charges, the effect must be to keep dividends down or to put them down. Should the public sell Home Railway stocks because that is so? No, sell nothing that can be kept at the present time. Even should our railways pass through a period of poor earnings after the war their stockholders may be compensated in other directions. And whether or not, the mere fact that the war has ended will lift such a cloud off the minds of people everywhere and promise such a return of sunshine to the world, political and industrial, as will have for a time a great stimulating influence on prices. But can we turn to no quarter for a safe and steady investment? Safe, yes; steady, no, if price is meant. Best put new money in the 4½ per cent. War stock.

The most important event this week, or, at least, the one most anxiously expected, has been the announcement by the Committee that dealings would be permitted in the new War Loan "cum rights" on July 29, and "ex rights" on August 3. Considerable discussion has taken place regarding the probable price at which dealings will open, and also the value which will be put upon the "rights."

In the beginning of the week the Stock Exchange was too fully occupied with War Loan payments to be able to give much attention to other matters, and business dwindled. The tone was dull at first, on the whole, but gradually become more cheerful as the week went on. Old War Loan relapsed to 92½, but recovered to 92¾ after the fixing of the date for dealings in the new issue, and has since improved to 93½ on good buying. The actual amount involved was not large, but jobbers were short of the stock, and as it was believed that the whole of the purchase was not effected, a further advance is looked for. Colonial Government scrips, and especially Union of South Africa, were very weak, but they rallied in sympathy with the recovery in War Loan. It was announced in Ottawa on Wednesday that the Canadian Government had sold in New York \$25,000,000 of one-year 5 per cent. notes at par, and \$15,000,000 of two-year 5 per cent. notes at 99½, with the option to holders to convert into 5 per cent. 20-year debentures. The proceeds, amounting to about £8,000,000, will provide for capital expenditure during the current year upon undertakings under construction in the Dominion.

Foreign bonds have been dull, with Russian issues lower on the war news. Japanese things have also given way a little, but Chinese were steady. Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury notes lost part of their recent advance, and Brazil new Funding fell to 60½.

Home Railway stocks again moved downwards on the coal strike, but the settlement of the dispute brought in a few buyers, as dealers were short of stock, and the earlier losses were mostly recovered. On Wednesday the announcements of the dividends for the past half-year began with the South-Eastern and Chatham, but neither attracted very much attention. The South-Eastern maintains its rate at 1 per cent. per annum on the undivided ordinary, but the Chatham reduces its distribution on the Arbitration preference from 4½ per cent. to 4. It is, however, believed that the payment for the full year will not prove very much short of that for 1914, and after touching 7½, the price rallied to 7½. Metropolitan fell to 24½ on the unexpected reduction from 1½ per cent. to 1 in the dividend, but the directors pointed out that the decrease is due to the company receiving from the Government under the guarantee only the same net traffics as in 1913, although the company has to provide interest on the capital cost of the new lines and works since brought into use. Canadian Pacific shares, after fluctuating within narrow limits, fell sharply towards the end on sales influenced by the non-payment of a dividend by the Hudson's Bay Co., but Grand Trunk stocks were steady. The Assam Bengal Railway, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, is offering to holders of the £650,000 debentures maturing on August 3 the option of renewal either for one year at £99 2s. 6d., or for two and a-half years at £97 2s. 6d., the rate of interest in each case being 4 per cent. This offer will remain open until July 29. American Railroad shares have followed the ups and downs of Wall Street as usual, and most of them show small gains on balance. Argentine Railways were again pressed for sale, but became steadier towards the end, and closed above the worst. Leopoldina, too, recovered part of its earlier loss, and Mexican first preference was marked up to 53½, but San Paulo fell to 165.

In the Industrial section the principal event has been the rapid rise of Canadian Car and Foundry common to 73½, and



of the preferred to 95½. The company is said to be doing exceedingly well out of its war contracts, and the market is talking of payment of the arrears of preference dividend at an early date. Armament and Engineering shares have been quiet, and inclined to droop on the suggested taxation of war profits. Among Land shares Hudson's Bays fell ½ on the announcement that no dividend would be paid for the 12 months ended June 30, and British North Borneo dropped to 9s. 6d. on the report, which is dealt with on another page.

Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week
66½	Consols.....	65	65	—	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	99½	98½
69½	India 3½%.....	69½	69½	95	New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
80½	— 3½%.....	80½	80½	92	Queensland 4% ..	92	92
—	War Loan.....	92½	93½	—	— 4½% new	97	96½
92	Canada 4%, 1910-60	92	92	—	Union of S. Africa	—	—
—	— 4½%, 1920-5	95½	95½	—	— 4½%, 1920-5	97½	96½
92	N.S.W. 4%.....	95	95½	—	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	97½	96½
66	Belgian 3½%.....	66½	66½	—	French Rentes .....	69½	69
—	Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½	Japan 4½% (1st) ..	86½	86½
—	— New Funding .....	70½	69½	83	— (2nd) .....	83½	83½
—	Chinese 1896 .....	94	94	—	Russia 4% .....	74	73
—	— 1913 .....	82	82	—	— 4½% .....	80½	78½
—	Egypt Unified.....	85	85	—	— 5% .....	91½	92

Brighton defd. ....	53	52½	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	24½	23½
Caledonian defd. ....	91	91	Do. new pf. ....	100	100½
Chatham ord. ....	81	7½	Metropolitan .....	25½	24½
Gt. Central pf. ....	15½	14½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	100	100
— dfd. ....	71	68	Met. District .....	130	132
Gt. Eastern .....	38½	38	Midland dfd. ....	609	609
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	398	38½	Nth. British dfd. ....	16½	16½
Gt. Western .....	102½	102½	Nth.-Eastern .....	108½	108½
Lancs and Yorks. ....	70½	71	Nth.-Western .....	108½	107½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	238	23

Canadian Pacific .....	151½	149½	Chesapeake .....	38	40½
Do. 6% Notes .....	107½	108	Erie .....	26½	26½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	93½	Milwaukee .....	84	84
Grand Trunk ord. ....	82	88	N. Y. Central .....	89½	90
Do. 3rd pf. ....	21½	21½	Southern .....	14½	14½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes .....	97½	97½	Southern Pacific .....	88½	88½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " .....	96	95½	Union Pacific .....	131½	132½
Atchison .....	104	104½	U. S. Steel .....	638	662
Baltimore .....	79½	80½			

Antofagasta dfd. ....	111	111	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	80	76
Do. 6% Notes ..	99½	99½	Do. 5% Notes ..	98½	97½
Brazil Com. ....	77	77	Do. 6% " ..	102	101½
B. A. & Pacific .....	46½	43	Leopoldina .....	31½	31
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	80½	76	Mexican ord. ....	14½	14½
B. A. Western .....	84½	83	San Paulo (Brazilian)....	167	165
			United of Havana .....	69½	69

Bank of Australasia.....	111	112	London City & Midland..	78½	78½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	8½	8½	London County & West...	16½	16½
Do. "B" .....	11	11	London Joint Stock .....	21½	20½
Capital & Counties .....	22½	22	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd)	25½	25½
Chartered of India .....	55	55X	Do. (£12 pd) .....	29½	28½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	75	75	Parr's .....	29½	29½
Lloyds .....	24½	24½	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10
London & Provincial .....	168½	168½	Union & Smiths .....	24	23½
London & S.W. ....	128½	128½			

Apollinaris ord. ....	2½	2½	Forestal Land .....	34/6	34/6
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	36/6	36/6	Furness, Withy .....	31/6	30/6
Associated Cement .....	3½	2½	Hudson's Bay .....	5½	4½
Birmingham Small Arms	55/	54/	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22/6	22/6
Borax dfd. ....	26/9	26/9	Do. dfd. "A" .....	38/	38/
Bovril .....	20/	20/6	Kynochs .....	30/6	30/6
Brazil Traction .....	50½	50½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/9	20/9
British Amer. Tobacco ..	68/6	66/6	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	25/6x	25/6x	Marconi .....	1½	1½
Brunner, Mond .....	31½	3½	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	22/	22/
Cammell-Laird .....	5	4½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½x	3½x
Castner-Kellner .....	59/	58/6	National Steam Car .....	12/3	12/3
Coats .....	5	5	Nobel Dynamite .....	16	16½
Cunard .....	2½	2½	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2
Dennis Bros. ....	27/	26/	P. & O. dfd. ....	260	260
Dorman, Long .....	20/6	20/	Royal Mail .....	74	72½
Eastmans .....	7/6	7/	South Durham Steel .....	26/9	26/9
English Sewing Cotton ..	34/	34/	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	74½	74½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24/9	25/	Vickers .....	33/9	33/

Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	8/	6/3	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½
Baku ros. ....	3/	3/	North Caucasian .....	28/	25/6
Burmah .....	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons. ....	14/9	14/3
Lobitos .....	26/6x	25/6	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	41½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3/6	3/6	Shell .....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline .....	3/6	3/6	Spies (10/-) .....	15/3	14/
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian .....	33/	1½

Anglo-Malay .....	8/7½	8/7½	Linggi .....	14/3x	14/x
Batu Caves .....	12½	12½	London Asiatic .....	6/3	6/3
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/7½	Malacca .....	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/9	2/7½	Malayalam .....	21/6	21/
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Merlimau .....	4/3	4/3
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	12/	11/9
Highlands .....	2½	2½	United Serdang .....	9/3	9/
Johore Rubber Lands .....	12/6	12/6	Vallambrosa .....	12/3	12/3

Abbottiakoon .....	8/	7/9	De Beers dfd. ....	10½	10½
Brakpan .....	3	2½	East Rand .....	1½	1½
Broken Hill Prop. ....	44/6	44/6	Gt. Boulder .....	14/6	14/6
Cam & Motor .....	13/6	13/6	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Central Mining .....	6½	6½	Modder "B" .....	5½	5½
Chartered .....	11/1½	10/3	Do. Deep .....	4½	4½
City Deep .....	3½	3½	New Modder .....	14½	14½
Cons. Gold Fields .....	18	1½	Rand Mines .....	48½	48½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	18½	18½	Rio Tinto .....	55½	56
Crown Mines .....	4½	4½	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½

Very little interest has been taken in Shipping issues, but Royal Mail, after falling to 72½, became steadier at that figure, and there was also an inquiry for Indo-China preferred and deferred. Marconi, after flinching a little on the halving of the dividend, rallied and finished only a shade lower. Gas Light and Coke relapsed to 80, on the reduction of the dividend for the past half-year from £4 17s. 4d. to £4 4s., but recovered to 81. South Metropolitan Gas fell 1. Liebig's were offered, and Lyons ordinary also gave way, but the preference shares of the last-named were wanted. Courtauld's further receded to 55s. 9d., and English Sewing Cotton were lower at 34s., but Coats were firm. A little business was recorded in Shawinigan Water and Power common at 115½, on the announcement that the company was issuing \$1,237,500 of new common stock at par to its share-

holders. The Stock Exchange Committee announces that while dealings in the "rights" are permitted, dealings in the shares resulting from those "rights" are forbidden under Temporary Regulation 4 (3), the same being in respect of an issue for an undertaking carried on outside the United Kingdom. Changes in Bank shares were mostly against holders, Capital and Counties and National Provincial £12 paid losing ½ each, London Joint Stock ½, and Parr's and Union of London ½. Chartered of India fell to 50, but Bank of Australasia showed a further recovery at 112.

Business in Oil shares has shrunk to very small proportions. Shell hardly moved, but Royal Dutch fell sharply to 41½d., and Anglo-Egyptian "B," although they hardened towards the end, still showed a substantial decline on the week at 6s. 3d. Spies gave way on the decision of the directors not to pay a final dividend owing to the heavy cost of remitting funds from Russia, but rallied on a little support being forthcoming. In comparison with other markets Rubber shares have been fairly active, and notwithstanding the reaction in the value of the commodity, prices have tended to improve.

#### FRIDAY EVENING.

Apart from the old War Loan and the Home Railway market very little interest was taken in markets, but the tone was more cheerful owing to talk of favourable war news. The War Loan touched 93½ at one time, but buyers then seemed to be satisfied for the present, and the price relapsed to 93½. Further dividend announcements were made to-day, but they had very little effect on quotations. The North-Eastern, Midland, and Great Northern distributions are all at the same rate as for the corresponding period of 1914, but the Great Eastern only pays 5s. actual, as against 7s. 6d., and both the Taff Vale and Barry Companies make a reduction.

#### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A steady tone has continued in this market, and a good demand experienced, especially for white grocery descriptions, but supplies of cubes and granulated are insufficient to meet requirements. Of British makes, Tate's cubes No. 1, sold, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; fine granulated, 28s.; standard, 27s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Of imported, white Java, spot, London, sold, 26s. 7½d. to 27s. 3d.; outports, 26s. 9d. to 27s. 3d.; soft Java outports, 25s. American granulated, London, 29s.; S. and T., 29s.; and J., 28s. 6d. The Cuban receipts for all ports last week were 24,800 tons, against 17,000 tons; and centrals at work 11, against 5 at same time last year. Production to end of June totals 2,323,000 tons, as compared with 2,388,300 tons at corresponding period in 1914. A good supply of cane was offered in auction and experienced fair attention, prices for most part being steady. 8,576 bags crystallised Trinidad were offered and partly sold: low brownish at 24s.; middling yellow, 24s. 6d.; good small grain yellow, 25s. 4,197 bags Jamaica, mostly sold: low greyish, 23s. 6d. to 23s. 9d.; low middling to mid yellowish, 24s. 1½d. to 24s. 6d. 1,800 bags St. Lucia, sold; low mid to mid yellow, 24s. 3d. to 24s. 6d. 461 bags Demerara bought in. Of Muscovado, 147 bags St. Lucia, sold: low brownish, 17s. to 17s. 3d. 299 bags Barbadoes, sold: middling to good, 20s. 6d. to 21s. 1,700 bags Brazilian, partly sold, low brownish, 16s.

**COFFEE.**—Small supplies in auction passed off quietly. Costa Rica, good bold, 76s. to 77s.; mid, 74s. to 74s. 6d.; small, 72s.; peas, 71s. to 74s. Colombian, fair bold, 61s.; fine ditto, 72s. Futures ruled quiet.

**COCOA.**—No auctions held. Private market steady. Summer Ariba, sold, 94s. to 94s. 6d. Accra, on spot, 75s. 6d., ex quay, Liverpool.

**TEA.**—Indian auctions passed off with a good general demand, and all grades above 1s. per lb. realised firm rates. Common kinds, however, displayed slight irregularity and weakness. Ceylon offerings met with less competition, and prices ruled easier for teas under 1s. per lb. Medium to fine sorts, however, met with good support, and realised generally steady prices. Java sales of 3,100 packages met a good demand, and prices ruled firm for all desirable liquoring qualities.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but steady. Fair Singapore, on spot, sellers, 5½d.; fair Tellicherry sold, 5½d. To arrive, Singapore, August-September shipment, quoted 5½d. Tellicherry, near, 50s.; Lampong, August-October, sellers, 5½d.; fair white Singapore, on spot, sellers, 9½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; Penang, 8½d. To arrive, Singapore, July-September, quoted 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; Penang, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves dull. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.

**RICE** met with moderate support, and values ruled steady. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 12s. to 12s. 3d., and Rangoon, two stars, 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. A cargo 2,700 tons Saigon bran, August-October, sold, 117s. 6d., c.f. and i. Rangoon beans, August-September, done £17 10s., c.f. and i.

**JUTE.**—Market exhibited a dull tone, and rates tended in buyers' favour. Native first marks, July, sellers, £24 10s.; new crop, August, £25; ditto, September, £24. Native first marks, afloat, sold, £24; red marks, afloat, at £27 10s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila descriptions inactive, with little or no change in prices. New graded fair, July-September, sellers, £36; medium, quoted, £31 10s.; coarse, sold, £27 10s.; and coarse brown, quoted, £25 15s., c.f. and i. New Zealand steady, but slow. G.F., July-September, sellers, £31 10s.; H.P.F., ditto, £30 10s.; and fair, £29 10s., c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Market for spot parcels ruled fully steady. Fair T.N. orange sold, 58s. Fair free A.C. garnet, quoted, 58s. to 59s. Futures in slow support. T.N., August delivery sold, 58s.; and December, sellers, 61s.



GAMBIER easier. Good marks, July-August, quoted, 31s. 6d., c.f. and i.

INDIA-RUBBER.—A firmer tone prevailed at first, but later an easier tone set in. Plantation, standard crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 6¾d. and 2s. 6d.; July, 2s. 6¾d. to 2s. 6¾d. and 2s. 6d.; August, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6¾d. and 2s. 5½d.; September, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6½d. and 2s. 5d.; October-December, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 4d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 6¾d. to 2s. 6d.; July-August, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 6d.; August-September, quoted, 2s. 6½d.; and September-October, 2s. 6¾d. Ball, June-August, quoted, 1s. 10½d. per lb.

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cuba No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian	3 2 8	3 2 6
Iditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	1 4 1	1 4 2
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 4 1	1 4 2
Lytle's granulated	27 6-28	27 6-28	Greasy Merino	0 10-1 2	0 8-1 2
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9 1	0 8 1
German Cubel. o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	2 0-2 4	1 7-2 7
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 0 1	1 7 0
Crystallised, West India	23 9-26 0	24 0-26 6	Cape snow white	1 4 2	2 0-2 5
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8 1/2	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Crepe	0 2 7	0 2 6
Broken	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Orange	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Steam, best	1 0 6	1 0 6
Orange	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Broken	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1-2 0	0 11 1-2 2	English Pig	25 15 0	25 15 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft Sept.	25 0 0	24 12 6
Trinidad—per cwt.	78 0-85 0	79 0-84 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	18 10 0	18 10 0
Grenada	72 0-81 0	73 0-80 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
West Africa	nom.	nom.	English Ingots	£ 171-£ 172	£ 163-£ 164
Ceylon Plantation	71 0-87 0	72 0-90 0	Do. bars	£ 172-£ 173	£ 164-£ 165
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0-99 0	92 0-95 0	Standard cash	£ 170	£ 162 10 0
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin Plates, per box	19 0-19 3	19 0-19 3
East India	66 0-102 0	66 0-100 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	49 0-118 0	49 0-118 0	English, Tough	£ 91-£ 92	£ 90-£ 91
Costa Rica	60 0-86 0	60 0-86 0	per ton	£ 88-£ 89	£ 86-£ 87
<b>Provisions</b> —			Best Selected	£ 106	£ 104
Butter, per cwt.			Sheets	£ 75 10 0	£ 74 10 0
Australian finest	138/-142/-	138/-140/-	Standard		
Irish Creameries	140/-146/-	142/-150/-	<b>Wheat</b> —per ton.		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	English, Tough	£ 91-£ 92	£ 90-£ 91
Russian finest	128/-132/-	128/-132/-	per ton	£ 88-£ 89	£ 86-£ 87
Normandy baskets	120/-142/-	120/-142/-	Best Selected	£ 106	£ 104
Danish finest	158/-160/-	162/-165/-	Sheets	£ 75 10 0	£ 74 10 0
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	13 6-16 0	13 6-16 0	Standard		
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			<b>Wheat</b> —per ton.		
Irish	88 0-95 0	90 0-97 0	Native firsts for shipmt. Sept.	£ 25 0 0	£ 23 15 0
Continental	84 0-95 0	84 0-97 0	<b>Oils</b> —		
Canadian	74 0-88 0	76 0-88 0	Linseed, per ton.	£ 261-£ 263	£ 261-£ 262
American	68 0-74 0	65 0-74 0	Rape, ref. English, casks	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Brown English, naked	£ 38-£ 40	£ 38-£ 40
Irish	106 0-116 0	106 0-116 0	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 36-£ 37	£ 36-£ 37
Canadian	77 0	72 0-82 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	83d.	83d.
American	57 0-82 6	54 0-80 0	Water White	94d.	94d.
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Edam	72 0-82 0	72 0-82 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs.	2 14 9	2 15 3
Canadian	78 0-84 0	74 0-76 0	Rape, Guzerat	2 16 6	2 15 6
Gouda	72 0-80 0	74 0-80 0	June-July		
English Cheddar	94 0-102 0	86 0-98 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Cleveland Cash	3 6 9	3 6 10 1/2
New Zealand	82 0-84 0	76 0-82 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	3/8, 4/11 per lb.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Bassien	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 5 1-6	0 5 1-6
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Kentucky leaf	0 4 1-6	0 4 1-6
Dutch	13 0-15 0	13 3-15 6	Latakia	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Russian	11 0-12 0	11 0-11 6	Havana	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Danish	13 0-15 0	13 0-15 3	Manila	2 0	2 0

COPRA.—Quiet and easier. To London: Ceylon, July-August and August-September, sellers, £23 10s. Malabar, August-September, £24 5s. F.M.S., Singapore, July-August and August-September, £22 12s. 6d. South Sea, ditto, £21 12s. 6d. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, July-August and August-September, £22 5s. Cebu, ditto, nominally £22 10s. Manila, ditto, sellers, £22 5s. c.f. and i.

WOOL.—Auctions were continued this week, and met with keen competition at steady prices for all desirable grades, but inferior and faulty lots were in less request.

TALLOW.—A firm tone pervaded the market. At public sale, 1,504 casks were brought forward, and 1,401 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. advance. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 35s. 6d.; dark to dull, 29s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.; hard, 36s. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 32s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; dark to dull, 29s. to 31s. 3d.; sweet, 37s. 3d. per cwt. Market letter unchanged. Town tallow, 33s. 6d.; melted stuff, 23s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6d. per 8 lbs.

OILS.—Linseed quiet, but firm. Spot, pipes (landed), £26 5s.; barrels, £27; Hull (naked), spot, £24 7s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £30, c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £29; refined pale, spot (pipes), £31 5s.; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Coconut, Ceylon, spot, £42. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £23, c.f. and i. Turpentine quiet. American spirits, on spot, 35s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 8½d.; water-white, 9½d. per gallon. Linseed quiet, but rates firm. Calcutta, June-July, 55s. 3d.; July-August, 55s. 6d.; August-September, —; La Plata, July-August, 52s.; August-September, 52s. 3d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, July-August (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), July-August, 50s. 6d. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, £9 10s.; August, £9 13s. 9d. Resin: common strained, spot, 12s. 3d. Palm oil, Lagos, £31.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market relapsed sharply last Monday on free liquidations, cash delivery declining to £74 5s., and three months to £75 10s. Buying orders were frequent until the middle of the week, while values of these dates reached £75 15s. and £77 2s. 6d. respectively, the tendency being easier on Thursday, when, after fairly active movements, cash settled down at £75 5s., with three months at £76 12s. 6d. Electrolytic, £90 to £91. Tin continued easier during the earlier part of the week, on realisations of near dates and forward sales, dealings being limited. Settling down last Monday at £167 cash, £162 three months, values of these positions by the following day receded to £164 10s. and £160 10s. respectively. A good general demand prevailed during the middle of the week, cash improving to £165 10s., and three months to £161 15s., standard closing on Thursday at £165 and £162 respectively. Lead steady. Foreign, July to October, £24 10s. to £24 17s. 6d. Spelter maintained. July, £102; October, £90. Iron rather better.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The general tendency was firmer since last Monday, without much business passing, principal staples being sparingly offered. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, quoted at 57s. 6d. to 61s., and reds 57s. 6d. to 60s. per qr., 504 lbs. Of imported sorts, No. 1 Northern Manitoba held for 60s.; No. 2, ditto, 59s. ex ship. Indian, ex ship, 55s. 3d. Plate, 56s., landed. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s. upwards; Manitoba patents, 44s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., landed. Grinding barley: Plate and Japanese, 36s., quay terms. Sound Plate maize, ex quay (new), 31s. 3d., ex ship; 32s. 3d., ex quay; old, 32s., quay terms. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 26s. 9d. to 30s., landed, according to quality. American white clipped, No. 2, 31s. 6d., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—There has been very little encouragement for producers in the market during the past week, and in most sections the demand has been decidedly quiet. Speculative operations to meet distant requirements seem to be quite out of the question at the moment, and buyers are loth to purchase anything more than small lots to meet urgent wants. Only minor changes have occurred in raw cotton quotations, and there is little or no change in the outlook for supplies from America and Egypt. In cloth from abroad offers for most outlets have been disappointing. The improvement in demand for China mentioned last week has broadened somewhat, and some producers of white shirtings have sold fairly extensively, but not much fresh business has come round in grey shirtings. Although the monsoon in India continues to make steady progress, trade advices are not altogether encouraging, and there are no signs of exporters being more prepared to place lines of weight. Some of the smaller markets have provided a fair trade in a quiet way, and the undercurrent of demand for Egypt keeps up fairly well. Buying for South America varies, and some of the outlets are much better than others. There continue many complaints from Blackburn manufacturers, and some thousands of looms are standing idle in that town for want of orders. Burnley producers have recently experienced a little relief, but it is said that the orders booked have been taken at wretched figures. The home trade continues rather quieter, and goods are not being taken so freely as a few weeks ago. American yarns for home use have not been at all active, but quotations are fairly well maintained. The output of the mills is being considerably curtailed as a result of the shortage of workpeople, and some concerns are only running about half the machinery. Some of the obstacles to shipments to Continental countries are being removed, but Government licences are being received very slowly. With regard to India, the prices ruling at the moment seem to be out of the reach of exporters. In Bolton spinings demand has been of a limited nature, and many complaints continue to be received from producers.

### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—A fairly good trade passed at steady rates. In auction choice yellow crystallised Demerara sold 28s. 3d. to 28s. 6d.; mid. to good yellow 24s. 9d. to 25s. 9d. Demerara syrups 19s. 6d. to 20s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Futures irregular. December sold 36s. 3d.

JUTE.—Tended in buyers' favour. 500 bales red C.S. in diamond D/E, spot, London, sold £23 10s.

HEMP.—Quiet. Fair, new graded, July-September, sellers, £35 15s.

INDIARUBBER.—Fully steady. Plantation standard crepe, spot and July, sold 2s. 6d.; October-December 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. per lb.

METALS.—Tin declined. Standard cash sold £164 to £162 10s., and three months at £160 10s. to £160 5s., closing £162 10s. and £160 5s. respectively. Settlement price £162 15s. Copper lower. Standard cash sold finally £74 10s., and three months at £76 5s. to £75 12s. 6d., closing £74 10s. cash and £75 12s. 6d. three months. Settlement price £74 10s. Electros



£89 to £90, tough £89 to £90. Best selected £86-£87, strong sheets £104. Lead generally steady. English £25 15s., foreign July buyers £24 5s., sellers £24 10s.; August buyers £24 12s. 6d.; September and October sold £24 12s. 6d. Spelter quiet. G.O.B. officially quoted at £102 to £90. Tin plates I.C. cokes 19s. to 19s. 3d., basis, f.o.b. Wales. Iron weaker. Cleveland cash 66s. 10½d., one month 67s. 3½d., three months 68s. 2½d. Quicksilver £18 10s.

OILS.—Linseed, spot, pipes £26 5s., barrels £27. Hull (naked), spot, £24 7s. 6d. Turpentine: American, spot, 35s. 3d. Linseed: London, Calcutta, spot 55s. 3d., afloat 55s. 3d.; June-July, 55s. 3d.; July-August, 55s. 3d.; August-September, 55s. 6d. La Plata, July-August, 52s.; August-September, 52s. 6d.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and July 17, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	—	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 17, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to July 18, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England .....		81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....		1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.	£	83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	—	11,235,000	10,189,000
Excise .....	—	16,305,000	10,735,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	—	10,919,000	9,403,000
Stamps .....	—	1,824,000	2,636,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	320,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	—	12,763,000	6,682,000
Land Value Duties .....	—	41,000	50,000
Post Office .....	—	8,400,000	8,750,000
Crown Lands .....	—	110,000	120,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	—	6,472	771,816
Miscellaneous .....	—	894,872	671,258
Revenue .....	—	62,818,344	50,268,074
Total, including Balance .....		146,269,296	60,702,593
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion.....		260,000	200,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount).....		—	1,500,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		28,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (Including Treasury Bills £201,397,000 in 1915-16 and £1,000,000 in 1914-15).....		202,397,000	1,000,000
Total .....		412,968,641	64,152,593

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	—	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 17, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to July 18, 1914.	
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	11,652,745	8,860,775	
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	395,649	—	
Road Improvement Fund ...	—	418,951	486,321	
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	—	1,652,260	1,465,267	
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	—	763,312	666,570	
Supply Services .....	—	306,362,298	46,325,303	
Expenditure .....	—	321,275,215	57,804,236	
OTHER ISSUES.				
For Advances for Bullion .....		345,000	370,000	
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914	
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		26,493,000	—	
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—	
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		830,000	800,000	
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	22,000	
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	—	
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—				
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—				
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		50,000	55,000	
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	53,000	
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—				
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	—	
Temporary Advances repaid—				
Ways and Means (Treasury Bills) .....		2,554,000	—	
		368,785,629	59,165,150	
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....	1915. July 17. £	43,578,227	1914. July 18. £	44,666,224
Bank of Ireland .....		604,785		521,219
Total .....		412,968,641		64,152,593

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 17, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	*176,997,000
Total .. .. .	£249,497,000

\* Includes £2,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 19, 1915.

## Critical Index to New Investments.

### COVENTRY CHAIN CO., LTD.

This company's ordinary business consists mainly of the manufacture of driving and engineering chains and engine parts for motor-cars, vans, lorries, and aeroplanes, and, naturally, it is at present very fully occupied. In addition, it and its subsidiary, the Coventry Repetition Co., are actively engaged in the manufacture of aeroplane parts, shrapnel shell, and other war materials, and have had to refuse important orders owing to lack of accommodation. To remedy this, and to enable the company to consolidate its financial position, the capital has been increased to £250,000 by the creation of 100,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, of which 70,000 were sold to Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., together with 50,000 of the unissued ordinary shares of £1 each, and were offered by that firm for sale at par for the preference shares and 21s. per share for the ordinary shares. During the four years ended August 31, 1914, the nett profits, after providing for depreciation and other outgoings, increased from £10,552 to £14,974, and the dividend was raised first from 5 per cent. to 7½, and then to 8 per cent., which was the rate paid for the last two years. The balance-sheet of August 31 last showed nett assets amounting to £137,967, exclusive of goodwill or patent rights, which had previously been written off out of profits. On the basis of the average annual profits for the four years, the dividend on the preference shares is covered more than three times over, and it is anticipated that the results for the current year will be at least as good as those for 1913-14, while the additional capital is expected to increase the nett revenue by a sum more than sufficient to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 8 per cent. The preference shares, therefore, appear to be a good industrial security, but the outlook for the ordinary shares is less assured, as although they will probably fare well enough so long as the present special work exists, there is no certainty that the company will be able to maintain its profits at a sufficiently high level to continue to pay 8 per cent. on the larger amount when the war is over.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Owing to the state of the Russian exchange the directors of the Spies Petroleum Co., Ltd., will not pay any further dividend out of the profits of the year 1914. The normal rate of exchange is about 9.45 roubles to the £, whereas the present rate is 13.75, a difference of about 45½ per cent. to the disadvantage of those who have to draw money from Russia, and a rate which would spell disaster were it not that Russia has been prevented by war from being able to sell her produce. Owing to the tremendous cost of the war the probability is that even had the seas been free the exchange would have been low, but the decline would have been nothing like that which has actually taken place. Happily, the day cannot be far distant when we shall see the Dardanelles and Bosphorus cleared for traffic, never, we trust, to be closed again. In mere matter of business done 1914 was wonderfully favourable for this company. Its nett production of oil rose by 5,311,490 poods to 18,895,130 poods, and 3,269,530 poods more at 14,164,635 poods were sold and delivered, yielding a nett revenue of 932,342 roubles more than that of the previous year at 4,490,771 roubles, the average price obtained having been only 1.081 copecks less than in the previous year at 31.579 copecks. In actual fact the selling price was 35.579 copecks per pood, but under the terms of a new contract entered into with the Grozny Standard Russe on February 15, 1914, four copecks per pood were retained by the Standard Russe for the purpose of writing off the difference between the old contract for purchase of oil and the new. Nevertheless, the nett profit for the year was £226,592, or £34,472 more than that of the previous year, which, however, was £56,228 lower than that of the year preceding, mainly because of the strikes now at an end. Including the balance brought forward, after deducting Russian taxes for 1913 and the nett premium on



shares issued, which last year yielded £137,687, there was altogether £371,213 available for appropriation, or £62,823 more than the year before. Out of this an interim dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum was paid on December 23 last, while £130,000 was placed to depreciation of buildings, plant, &c., and £30,000 used to write down the value of the company's holdings in the Terek General Oil Co. There is then £136,213 left to carry forward, or £119,073 more than a year ago, when a final dividend was declared and paid. It seems that production is well maintained at some points, especially on Well No. 1 on Plot 130 South Baskakoff, but the new wells being sunk give promise thus far rather than performance. For the first five months of the current year, however, the total production was 78,085 poods better at 6,086,315 poods, and the deliveries 717,641 poods up at 2,293,451 poods, while the average price shows an increase of 1.7535 copecks per pood at 36.3435 copecks. Work on the oilfields has been considerably affected by the shortage of labour and the delay in obtaining supplies owing to the war, while various extraordinary items of expenditure have had to be incurred in the way of giving assistance to families of the company's staff called up for service. Early this year the company was approached by the Grozny Standard Russe and asked to make concessions in the price to be paid under the existing contract for the sale of oil. The claim was made on the ground that the Standard Russe Co.'s tanks at Novorossisk had been destroyed by bombardment and the shipments of benzine through the Dardanelles stopped. There was also a lack of tank cars, so that there was great difficulty in storing and handling the oil. As a result of a visit of the Spies Co.'s London manager to Russia it was agreed to reduce the price this year by two copecks, but against that the Standard Russe agreed to reduce their monthly deduction to recoup cancelment of the old contract from four copecks to two. It is shown in the balance-sheet that the company's holding in the Terek General Oil Co., Ltd., is still valued at £103,840, or £51,344 more than a year before. The capital issued is now a round £1,000,000, or £157,000 more than at the end of the previous year. In other respects the movements in the balance-sheet do not call for special notice, but the total expenditure of capital on various works, especially on well sinking, last year came to £172,474, bringing up the aggregate cost of the property, including leaseholds set down for £307,432, to £1,324,523, from which, however, £558,446 has been written off for depreciation, leaving the nett value of the entire property at £766,078, or £42,474 more than 12 months before. The outlay upon the electric power station to date is entered at £186,000, an increase of £117,596 on the year, and stock of material is also £104,121 up at £272,888. Items given in sterling are calculated at the usual rate of exchange; that is to say, stocks of material and of crude oil, and the amount due by sundry debtors in Russia, bills receivable, &c. If these were taken into the balance-sheet at the current rate they would show a decreased value of about £82,000.

A year ago the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Co. stated that its operations had been hampered by the Balkan War, but its difficulties then were small compared with those occasioned in 1914 by the present European conflict. Not only was there a shortage of labour, but the Roumanian Government, by prohibiting the export of oil products, rendered the sale of crude oil extremely difficult, with the result that some of the wells had to be closed down, and the production curtailed to the quantity that could be disposed of. Prices were satisfactory until July, but there was naturally a serious decline after that, and although the output was a trifle larger at 13,585 tons, the nett profits were £5,603 down at £17,067. Of this £11,881 is written off for depreciation, compared with £5,637 applied to that purpose and £4,875 to extinguishing preliminary expenses last year, but nothing is put to reserve against £8,500, nor is the dividend of 5 per cent. repeated. The balance carried forward, however, is increased by £4,424 to £8,398. The three wells in Bordeni which reached the deeper oil source in 1913

yielded about 9,400 tons last year, and the output could have been increased if it had been possible to dispose of it. Of three other wells on the same property which had been carried to the deeper horizon, one struck oil on the 1st inst. and has been flowing at the rate of 100 tons a day, while three more had been deepened to within a few metres of the oil source when work had to be suspended pending the return to more normal conditions.

The Mount Austin (Johore) Rubber Estates owns no less than 10,927 acres, or 17 square miles, of property, of which 10,705 acres have been planted. It was not conspicuously successful up to the end of 1913-14, but during the year ended March 31 it appears to have brought a further large area into tapping, and at the end of that period had 2,950 acres in bearing. The crop of 720,532 lbs. fell very far short of the estimate of 851,150 lbs., but it was 272,848 lbs. more than the previous year's output, and the "all-in" cost showed a satisfactory reduction of 7.26d. at 1s. 4.3d. At the same time a very good price of 2s. 3.02d., or only 0.07d. less than in 1913-14, was obtained for the rubber, and nett profits consequently improved by no less than £29,295 to £34,973. With £6,701, or £5,678 more, brought in, the disposable surplus was £41,674, and the directors pay a dividend of 7 per cent., compared with nothing a year ago, and 3½ per cent. for 1912-13, after which they write £4,973 off the amalgamation expenses, leaving £1,500 less at £5,201 to be carried forward. During the year £29,097 was spent on development, including proportions of general estate and London charges, and the total cost of the properties, buildings, plant, &c., after allowing for depreciation, was £29,450 up at £658,519, against which the paid-up capital amounts to £450,000 and the debenture debt to £200,000. Loans of £28,876 appearing in the balance-sheet a year ago have been called in to meet this expenditure, sundry debtors are £28,910 down at £849, and cash has dropped by £3,144 to £1,264, but stocks of rubber come to £29,572, or £6,403 more. On the other hand, liabilities on bills payable have been reduced by £26,835 to £23,079, while sundry creditors are only £4,630 up at £8,858. Interest paid on the amount of the debenture issue applied in the development of the estate is carried as an asset, and shows an increase of £9,000 at £22,341, and after deducting the sum now written off, the expenses of amalgamation, &c., will stand at £6,000. It is expected that a further 1,590 acres will be brought into tapping during the current year, and the crop is estimated at 920,000 lbs.

No credit has been taken by the British North Borneo Rubber Trust in its accounts for the year ended June 30 for interest due on investments, the payment of which has been postponed, or which has been funded. The amount involved is probably substantially more than in a normal year, and may go a good way towards accounting for the decrease of £4,501 to £14,200 in the receipts. After providing for all expenses, and adding £3,159 or £929 more brought in, the total available for distribution was £3,431 down at £13,632, and the directors reduce the dividend from 3½ per cent. to 3, leaving £2,975 to be carried forward. A profit of £2,396 from the sale of securities has been written off the investments. These are £9,792 lower at £399,519, of which 29.43 per cent. is in rubber and produce companies, 22.08 per cent. in commercial and industrial undertakings, and 19.03 per cent. in railways. Advances against security also are £2,588 smaller at £1,027, and cash is £1,166 down at £934, but, on the other hand, the amount due to the bank is £14,000 down at £23,000, against an increase of £3,080 to £7,922 in sundry creditors.

Shareholders in the Eastern International Rubber and Produce Trust will not be able to extract much comfort from the report for the year ended June 30, in spite of the fact that the nett revenue was larger. The directors say that operations were much restricted in consequence of the war breaking out at the end of the first month of the financial year; but a profit was nevertheless obtained on the sale of securities, as against a loss of £2,450 in the previous year. Out-



goings, too, were smaller, so that the nett revenue showed an improvement of £7,096 at £17,300, but there were no special receipts corresponding to the £1,628 for French taxes recovered, and as £8,369 less at £5,135 was brought forward, the disposable total was £2,901 down at £22,435. Of this £10,000 is transferred to the reserve against depreciation of securities, compared with £20,201 written off a year ago, and £12,435, or £7,300 more, is carried forward. Investments taken at or below cost stand in the books at £415,337, or an increase of £31,417, and cash is £6,962 higher at £10,511, while loans have been reduced by £24,201 to £28,351. Although no valuation has been made of the securities owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable quotations, the directors say that, so far as can be ascertained, the investments in rubber and other tropical products show a considerable improvement in value. A year ago, however, there was a depreciation of no less than £154,570, which was reduced to £54,570 by the appropriation of the reserve and the sum taken from revenue, but by the middle of July there had been a further shrinkage of £9,000, making the depreciation still to be wiped out £63,570, and it is hardly likely that the recovery has been sufficient to cover this.

The directors of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust announce that, owing to the shortness of staff in the East, due to the war, they have to defer the holding of the annual general meeting for about two months until the receipt in London of information necessary for the preparation of the annual report.

**MANCHESTER NORTH BORNEO RUBBER.**—A very severe drought of unusual duration had an adverse effect on the output from this company's Melalap Estate during the year ended March 31, but the crop was nevertheless rather larger than the estimate, and exceeded the previous output by 32,821 lbs. at 169,338 lbs. The gross selling price was 4d. lower at 2s. 3.55d., and the "all in" cost was only reduced by 1.45d. to 1s. 3.04d., with the result that nett profits were practically the same at £8,804. Adding £8,004 brought forward, the total available was £16,809, but the directors reduce the dividend from 6 per cent. to 4½, and carry forward £9,575, or £1,571 more. It had been hoped that tapping would commence on the Kinarut Estate in September last, but operations were deferred owing to the drought. Expenditure on the property was £15,571, making a total of £146,094, against which £10,997 was received on capital account, raising the total amount paid up to £165,000. This year's crop from Melalap is estimated at 220,000 lbs., of which 47,953 lbs. had been harvested by the end of June, and it is stated that forward sales have been arranged of 36 tons from April to December at an average of 2s. 3½d. per lb. An interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum has been declared for the three months ended June 30.

**PADANG JAWA RUBBER.**—After writing off a trifle more at £672 for depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended March 31, including £2,429 brought in, were £974 better at £10,728. The directors double the appropriation to reserve at £4,000, and in order to do so they reduce the dividend from 8 per cent. to 7, and carry forward £2,178, or £376 less. Thinning out of the trees has taken place on the whole of the planted area, but as the majority of the trees removed were immature the output is not appreciably affected. The crop for the year was 150,655 lbs., or an increase of 24,459 lbs., but the nett price realised was 3.57d. lower at 2s. 4½d.

**RIM (MALACCA) RUBBER.**—With an increase of 36,403 lbs. to 157,180 lbs. in the crop for the year ended March 31, the "all in" cost was reduced by 6.29d. to 1s. 3.91d. The gross price was only 2.20d. down at 2s. 0.88d., and the nett profits, after providing for depreciation, showed an improvement of £3,316 at £5,805. Last year's surplus was used to write down preliminary expenses, but this time the directors apply £3,400 to the redemption of debentures, and transfer £1,851 to the redemption reserve, to bring that fund up to the actual amount already paid off, leaving £554 to be carried forward.

**JERAM RUBBER.**—Only a small increase of 7,821 lbs. to 164,912 lbs. is shown in the output for the year ended March 31, while the price fell by 7.33d. to 2s. 1.59d., and although the directors say that there was a further substantial reduction in the cost, the nett profits were £2,789 smaller at £8,712. With £1,796 brought forward there was £2,107 less at £10,507 available, but the directors maintain the dividend at 15 per cent., and even give the shareholders a small turn by paying it tax free instead of less tax. This generosity costs an extra £751, and it is therefore necessary to reduce the appropriation to reserve from £2,500 to £1,000, and the depreciation allowance from £1,750 to £500, which will leave the balance carried out a trifle higher at £1,808. During the year a further 2s. 6d. per share was called up on the partly paid shares, yielding £4,912, most of which has been put into investments, raising them by £4,183 to £9,926. Expenditure on development only amounted to £1,673, making a total of £44,505, exclusive of buildings and machinery; stocks of rubber are £2,695 higher

at £6,192, and there is a new item of £2,600 for loans, against a decrease of £2,881 to £4,640 in cash.

**ANGLO-JOHORE RUBBER.**—Out of a total area of 8,103 acres this company has only 891 acres under cultivation, of which 601 acres were in bearing on March 31. During the year ended on that date the company suffered from drought in the first three months, and also had difficulty in procuring sufficient skilled labour to deal with all the tappable trees. The crop consequently fell short of the estimate, and was only 11,612 lbs. larger than that of the previous 12 months at 160,344 lbs., but the "all-in" cost was reduced by 5.16d. to 1s. 7.72d., while the price showed very little change at 2s. 0.10d. After providing for debenture interest and writing off £762, or £135 more, for depreciation, the nett result was a profit of £1,892, compared with a loss of £854 last time, and the debit balance has been reduced to £335. The directors say that all capital expenditure last year was met out of revenue, but this does not mean that the capital account has been closed, as the cost of development is £1,545 up at £36,670, and the value of the estates, less depreciation, stands at £121,442, or £943 more. Nothing has yet been written off preliminary and debenture issue expenses and underwriting commission, which amount to £13,692.

**KALIDJEROEK RUBBER.**—In the year ended March 31 the coffee crop amounted to 3,792 piculs, or an increase of 1,079 piculs, and the rubber output was 16,599 lbs. larger at 440,023 lbs. The f.o.b. cost of the rubber was just under 1s. per lb., and the nett price was 2½d. lower at 1s. 10½d., but, after writing off £500 for depreciation and adding £1,073, or £559 more brought forward, the nett profits were £1,006 up at £5,828. Out of this the dividend of 8 per cent. is repeated, and an extra £500 at £1,500 is transferred to reserve, leaving £1,528, or £456 more, to be carried forward. A severe drought was experienced during the year, but its effects on the coffee crop will be felt more during the coming season, as the greater part of the blossom did not set. Under favourable circumstances a crop of 5,000 piculs might have been expected, but in the circumstances the directors do not look for more than 1,750 piculs.

**BUKIT SELANGOR RUBBER.**—A further increase of 19,522 lbs. to 61,457 lbs. is shown in the output for the year ended March 31, while the gross price realised was only 1.54d. down at 2s. 2.33d. The "all in" cost is not stated in exactly the same way as last year, but was apparently reduced by 4.65d. to 1s. 2.82d., and profits were £1,782 higher at £3,250. After providing for administration charges, the nett balance, including £579 brought in, was £1,012 better at £2,291, out of which an extra £50 at £250 has been written off for depreciation, together with £1,151, or £651 more, off preliminary expenses, and £661 off debenture issue expenses, leaving £351 less at £228 to be carried forward. For the current year the crop is estimated at 80,000 lbs. at an "all in" cost of 1s. 2½d. The directors say, in view of the considerable economies which have been effected in the working of the properties during the past year, they have felt justified in authorising the opening up of a further 150 acres.

**MALAYAN RUBBER, LOAN AND AGENCY.**—This corporation is evidently suffering still from the effects of the haste with which it rushed into rubber shares at high prices, and its misfortunes were accentuated in the year ended June 30 by the slump in the value of copra. The rubber companies in which it is interested made substantial progress, yet the directors have to admit that some of them show considerable depreciation even now. As regards the coconut industry, the loss of the German market, freight difficulties, &c., caused the price of copra to fall on various occasions to below the cost of production. Nett revenue shows a shrinkage of £5,134 at £5,175, but this figure does not include £3,804 for accrued interest, which has been satisfied by deferred interest warrants. Including £2,802 brought forward, the amount available is £7,977, or £2,794 less, the whole of which is carried to the new accounts, as owing to the depreciation of securities it is impossible to declare a dividend. The directors propose to reduce the capital by returning 10s. per share in 6 per cent. debenture stock and writing £39,302, or 4s. per share, off the remaining capital, which will then be split into 2s. shares. In this way, they say, the shareholders will receive a fixed payment equivalent to 3 per cent. on their invested capital, while the company will be in a more favourable position for the payment of dividends on its ordinary shares.

**BOGAWANTALAWA DISTRICT TEA CO.**—Owing to careful cultivation this company has managed during the past four years to increase its yield of tea per acre from 506 lbs. to 611 lbs. The crop for the 12 months ended March 31 was 124,843 lbs. larger at 1,408,121 lbs., and as about one-third of this benefited by the recent rise in price, the average was .66d. better at 10.02d. Profits, including £798 more at £1,326 brought forward, were £6,319 up at £22,378, but the dividend is only increased by 2 per cent. to 10 per cent., and after writing £1,500 off the cost of the estates and £641 off investments, compared with £750 put to reserve a year ago, £4,394, or £3,068 more, is carried forward. The directors say that they have decided to carry forward this large balance in order to enable them to subscribe to the War Loan, and convert the company's holding in Consols.

**BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL TEA PLANTATIONS TRUST.**—Plucking began on two of this company's estates in the year ended March 31, 42,892 lbs. of tea being harvested, the proceeds of which were credited to development account. Owing to the war it was impossible to sell any land at reasonable prices, and the nett income consequently showed a decrease of £2,878 at £2,588. Including £1,088 or £1,675 less brought forward, the surplus, after providing for administration expenses, was



£4,178 smaller at £2,002, and the directors are unable to repeat even the small dividend of 2½ per cent. paid a year ago. The amount transferred to the depreciation reserve, too, is reduced from £2,500 to £500, leaving £1,502 or £414 more to be carried forward. During the year a further 5s. per share was called up, producing £29,895, out of which liabilities on loans were reduced by £10,500 to £2,500, while the cost of the properties was increased by £12,355 to £40,707 and of investments by £5,256 to £79,160. The depreciation on the last-named, however, at the date of the balance-sheet, was £11,359, or £7,311 more than a year ago, and the depreciation reserve has been utilised to reduce this to £6,859.

**MAIKOP ORIENT OIL.**—On March 31 last the directors announced that, in view of the important developments upon Plot No. 457 of the Maikop Combine, they had decided to resume the sinking of this company's well on the adjoining Plot No. 435A. To provide the sum necessary to carry out the drilling operations, a call of sixpence per share on the partly paid shares was made on April 19, and the paid up capital, less calls in arrear, now stands at £193,821. The re-assembling of the plant to its original depth of 560 feet was completed by about the end of the company's financial year, which closes on May 13 (April 30 o.s.), and the latest advices state that a depth of 1,017 ft. had been reached on July 5. Leases of three of the company's plots expired in February, and the directors decided to apply for the extension of two only, surrendering the third which appeared to be outside the productive area.

### The Week in Mines.

The past week has witnessed no improvement in the condition of the Mining markets. The raising of the huge War Loan has swept the investing markets almost clean of available capital, and until the loan money is disbursed by the Government in war expenditure and filters its way back to the investing public no improvement is looked for in Stock Exchange business. Consequently, in the absence of buyers a few sales by those anxious to raise money depresses prices excessively, but as soon as fresh money comes forward for investment the tone of markets will quickly improve.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market, which last week received some stimulus as a result of the successful conclusion of the campaign in South-West Africa, has this week relapsed into a state of inactivity and dulness, for the buying movement lacked power for the reasons already mentioned. As a result the advance of last week has been partly lost; Brakpan relapsed ¾ to 2½, Central Mining ½ to 6½, Rand Mines ½ to 4 15-32, Gold Fields 3-32 to 1½, Modders ½ to 14½, and Knights ½ to 3. De Beers deferred, after rising from 104 to 10½, fell back to 10½. On the other hand, Knights Deep have been supported at 11½, Sub-Nigel at ½, a rise of 1½, Modder Deep at 4½, and Modder B at 5½. Among Rhodesian shares, Chartereds have been on offer all the week, and have steadily declined from 11s. 1½d. to 10s. 3d. Falcons were sold down to 8s., but Shamvas were supported at 1½ on the encouraging statements made in the report. Tanganyikas have been dealt in at 26s. West African shares have weakened, owing partly to the decreased output for last month. Abbontiakoons, Gold Coast Amalgamateds, and Ashanti Gold Fields have been less firm, but there has been no particular feature.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The copper market has moved irregularly in sympathy with the uncertainty of the metal market. Amalgamateds advanced at first on Wall Street buying to 77½, but a relapse to 76¾ ensued, while Anacondas, after touching 7½, fell back to 7½. Utah fell ½ to 13½, but Rio Tinto has been fairly steady at 56 to 56½. Hampden's declined further to 30s. 6d. Subsequently, owing to a sharp rise in the price of the metal and the firm tone of the New York market, prices again showed an improving tendency. Russian shares have been weaker on the disappointing Kyshtim dividend statement, which shows that the dividend will be reduced from 5s. to 3s. Kyshtims fell ¾ to 1½. Tanalyk declined to the same level, and Russo-Asiatics were sold down to 3½, a fall of 1½. Spasskys fell to 2.

In the Broken Hill group the tendency has been dull, British falling to 22s. 6d., Proprietary to 43s. 6d., and the debentures 1, to 103, and South Silver 1½ to 6½. Norths were fairly steady on news that full-time

working has now been resumed. The new smelting combination is taking active steps to grapple with the problem of disposing of its concentrates, and is now advertising in the Press for offers. Indian shares have been fairly firm, especially Mysore, which rose to 4. Golden Horse Shoes came on offer, and fell ½ to 2½, and Waihi fell 1½, but Kalgurli met with some support at 32s.; Elliotts were weak, the shares falling ½ to 3½, and Oroville relapsed 6d. to 14s. Tomboys were in demand at a shade under par. El Oros were severely affected by the issue of a statement showing that it is impossible to say when operations will be resumed owing to the chaotic condition of Mexico.

### MINING NEWS.

**WEST AFRICAN GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The returns compiled by the West African Chamber of Mines show that the output of gold last month was £135,289, a decrease of £12,000 as compared with June last year. The total for the half-year, however, shows an advance of £14,543 over the corresponding six months. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Jan. ..	£ 143,649	£ 128,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262	£ 66,107
Feb. ..	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270	63,081
Mar. ..	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376	67,673
April ..	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796	70,880
May ..	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678	96,409
June ..	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697	92,174
July ..	—	151,923	132,956	127,800	91,955
Aug. ..	—	150,386	126,090	136,407	103,753
Sept. ..	—	154,316	132,394	142,397	109,039
Oct. ..	—	159,410	137,153	142,414	109,503
Nov. ..	—	154,674	132,694	137,700	99,299
Dec. ..	—	147,699	127,472	144,382	99,569
Totals	868,843	1,727,944	1,634,700	1,497,179	1,069,442

**CITY AND SUBURBAN "LIFE."**—In response to inquiries from shareholders, the directors have issued a statement showing that the life of the mine is estimated at five years from January, 1915, on the basis of the present tonnage milled. Inclusive of the developed reserve of 758,700 tons at December 31 last, the total tonnage to be treated is reckoned at 1,690,000 tons, valued at 8.38 dwts. per ton. No allowance, however, has been made for the 2.7 City Deep claims under option, which will undoubtedly be exercised; or a reduction in costs permitting treatment of more ore from excluded areas; or an increased stopping width in undeveloped areas; but all these factors, if confirmed, will add to the life of the mine. The directors therefore consider it a reasonable assumption that operations will continue for quite seven years, but with a decreasing tonnage in the latter portion of the period.

**SHAMVA MINES.**—The report for 1914 covers the initial producing stage. Milling was started in January last year, and has continued uninterruptedly ever since. There were crushed in the 12 months 449,315 tons, valued at 3.52 dwts., which yielded £271,606 of gold. The reduction plant, as a whole, is one of the finest in South Africa, and judging from the results obtained is a very efficient and economical one. The actual extraction was 92.10 per cent., and working costs averaged only 8s. 1d. per ton. For the year the profit was £90,175, or 4s. 0½d. per ton. This year the results have shown a steady improvement, the profit rising from £12,657 in January to £19,484 in May, while costs have varied between 7s. 10d. and 8s. 11d. per ton. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was declared in March, and a further interim for the June quarter of 7½ per cent. (at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum) has been declared. It is the intention of the directors to distribute dividends quarterly, and it is hoped that the present rate will be maintained and eventually improved upon. Reserves of ore are estimated at 2,044,612 tons, valued at 5.24 dwts., against 2,405,796 tons, valued at 5.01 dwts., at the end of 1913.

**ZAMBESIA EXPLORING.**—The profit and loss account for 1914 shows a profit of £8,171, as compared with £27,080, making the total credit balance carried forward £259,802. But this credit balance is not available profit. Investments are entered in the books at £1,201,841, being at cost or under, but the directors consider, in spite of the depreciation in market values caused by the war, they are not justified in writing down this figure, as it is impossible to obtain proper market valuations.

**ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**—In the year to March 31 127,057 tons were treated for a yield of £135,917, as compared with 127,856 tons for £152,104. The grade declined from 23.79s. per ton to 21.39s. per ton, but working costs were about 3d. per ton lower at 19s. 8d. per ton. The nett profit was only £1,960, as compared with £23,826 in 1913-14 and £40,400 in the preceding year. No dividend is paid, against 6d. per share last year, £11,430 is written off development, leaving a debit to be carried forward, against a credit of £1,678 brought in. Broken ore lying in the stopes has decreased from 33,306 tons to 32,479 tons. In November last the option on the North Thompson property, adjoining the Hollinger mine, in the Porcupine district of Canada, was exercised, and a separate company has been formed to work the mine.



**KYSHTIM CORPORATION.**—How unjustified was the recent boom in Russian shares is shown in the preliminary dividend statement of this corporation. In spite of the high price of copper in the latter part of the period, the corporation derived about £90,000 less profit in the year ended January 13 last than in the preceding 12 months; and, according to information recently received from Petrograd, it is estimated that the earnings for the year will be equivalent to only 3s. per share, as compared with 5s. per share for 1913-14. This estimate is arrived at after providing the usual amounts for depreciation and reserve, in addition to some £30,000 for loss on exchange. The principal causes of the falling off in revenue were the reduced output and sale of refined copper and increased working costs caused by the war. It is intended to pay an interim dividend of 1s. per share, against 3s. last year, at the earliest date at which the directors can effect the necessary financial arrangement, and they will make their recommendation as to the final dividend when the report is issued in the first week of October.

**CENTRAL ZINC.**—The report for the year to March 31 states that loss of skilled labour reduced the output of spelter in the latter part of the period. Only 9,045 tons were treated, producing 3,192 tons of spelter, 89 tons of blue powder, and 43 tons of metallic lead, as against 9,870 tons treated for 3,461 tons of spelter, 25 tons of blue powder, and 52 tons of metallic lead. Owing, however, to higher prices, the profit was £10,413, as compared with £926 and £9,146 in the two preceding years. Operations are still hampered by labour scarcity, but efforts are being made to work all the plant, including two new furnaces, one of which is fully erected.

**AMALGAMATED COPPER.**—The statutory proceedings for the dissolution of this great copper-controlling company have now been completed, and the distribution of assets can now be made on the basis stated in the circular letter issued in May, by the terms of which shareholders will receive share for share in the Anaconda Co. and a cash distribution of \$3. Messrs. C. S. Henry and Co., of 12, Leadenhall Street, E.C., will receive certificates of the company for the purpose of the exchange. With the disappearance of "Amalgamated" the American market will lose one of its great gambling counters, and a story of modern financial juggling, which was made notorious by Lawson's "Frenzied Finance," will cease to live.

**SOUTH AFRICAN COPPER TRUST.**—The report of this company makes disappointing reading. The concern was formed under a reconstruction scheme for the purpose of developing various copper properties in South Africa and Rhodesia. A large amount of development work has been carried out in Northern Rhodesia, the result of which, on the whole, has been disappointing. Work has ceased at the King Edward mine, and negotiations for the reopening and lease of other mines have failed.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LTD.

The balance-sheet dated June 30th shows a reduction in the net profit for the past six months of £11,254 at £85,188, but £20,887 more at £46,412 was brought forward, so that there was £131,600, or £9,633 more, to be dealt with. The interim dividend, however, is reduced from 5s. 8d. to 5s. 4d. Liabilities on current and deposit accounts are £1,479,570 higher at £11,062,328, but acceptances come to £118,731, or £27,935 less. Cash on hand and at short notice is £1,371,508 up at £4,332,205, and investments have been increased by £964,846 to £2,662,618, mainly through a purchase of £932,045 of the 3½ per cent. War Loan. Advances on current accounts are £559,803 down at £4,915,094 while short loans on securities have been reduced £119,053 to £363,993 and bills of exchange by £167,821 to £1,488,427.

### PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LTD.

Including £7,165 more at £21,043 brought in the available profits for the first half of 1915 showed an increase of £10,060 at £76,469, so that the actual net income was about £3,000 larger than a year ago. The dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. is again paid, but instead of setting anything aside to reserve or bank premises, which got respectively £15,000 and £5,000 in 1914, the directors write £35,000 off investments and carry forward £3,463 less at £11,235. In the balance-sheet notes in circulation appear for £561,654 more at £1,311,618 and deposits, current and other accounts have risen £591,793 to £6,870,822, the reserve remaining at £375,000. Cash is £411,109 up at £1,062,288 and money at call and short notice is £17,300 higher at £527,300, making the total of these two items £1,580,588, an increase of £428,409. Investments in the aggregate have advanced £336,471 to £2,555,492, decreases of £110,510 to £1,126,566 in Bank of England stock and other investments, and of £6,572 to £152,851 in Indian Railway guaranteed by the State, being offset by an increase of £453,554 to £1,276,076 in British Government and Colonial Securities. Bills discounted and advances to customers, &c., have also risen £379,692 to £4,889,892, and there is a small increase of £3,937 in bank premises, raising them to £103,936.

### INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

During the greater part of the year ended December 31 trade in China was most disappointing, and although a little improvement set in during the autumn, it did not go far enough to offset the poor business of the earlier months. The net revenue, including £15,000, or £4,917 more, brought forward, showed a decrease of £34,355 at £94,910, but the allowance for depreciation was reduced by £14,105 to £30,555, and £3,519 less at £1,481 was written off debenture issue expenses. After pro-

viding £4,888 for war risks insurance the divisible surplus was £20,907 smaller at £29,540, and out of this the usual 6 per cent. is paid on the preferred shares, but the dividend on the deferred ordinary shares is reduced from 5 per cent. to 3, while nothing is written off underwriting account compared with £8,173 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £7,775 to £7,225. The new steamer for the Upper Yangtze mentioned a year ago has been completed, and a steamer on the stocks was also purchased for the Lower Yangtze trade. This, however, was requisitioned by the Government, and although a contract for the replacement was immediately entered into, little or no progress in the construction can be reported. The book value of the fleet shows an increase of £18,798 at £714,355, against which the underwriting account stands at £88,598. Debtors owe £44,259 less at £106,681, and, on the other hand, the liability on debentures has been reduced by £16,850 to £225,300, but a decrease of £6,000 to £19,457 in sundry creditors is offset by a loan of £6,500 from the bankers.

### LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE WAGON CO., LTD.

During the year ended June 30 the revenue from the hiring department rose by £6,316 to £68,418, but of this £53,250, or £6,558 more, was written off for replacement of capital invested in wagons, and after providing for other charges the balance transferred to profit and loss was £596 up at £9,081. The works revenue account gave a surplus of £2,202, and with £2,342 brought forward, the total available was £1,283 better at £13,626. Out of this the dividend of 10s. and bonus of 4s. per share are repeated, but this time they are paid less tax instead of tax free, and the balance carried forward is increased by £2,321 to £4,663. The capital account is now over-spent by £5,388, compared with a credit of £8,264 a year ago, stocks are £6,864 higher at £13,009, but debtors owe £15,441 less at £9,164, against an increase of £4,702 to £6,606 in sundry creditors, and a decrease of £1,160 to £80 in bank loans.

### ROYAL BREWERY, BRENTFORD, LTD.

A further improvement of £2,953 to £80,033 is shown in the gross profits for the year ended June 30, and, at the same time, the expenditure on the brewery was reduced by £926 to £1,462 and on repairs and maintenance of houses by £1,646 to £6,126, so that the nett profits, after providing for administration charges, were £5,183 up at £33,659. The expenditure on repairs, &c., just mentioned, was reduced to a minimum owing to the war, but the directors point out that this work will have to be carried out, especially with regard to the brewery, at a more convenient date, and they therefore consider it necessary to carry forward as large an amount as possible to provide for this, as well as for the increased price of materials, extra working expenses, &c. A dividend of 12 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, as before, but the bonus of 2 per cent. is not repeated this time, and £5,500 less at £1,000 is added to the special reserve for "B" debenture stock, while a slightly smaller sum of £2,598 is placed to the reserve towards a moiety of the taxation under the Budget. Nothing, however, is written off compared with £1,285 for expenditure on reorganising the "B" debenture stock a year ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £13,774 to £16,263. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £5,158, but £2,856 was written off for depreciation, leaving this item £2,302 higher at £568,049, against which the various reserves aggregate £150,702, or £6,571 more. Stocks are £5,903 larger at £17,080, and cash has risen by £15,903 to £22,334, while, on the other hand, sundry creditors are £14,071 up at £31,696.

### THRELFALL'S BREWERY CO., LTD.

After setting aside £5,727 more at £56,327 for depreciation of freeholds, leaseholds, plant, &c., and meeting debenture interest and the increased licence duties, profits for the year ended June 30 were £1,046 higher at £71,677. Out of this the ordinary dividend of 9 per cent. is once more paid, and £995 added to the amount brought in, making £40,869 to be carried forward. The property account now stands at £2,551,003, or £8,149 less than in the previous year, and against this the company has a reserve of £410,000. Stocks are £19,351 up at £152,050, and cash has risen £13,012 to £64,830, while sundry credit balances are also £31,724 higher at £94,880, but deposits have been reduced by £4,153 to £51,858.

### CHAMPDANY JUTE CO., LTD.

Business was again bad during the first half of the year ended April 30, when the mills worked at a loss, and although the position was naturally improved by the extraordinary demand for jute in connection with the war requirements, the nett profits for the 12 months, including £13,376, or £8,067 more brought forward, were still £21,504 smaller at £33,692. Nothing is put to reserve compared with £10,000 a year ago, and £3,000 less at £17,000 is applied in writing down block account, but in view of the favourable outlook for the current year, the directors feel justified in repeating the dividend of 6 per cent., and carry forward £4,872, or £8,504 less. Property account has been reduced by £4,819 to £289,021, but stocks are £8,835 up at £223,054, while £13,943 more at £209,449 is due to sundry creditors.

### LONDON AND BRITISH NORTH AMERICA CO., LTD.

In the early part of this company's financial year, which ended on March 31 last, business conditions in Western Canada, and particularly in British Columbia, were not satisfactory, and the general depression was further accentuated by the outbreak of war, which rendered increasingly difficult the securing of prompt payment of interest and other loan charges. The agency and commission business has also suffered, and as working expenses could only be adjusted gradually, it is not really surprising to find a decline of £16,699 in profits, re-



ducing them to £14,958. A small amount is now set aside for maintenance of buildings, &c., in Vancouver, but no appropriations are made corresponding to those in the previous year for purchase of business, depreciation of investments, &c., aggregating £7,198. Further, the ordinary shareholders, who got 5½ per cent. in 1914, now go dividendless, but £3,241 is added to the amount brought in, making £5,898, to be carried forward. Investments, in which there is said to be a material depreciation, figure in the balance-sheet for much the same at £58,795. Loans on mortgage and advances against security are £33,141 up at £292,137, but debtors owe £23,784 less at £17,032 and cash shows a decrease of £36,532 at £52,283. Sundry liabilities, however, are also £23,257 down at £26,942.

#### EDINBURGH CANADIAN MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

Including £556 more at £1,458 brought in the gross revenue for the year ended May 31 was £3,263 larger at £23,697, the income from investments having risen £2,707 to £21,305. Interest, however, absorbed £2,247 more, so that, after meeting all expenses, the nett profit was only £1,268 up at £14,245, out of which the ordinary dividend of 5 per cent. is repeated and £2,500—since the close of the accounts invested in 4½ per cent. War Loan—transferred to reserve compared with £2,420 written off preliminary expenses, leaving £1,745 to be carried forward. The sum invested on mortgages shows an increase of £42,197 at £285,574, spread over 839 loans, chiefly on farm lands in Saskatchewan. Nett interest due and accrued on investments is £7,359 up at £17,052 and the company has £1,510 in cash against £1,636 due by it. On the other hand, terminable debentures have risen by £31,930 to £96,422 and temporary deposits by £11,775 to £16,400, making a total of £112,822, or £43,705 more.

#### BROWN, STEWART AND CO., LTD.

The effects of the war on this company have been positively disastrous, and although wages and the cost of coal, light, &c., were cut down by no less than £11,410, the nett result for the year ending May 1, after providing £5,851 for depreciation, was a loss of £3,925, as compared with a profit of £4,857 in the previous year. A sum of £71,686, however, has been amassed by the balances from former years, and out of this the directors propose to give the preference shareholders 3 per cent. against the full 6 per cent. received in 1914. Additions to the property and plant exceeded the allowance for depreciation by £2,104, raising the aggregate to £148,385. Stocks have been reduced by £7,608 to £40,707, and book debts by £3,067 to £19,375, while sundry liabilities also come to £3,030 less at £19,038.

#### HILLS' DRY DOCKS AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

In the year ended June 30 a nett profit of £12,735 or £5,345 more was made, and as the balance brought in was slightly larger at £4,675, the available total of £17,410 was higher by £6,185 than 12 months ago. The directors, however, are content merely to maintain the dividend at 5 per cent., and set aside £5,337 of the extra money to reserve for trade contingencies, leaving £848 more at £5,523 to be carried forward. Property, docks and buildings remain the same at £122,665, but machinery, tools, stock, &c., have been increased by £5,452 to £18,899. Cash and bills in hand are £2,798 up at £4,054, but debtors owe £6,287 less at £10,887, while creditors have been reduced by £4,211 to £5,432.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*The Political Economy of War.* By F. W. Hirst. London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 10, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. 5s. nett.

*Mathieson's Half-Yearly Highest and Lowest* (July, 1915, issue). London: F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue, E.C. 2s. 6d.

*Census of the Commonwealth of Australia* (April 3, 1911). Australia: Census Bureau, Melbourne.

#### BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

**CHARLES HOARE AND CO.**—The statement of assets and liabilities of this private bank at July 6 shows that the amount due on current accounts has been reduced by £43,593 to £2,057,126, and on deposit accounts by £25,749 to £626,285. Cash, on the other hand, is £71,063 up at £563,767, and money at call comes to £11,000 more at £507,000, but investments show a decrease of £100,569 at £618,945 and loans, overdrafts, and bills discounted of £50,836 at £1,378,700. Freeholds remain the same at £100,000, while the total of the balance-sheet is £69,342 down at £3,168,411.

**EAST SURREY WATER CO.**—Further mains were laid in the year ended March 25 to the extent of about one mile to serve additional customers, and nett profits showed an increase of £2,440 at £29,458. Including £9,840 brought in, the sum for division was £2,503 up at £39,298, and the dividends of 10 per cent. and 7 per cent. on the "A" and "B" ordinary shares are repeated, leaving £10,023 to be carried forward, after transferring £2,750 more at £4,000 to renewal and contingency fund. Capital expenditure amounted to £3,138, raising the debit balance to £12,785.

**HALL AND CO., CROYDON, LTD.**—Including £1,123 more at £11,512 brought in, the available total for the 12 months ended March 31 was £1,730 up at £28,650. Out of this the dividend of 5 per cent. and the bonus of 2½ per cent., or 7½ per cent. altogether, are again paid, while £2,100 is written off freehold and lease-

hold premises and plant, and £3,000, against £1,000, off investments, leaving £11,579 to be carried forward. Debtors owe £4,325 more at £59,716, and investments have risen £4,593 to £74,517, but cash is £4,657 down at £13,448.

A circular has been issued to notify that the meeting of "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" will be held in the Cannon Street Hotel on Thursday, August 5, at noon. The board also announces with regret that Mr. John Coles withdrew on December 31 last from the directorate, and that Messrs. Cecil Lubbock and Charles V. Sale have been elected to fill the vacancies. The last-named comes up for re-election along with Sir Thomas Skinner, who succeeded Lord Strathcona as governor, and Mr. Richard Burbage.

"The Oil and Petroleum Manual for 1915" (Walter R. Skinner, 11-12, Clement's Lane, E.C., price 4s. nett). The sixth issue of this standard reference work on oil can now be obtained, and really nothing more than that need be said to those who are interested in that market. This valuable brochure contains the most exhaustive particulars of no fewer than 640 companies, including details as to date of formation, location of property, number of wells sunk, output, &c., &c. In addition it contains lists of directors, secretaries, &c., together with the names and addresses of the companies with which they are connected.

A circular has been issued by the directors of the Briton Ferry Chemical and Manure Co., Ltd., giving notice of the holding of an extraordinary general meeting to deal with the purchase of additional acid-making plant and land and works connected therewith. They say that when the capital was increased in July, 1913, by the creation of 50,000 £1 cumulative preference shares they intended to offer them to shareholders to raise funds for the erection of a plant for the manufacture of artificial manure. Indications, however, have appeared that the conditions and prospects in connection with the use of acid were undergoing a change, and it was deemed advisable not to enter into any expense until the position was more defined. The directors consider that, although the manufacture of superphosphate may eventually prove profitable, it would be more advantageous at present to increase the production of acid, and desire to lay this modification of their plans before the shareholders. According to the new arrangements, a portion of the preference shares will have to be allotted for the acquisition of certain acid-making plant, which, used in conjunction with the present business, ought to provide an additional profit, after allowing for interest on the shares to be issued.

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## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LTD.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The 84th annual meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Liverpool, Ltd., was held on July 20 at the Law Association Rooms, Liverpool. The chair was taken by Mr. Fredk. W. Chance, chairman of the bank, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—No one who was present at our annual meeting a year ago anticipated that within three weeks this country would be plunged into the greatest war and the greatest financial crisis the world has ever seen. During those three weeks events moved with startling rapidity, and came to a climax at the end of July and the beginning of August. The closing of the Paris Bourse was followed by the closing of other foreign bourses, and of the London Stock Exchange, for the first time in its history. The provincial exchanges, the New York and Alexandria Cotton Exchanges, the Liverpool Cotton and Corn Future Markets, and other markets also closed. The shock to credit, especially in London, as the world's financial centre, was so acute that exceptional measures had to be taken to prevent a collapse of the entire financial machinery. During the August Bank Holiday, which was extended by three days, the Government, in constant conference with the Bank of England and other banking and financial authorities, devised the measures which were to prove so effective in restoring confidence. The issue of Treasury notes, the establishment of a moratorium, and the exceptional discount facilities afforded by the Bank of England under the Government's guarantee were the first of a long series of remedial measures. During the weeks that followed the steps taken under the guidance and with the support of Government included the establishment of a scheme for State Insurance of Marine War Risks, a scheme for the re-opening of the Stock Exchange, a scheme for the relief of traders, whose means were, for the time being, locked up in foreign debts, and other measures.

By all these measures this bank and the other banks of the country were in greater or less degree assisted in their efforts to cope with the crisis, and to do their share in carrying on the business of the country. In particular, the knowledge that banks could obtain Treasury notes, should they require them, and could claim the protection of the moratorium in case of need, at once allayed public anxiety. I am glad, however, to say that, so far as this bank was concerned, we had no occasion to avail ourselves of either of these privileges. On the other hand, we lent money with more than usual freedom, feeling that the only way to deal with the exceptional circumstances was to give exceptional facilities. I am happy to assure you that the confidence thus placed in our borrowing customers was entirely justified.

It is only right that I should acknowledge the obligation under which the banks of the country were placed by the courage and ability of the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the authorities who assisted him in dealing with the crisis. The situation was unprecedented, and the remedies had to be rapid and bold. Fortunately, they also proved efficient. Within a few months the working of the foreign exchanges was, to a large extent, restored, the moratorium brought to an end, and the Treasury notes, instead of being mere paper money, were backed by a large fund of gold. It is true that business is still surrounded by innumerable difficulties, and this will continue to be the case so long as the war lasts, but, considering the magnitude of the struggle, and the fact that the combatants include most of the enterprising commercial nations of the world, we may be thankful that the financial machinery is working as smoothly as it is.

It is not time yet to consider what changes, if any, may be required in our financial system to enable us to meet similar crises in the future, but I cannot help wondering whether it will not be possible to keep the Treasury notes scheme in existence as an instrument capable of unlimited expansion in time of crisis. This and other questions affecting the financial arrangements of the country will call for consideration when the present international struggle is ended, and the lessons of the crisis can be quietly digested.

I may be allowed to refer to one measure which closely affected our Liverpool business—I mean the scheme for the re-opening of the Liverpool cotton future market. When it became evident that the time for reopening that market had come, it was feared that the reopening would lead to a serious fall in the price of cotton futures, and that the call for payment of heavy differences might cause financial trouble in the

market. The case was referred to the Board of Trade, and by the united efforts of the Board of Trade, the directors of the Cotton Association, and the Liverpool banks a scheme was adopted by which the banks undertook to find the money required for differences, the risk being borne to the extent of 50 per cent. by the Government, 25 per cent. by the Liverpool Cotton Association, and 25 per cent. by the banks. Under the protection of this scheme the market reopened, and it is a most gratifying tribute to the soundness of the Liverpool cotton market and the members of the exchange that in no single instance did any member require to take advantage of the scheme.

The financing of the war has had a direct bearing upon the bank during the past 12 months. In common with other banks of the country, and in the same proportion to our respective resources, we have subscribed for both issues of the War Loan. Our applications amounted to £7,200,000, i.e., £2,400,000 of 3½ per cent. loan, and £4,800,000 of 4½ per cent. loan. In addition, we have been takers of Treasury bills. I mention these facts not because I feel that credit should be given to the banks for subscribing any more than it should be given to other persons who have placed their money at the service of the State, but because I feel that you would like to know that this bank has not failed in its duty in regard to war finance. The issue of these War Loans has affected every bank by accentuating the depreciation of other investments. Another aspect is that, in so far as the proceeds of the loans are expended in this country, they find their way back into the banks, and swell the deposits in the hands of the banks. In our own case both these results can be traced in the report and balance-sheet which we present to-day. The depreciation of investments has been heavy, and has called, for the first time in our history, for a transfer from our reserve fund to our investment reserve account, but the deposits show a large increase. At the time of the amalgamation with the North-Eastern Bank the combined deposits of the two banks amounted to £24,500,000. They are now £32,300,000, and I am confident that this growth will continue so long as the Government have to spend the large sums they are spending on war services. When the war is over, this inflation of credit will present a sufficiently serious problem, but in the meantime we have taken care to keep our assets as liquid as possible with a view to the unknown future, and have raised our cash in hand, and with the Bank of England and other bankers, to £10,600,000. In this connection I ought to say that we have not thought it right to increase our holding of gold beyond an amount sufficiently ample for all likely contingencies. Your directors feel that this is not the time to add to our own gold reserve, but that the greater public service is to increase the balance which we keep at the Bank of England. Among the other items in the balance-sheet, the only one calling for remark is that our acceptances, which usually stand at about £800,000 at this time of year, amount to over £2,800,000. The increase represents transactions arising directly out of the war, and is all covered by undoubted security. With regard to the profits, these amount to about £23,000 more than the combined profits of the Bank of Liverpool and the North-Eastern Bank appearing in their last published reports, and in addition to the profits shown we have applied a considerable sum to the bank's internal funds. We are thus justified in maintaining the dividend at the same figure as last year. You will notice, with pleasure, that we have increased our profits carried forward by £29,000.

In another direction the bank is bearing its share of the war burden. Colonel Reynolds, our late chairman, and Mr. Neilson, one of the deputy-chairmen, were summoned to the colours on the outbreak of war, and are still with their regiments. We hope the time may not be far distant when they will be able to resume their active duties as directors. One hundred and eighty-five members of the staff, being a large proportion of those eligible for military service, have also joined the colours. I am sure we must all admire the loyalty and devotion which have led so many to volunteer for military or naval service. Several have been wounded, and six have been killed. I wish here and now to offer a tribute of admiration and respect to their memory. As a result of this movement of men to the colours, our staff was for a time badly depleted, and a great strain was thrown upon those who remained with us. The staff, however, rose to the emergency, and now we have succeeded in securing the clerical assistance we require, including that of a number of lady clerks, who are rendering admirable service. Incidentally, I may mention that, including allowances granted to men with the colours, the war has for the time being added £14,000 to our annual staff expenses.

The work of the bank during the past 12 months has been conducted under abnormal trade conditions. The cotton im-



porting season was late in beginning, and the prospects at first looked unpromising, but as the season went on importing took place on a large scale, with results, on the whole, favourable to Liverpool importers. Spinners were badly affected at the outbreak of war, and many mills closed down for the time being. Most of them have since resumed work, but many are running on short time. The production of fine counts is proving unremunerative, but coarse counts are yielding good results, chiefly owing to Government orders. Manufacturers of cloth, on the other hand, have to be satisfied with little or no margin, and dyers and printing concerns are seriously hampered by the scarcity of dyes, while the shortage of men in all branches of the textile trade is restricting production. The wool trade was at first seriously affected by the war, but in a few weeks Government orders on a large scale completely changed the outlook, and mills have been working at high pressure, and with profit. One of our managers reports that considerable quantities of goods are being produced which were formerly supplied to us by the Continent. The condition of the foreign exchanges has been a cause of considerable anxiety to traders, and the enhanced price of raw material is causing the Bradford trade to require more financing than in normal times. The coal trade in the North-East of England was dislocated for a month or two following the outbreak of war. Since then trade has been good, but hampered by shortage of men, miners having joined the Forces in large numbers. In the neighbourhood of one of our branches it is reported that from 8,000 to 10,000 miners from that district have enlisted. In the iron industry throughout our whole area shipyards and engineering works are extremely busy, being engaged up to the hilt in working for the Government. In shipping the past 12 months have been anxious and disturbed. Many steamers have been commandeered by Government, the enemy's mercantile marine has been banished from the seas, and the carrying trade of the world has been conducted with extreme difficulty and risk. Mercantile freights have been high, but this must not be taken without qualification as a measure of shipowners' profits, which are affected by higher working costs, and other considerations. The future of the industry seems assured for some time. The provision trade of the Port of Liverpool has shown marked activity during the war, Liverpool being more than ever the chief importing centre for foreign bacon, cheese, meat, canned goods, and other food products. The trade has shown increased turnover and profits quite up to the average. The course of the corn market has been affected by numerous influences which make any comparison with ordinary years difficult. It is satisfactory, however, to feel assured that both in regard to the supply of wheat and foodstuffs generally any cause for anxiety on the part of the country is at an end. Throughout our area the condition of agriculture is, on the whole, favourable. The hay crop has been light, but rain has come in time to save other crops, and to ensure sufficient grass for store cattle and sheep. Good prices are being obtained for stock and wool. The chief drawback at present is the shortage of labour. To sum up, and speaking for our own area chiefly, commerce is active, and, with some exceptions, prosperous, and has adapted itself in a remarkable way to the unusual conditions of the time.

The amalgamation with the North-Eastern Banking Co. has been successfully accomplished, and our thanks are due to all concerned in the amalgamation work for the way in which it was carried through at the height of the war crisis, with depleted staffs. Not long after the amalgamation was confirmed by the shareholders we were called upon to deplore the loss, by death, of Mr. Thomas Bell, the chairman of the North-Eastern Bank, and Sir Stephen Furness, one of its directors, both of whom were men of conspicuous business ability, and admirably qualified to be directors of the bank. Mr. Hustler was appointed to succeed Sir Stephen Furness as a member of the general board, and Sir John Barwick was appointed chairman of the North-Eastern Local Board in succession to Mr. Bell. Mr. J. E. Rogerson was also elected to a seat on the Local Board. The relations between the general board and the North-Eastern Local Board are of the most cordial character. A close acquaintance with the business of the North-Eastern Bank has proved it to be as sound and progressive as we anticipated when we brought the amalgamation first before you, and the result which we have presented to you to-day confirms the wisdom of combining the two concerns.

Among the directorial appointments which will be submitted to you to-day there appears the names not only of Mr. Ben Noble and Mr. Hustler, who were nominated by the North-Eastern Board as members of our general board, but also of Mr. W. R. Glazebrook and Mr. Allan A. Paton, both of whom are leading members of the Liverpool Cotton Association, and who have already proved valuable acquisitions to the board.

I shall not venture, as chairmen sometimes do, to forecast the future. The times are so unsettled that we must be prepared for the unexpected, but I venture to express the earnest hope not only that the bank may prosper during the year, but that by the time our next annual meeting comes round, and long before, the Allied Forces may have won for the world a great victory, and a lasting peace.

## MOLASSINE CO.

The annual general meeting of the Molassine Co., Ltd., was held yesterday at the offices of the company, Tunnel Avenue, East Greenwich, S.E., Mr. John Prosser (managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. E. Smith) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I am sorry that the chairman of the company is not able to be here this morning. Mr. Horton, in his absence, has asked me to take his place. There is not much change in the debit side, except that the mortgage debenture stock has been reduced by £3,000 in accordance with the conditions under which the debentures were issued, and the loan from bankers has been reduced from £25,270 10s. 5d. to £22,307 3s. 8d. On the credit side of the balance-sheet the plant and machinery shows a slight increase of £285 9s. 11d. The sundry debtors show an increase of £8,218 10s. 2d., which is not so large an increase as appears, as last year we had bills receivable £4,794 18s. 8d., against £315 7s. 11d. at the present time. Our shares in other companies stood at the end of last year at £8,292 5s. 5d. These shares are held in companies formed in Canada and America for the purpose of selling the company's goods. As you, gentlemen, are aware, commerce in Canada has been in a very bad way. And as, owing to the war, we had to stop shipping to Canada and America, we thought it policy to write down our share capital in these companies by half, so that they now stand at £4,656 10s. Although we have thought it in the interest of the business to do this, we still recognise that we have a valuable asset in goodwill and connection in both these countries. The value of our freehold poultry farm at Twyford has been increased by £421 8s. 2d. This property is a very important one, and is a splendid asset, and advertisement. You will note that the adverse balance at the end of last year in the profit and loss account has been reduced by £4,504 11s. 2d. We are naturally disappointed at the result of the year's trading. A year ago we entered into contracts for the supply of raw materials at exceptionally low prices, and in the ordinary way should have had a most profitable year. Unfortunately the war came upon us with great suddenness, and all our hopes were dashed to pieces. Our supplies were cut off, and it has been with great difficulty we have been able to do the amount of business we have. So that although the profits are small, the result is even better than could have been anticipated last August. When war was declared we took all necessary steps to go through the crisis on the best conditions possible, by economising in every direction, and we see no reason why we should not go through the period of the war without the company's interests being any further endangered. It has been a great disappointment to us, after working up for some years a good connection for Molassine meal in Canada and America, and with complete organisations in those countries, that we have been compelled, for the present, to stop shipment. The meal is, however, popular, and from the enquiries now being made we are of opinion that when we can resume shipments, we shall still benefit by the goodwill created. We have had a very large demand in this country for Molassine meal, but unfortunately for reasons already explained we have not been able to supply to the full extent. We have every reason to believe that when the war is over, and we are able to resume business on normal lines, the company will have a successful future. A number of our men have enlisted, and we are adapting ourselves to the changed situation, and are supplying soldiers' rations to the War Office at the present time. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet as presented.

Mr W. A. Owston seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

## BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION.

An extraordinary general meeting of the British Electric Traction Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., for the purpose of considering the scheme of reduction and rearrangement of capital which the directors had prepared for the consideration of the stockholders, Mr. Emile Garcke (the chairman) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. Thomas Bower) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in explaining the scheme, said that the assets of the company stood in the books at £5,056,000. They proposed to write off nett £908,000; that was to say, the directors estimated that their assets were short of the capital and liabilities by 3s. 7d. in the £. The two debenture stocks, representing £1,800,000, were not affected by the scheme. The other capital, amounting to almost three millions, was at present divided into four classes—two preference stocks and two ordinary stocks, and these four classes all ranked equally as to capital without any priority one over the other. The capital of the preference stocks was not to be reduced, but it would be rearranged. The reduction of capital fell entirely on the ordinary stocks—50 per cent. was written off the preferred ordinary stock and 70 per cent. off the deferred ordinary stock. For this reason alone a rearrangement of the classes was necessary so as to enable compensation to be given to the ordinary stockholders in the form of an early dividend on their reduced capital. Then there were the income certificates, amounting to £266,000, which, however, had no capital rights. It was proposed to cancel those certificates and give the holders capital stock to the extent of 25 per cent. of the nominal amount of the certificates. It was proposed to convert the four classes of stock and the income certificates into—



two classes of stock—preference and ordinary. The new 6 per cent. cumulative preference stock would have priority of capital over the new ordinary stock, and would, with its rights of participation in further profits, be in every respect a most attractive stock. The ordinary stock would rank after the preference stock as regarded both capital and dividends, but as a result of the reduction of capital, it was hoped that this stock would at once become dividend building, and that the dividends would gradually increase, which would be an advantage also to the holders of the new preference stock, as the market values of the debenture and preference stocks would improve with the improvement in the ordinary stock. The preference stock would be allotted as follows:—To the holders of the existing 6 per cent. preference stock an amount equal to the present holdings; to the holders of the existing 7 per cent. non-cumulative stock 35 per cent. of their holdings; and to the holders of income certificates 10 per cent. of their holdings. The new ordinary stock would be allotted as follows:—To the holders of the existing 7 per cent. non-cumulative preference stock 65 per cent. of their holdings; to the holders of the existing preferred ordinary stock 50 per cent. of their holdings; to the holders of the existing deferred stock 30 per cent. of their holdings; and to the holders of the income certificates 25 per cent. of their holdings. It was quite possible that some of the stockholders might not approve of the scheme in all its details. He knew that a few stockholders were of the opinion that while the principles and general outlines of the scheme were good, they did not consider it satisfactory from the point of view of one or other of the separate classes. To members who held those views he would say that they had to consider the subject in its broad aspects, and decide whether or not they wished to have a reduction and rearrangement of capital, and if so, whether in principle the scheme formulated was, taking a large view, fair to all interests. They must first deal with principles, and then if they agreed that they were proceeding on the right lines, opportunities would be found for discussing the details. The matter would not be finished that day by carrying the resolution proposed. Separate class meetings would have to be held at which the scheme as it affected each class could be discussed. But if all the class meetings approved the scheme by the necessary three-fourths majority, it would be necessary to call a confirmatory meeting of all the stockholders to confirm the resolutions. Further, the scheme would have to be submitted to the Court for examination and approval. The scheme which the stockholders were asked to approve was the outcome of long and careful study of all the aspects of the company's affairs with the sole desire to do what was right and fair to every section of the proprietary, and he firmly believed that if the scheme was carried out it would place the company in a stronger position to meet the difficulties with which they would all be confronted as a result of the war, and would, he hoped, enable the company, when the war was over, to start on a new career of prosperity, with its optimism tempered by past adversity and its energy guided by long and deeply ingrained experience of both success and failure.

Mr. Alfred Shepherd seconded the resolution, and after some discussion it was carried with four dissentients.

The further resolutions as set out in the notice convening the meeting were then put en bloc and carried by the necessary majority, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

### ASSAM OIL.

The 17th ordinary general meeting of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. S. Maclean Jack, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Our operations are now carried on in three distinct fields, the oldest of which, Digboi, the original field exploited by the company, is still the largest and supplies us with the bulk of our crude. We also find it is the most difficult to drill in, and presents us the largest number of geological problems in deciding our new sites. Prospecting further to the east, we have developed another field, which shows excellent promise, at a place called Bappa Poong, and further east again we are now drilling in a new field called Hansa Poong, from which we hope to obtain the best results of any. All the indications there seem to show that it will be the easiest field to drill and to work on, and, so far as we have got up to the present, we have good reason to suppose that it will be a satisfactorily productive one. These three fields are each two or three miles apart, and at present quite separate, divided by broad belts of extremely heavy jungle. As regards Hansa Poong, the new field, and therefore the one in which shareholders are at present the most interested, we continued work on the initial experimental well which I mentioned to you last year, and we have undoubtedly proved the presence of a productive oil sand at that particular point.

All drilling on oilfields is of a speculative nature, but our success, so far, encourages us in the belief that we have a very valuable new asset in the area proved. The production of the two older fields in 1914 was well maintained, although it was not actually increased, but I may say that for the first half of 1915 we have again gone ahead, and show a substantial increase in crude production over the same period of the previous year. As our report states, we have sent out to Assam another rotary drilling plant, and we have also increased the number of engines and boilers on the field. We have every reason to

believe that the results achieved will fully justify our action. Coming now to the next department, the refinery, I may say that this has worked quite satisfactorily throughout the year. The standard of quality has been well maintained in our products, and there have been no particular difficulties of which I need tell you. I told you last year that we were sending out some new machinery for the refinery, including a new and up-to-date refrigerating plant. This has all been erected and is now at work with thoroughly satisfactory results. The increase in the refrigerating plant has immediately justified itself. As regards marketing, the markets for the company's products throughout 1914 have, on the whole, been quite satisfactory. Turning to the accounts, the result of the year under review was, as you will see, a profit of £40,981, just £9,200 better than the corresponding figure for 1913. Out of this we have, of course, to pay our preference dividend, and your directors have transferred £12,000 to depreciation account, as against £10,000 last year, and have written off the balance of the preference capital issue expenses, an increase of £2,857 on the similar provision in 1913. This item now disappears from our balance-sheet. At a time like the present the board do not think it would be wise to increase the dividend payable to the ordinary shareholders, but feel sure the shareholders will agree that the wiser policy is to build up the resources of the company and to strengthen its position so far as is reasonably possible.

Mr. Hubert S. Ashton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### ARGENTINE IRON AND STEEL CO.

The third ordinary general meeting of the Argentine Iron and Steel Co. (Pedro Vasena e Hijos), Limited, was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Charles Lock, the vice-chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. W. F. Yaxley (one of the joint acting secretaries) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman reminded the shareholders that at the last annual meeting special resolutions were submitted for reducing the capital in order to enable the stock-in-trade to be reduced to a price which would enable the company to trade on a competitive basis. The whole situation was laid before the court, which unhesitatingly sanctioned the proposed reduction of capital, whereupon in December last the preference dividend of 6 per cent. per annum was duly paid. At the last general meeting it was stated that the policy of the company was to be directed in one or two special channels. In the first place, it was considered eminently desirable to reduce stock-in-trade to a reasonable figure and one which was more commensurate with the company's financial resources. The local board had co-operated most cordially in that matter. The result of the policy which had been adopted was to show a reduction in the stock, which on March 1, 1914, stood at £632,346 to the figure now appearing in the balance-sheet of £448,177. A further element which was dealt with, again with the closest co-operation of the local board, was the question of economies in working and in administration, and a substantial economy had been effected without impairing efficiency. The floating debt was reduced on February 28 last to £105,815, the whole of which was represented in London, and since March 1 further remittances had been made, which had reduced the London floating debt to £42,050. With regard to the application of the sum of £240,092 obtained by the reduction of capital, the directors stated in their last year's report the lines on which they proposed to apply the amount, but owing to the alteration in the condition of affairs brought about by the war they had considered it advisable to apply the sum in a rather different way. On the whole, the directors considered that the result of the year's trading was not unsatisfactory. The substantial economies effected both in working costs and reduction of interest and bank charges, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the writing down of stock, combined with the improvement in selling prices had resulted in the profit and loss account now submitted, which showed a trading profit of £102,191, after writing off the entire cost of certain small items used in the working of the business. There was an available net balance on the year's trading of £57,170. The writing down of stock having largely contributed to this result they had thought it advisable in the interests of the business to make a liberal appropriation as a reserve against contingencies, and this they had done to the extent of £27,170, leaving £30,000 available for dividend on the preference shares. That was the exact amount required to pay the fixed cumulative dividend, and the directors had not carried forward any part of the profit to next year's account, for a reason which he explained. As the conditions prevailing in Buenos Ayres were very difficult, and as they were still desirous of reducing and, indeed, entirely liquidating the floating debt in London, they proposed that the dividend should be paid as to one-half at the end of this month and the balance later on, as found convenient, which they hoped would be the case before the end of the year. While he made no attempt to forecast future results, he thought he could give the shareholders the firm assurance that the management was very keen and energetic, and that everything would be done to take advantage of any opportunity which might present itself for doing business. In conclusion, he proposed a resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the preference dividend in two moieties, as mentioned.

Baron Emile B. d'Erlanger seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.



**LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT CO., LTD.**

At the 50th ordinary general meeting, held at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on Wednesday, the Chairman, Mr. Charles E. Gunther, stated that at the outbreak of war the company had in this country large stocks of Fray Bentos corned beef, which were placed at the disposal of his Majesty's War Office and Admiralty, and it was a matter of much satisfaction to know that the prompt furnishing of these supplies was of great assistance. Since then the company have been largely occupied with Government contracts, and the part which Fray Bentos corned beef and Oxo play in the task of feeding our fighting forces is a matter of common knowledge.

Shipping the various materials required for the overseas factories and bringing the produce to Europe had been a matter of considerable anxiety, owing to the rapid changes in the freight market, but supplies had been well maintained. The Chairman added: Perhaps the nature of our business enables us to appreciate more than most how much we owe to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe and the officers and men under him in the British Navy and also to the Navies of our Allies. It is difficult to realise the immense service which our Navy has rendered us with its ceaseless watchfulness and activity night and day. It is a most wonderful thing in a time like the present that it should be possible for supplies of foods and other merchandise—of which our shipments, large though they are, represent but a small proportion—to pass to and fro upon the high seas.

The company have had the opportunity of being of some assistance to the War Office in connection with the grazing and embarkation from Uruguay of the horses purchased there by the Remount Commission.

As mentioned in the report, the department of the business which handles the company's various meat products in the British Empire and the United States of America has been rearranged, and is now handled by a separate company.

In 1867, two years after the formation of the Liebig Company, it was held by the Courts here that the company had no exclusive right to Liebig's name in the United Kingdom, and as years went on the name of Liebig Company's Extract of Beef was changed to "Lemco" because the term "Liebig's Extract" was widely used by competitors. Subsequently the company's proprietary food trade in this country developed, and the trade in the new articles far outstripped that of the original meat extract, the chief of these proprietary foods now being the Oxo articles and Fray Bentos canned meats. This branch of the business had grown so much in volume that the directors had for some time past under consideration the formation of a separate organisation, and as after the outbreak of war the name of the company (which has always been a British company since its inception) was being represented to be German, and various insinuations were being made in regard to the company's products, the directors were compelled to take steps to protect the shareholders' interests in this important branch of the business, and accordingly formed a separate company called, "Oxo, Limited," to handle this trade. Since the formation of Oxo, Limited, the trade has greatly developed.

The directors endeavoured to make it easy for as many of the staff as possible to join his Majesty's forces, and at the present time monetary allowances to them or their dependents from the Liebig Co. and its subsidiaries amount to something like £5,000 per annum.

On the motion of Mr. C. S. Costelow, seconded by Dr. H. M. Baker, a sum of 500 guineas was voted to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for sick and wounded.

The dividend is 22½ per cent., free of income-tax, the same as last year.

**INTERNATIONAL TEA CO.'S STORES.**

The annual general meeting of the International Tea Co.'s Stores, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. G. A. Tonge (one of the governing directors) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Davies) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: It is very satisfactory to me to be able to meet you again with another record both in trading and profit. You may, perhaps, remember that last July I had to tell you that the profit was £34,672 in excess of the previous year, and considerably more than that of any other year in the company's existence. I am now glad to be able to report a further advance of £33,613. The total to be dealt with, including the amount brought forward from the previous account, is £108,041 12s. 7d. This enables us, after paying the preference dividend and charging directors' and auditors' fees, to depreciate our fittings and fixtures by £30,000, to place £40,000 to reserve, to pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward £17,323 18s. 6d. into the current year's trading. This

is over 3 per cent. on the ordinary capital. I may say that this result has been arrived at in the face of very great difficulties and anxieties. When I last addressed you I had no idea but that the times in front of us were likely to be anything but normal, and yet within a very few days war was declared, and from then until to-day it has been one perpetual struggle to keep our wholesale customers and our branches properly supplied with their requirements. The middle of the summer is not the time when we are in the habit of carrying large stocks, and consequently we were much less well provided in this respect than we might otherwise have been. Another trouble was that when we had secured the various stocks required we had the greatest difficulty in getting them to our customers, owing to the disorganised state of the docks and railways. On the whole, the trading at our various branches has been satisfactory. Some seaside towns suffered last summer, and I am afraid are doing so this through a scarcity of visitors. Perhaps this is owing to people not wishing to go away in troublous times, but, on the whole, I think it is more likely due to the decreased facilities now afforded for travelling. I ought, perhaps, to add that others of the branches have benefited to some extent owing to soldiers being billeted on our customers. The general improvement in our profit is due, however, to the development of our factories and to the increased number of goods we dispose of of our own manufacture. I cannot but think that this general improvement will continue, though, as I have always been careful to add in the past, we may get occasional setbacks. Another feature of the past year's trading has been a trouble, but a most welcome and gratifying one both to myself and my fellow-directors, and that is that we have sent over 1,000 men to serve in his Majesty's Army and Navy. Turning again to the balance-sheet, you will notice our creditors and secured loans are rather larger than usual, but this is owing to the fact that nearly all the goods we deal in (tea, sugar, butter, bacon, and all sundries) are 30 per cent. higher in price than when the previous balance-sheet was struck, and, on the other hand, you will see that our stocks and debtors are also proportionately enhanced. I would like to add that the greater part of the huge increase in the value of the stock has been provided for out of the undivided profit left in the business. Our reserve account now stands at £177,000, and is surely, is slowly, approaching the amount of our goodwill. Before formally moving the adoption of the report I have only to express my appreciation of the continued efforts of my co-directors, heads of departments, and staff generally. It is, of course, by their combined work that such a result as I have had the pleasure of putting before you to-day can be achieved.

Mr. F. Drowley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**Answers to Correspondents.**

**\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

LEO.—(1) Temporarily, yes, because of Government contracts, work on which is expected to commence in September. (2) The shares have had a great rise, but are now some 2s. below the top price. They might be a good speculation at the present price, but are not things to regard as an investment. (3) The policy to be followed is to pick up shares at as low a price as possible and sell on a moderate rise.

H. M.—On the whole, perhaps, Baltimore and Ohio convertible short-dated bonds would be the best, or the first debentures of the Buenos Ayres Western or Central Argentine Railways.

F. L. C.—We think you should hold on the shares at their present price. They are, of course, very speculative, but there is a possibility of increase in the output again.

M. A. J.—The results are certainly poor, but the property is large, and seasons will not always be bad. We do not think you should try to sell now.

B. R. B.—The question is not quite settled, but we think there is a possibility that you will be able to make some arrangement. Your broker will no doubt be able to advise you.

M. M. S.—We think they are as safe as any can be.

W. T. W.—Some such arrangement will, we think, be possible, but we shall know more definitely after next week. There is no haste necessary.

**ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD.**—Gross profits for the year ended May 31 were rather less than half those for 1913-14 at £7,423, and no dividends can be paid either on the ordinary or deferred shares, which a year ago got 10 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively. Out of the total £2,400 or £876 less is added to reserve, and after providing for all charges and debenture interest the balance carried forward is increased by £147 to £5,222. The contingency reserve was debited with £4,255 for losses incurred, and the remaining £82,154 has been deducted from the investments, leaving them £60,720 down on balance at £256,371. Loans from bankers come to £10,300 more at £95,700, against a decrease of £13,528 to £6,778 in sundry creditors.



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ESTABLISHED 2nd MAY, 1836.

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL .. .. 1,250,000PAID-UP CAPITAL .. .. £550,000  
RESERVE FUND .. .. 355,000BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—G. C. HAWORTH, Esq., Chairman; Sir CHARLES BEHRENS, Deputy Chairman; J. R. OLIVER, Esq.; MICHAEL CARAB, Esq.  
ALLAN H. BRIGHT, Esq. (Liverpool); Sir JOSEPH VERDIN, Bart., D.L.; The Right Hon. LORD ROCHEDALE.General Manager: P. FORRESTER.  
Head Office: YORK STREET, MANCHESTER.

DR.	BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1915.				CR.		
	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Capital .. .. .	550,000	0	0	By Cash on Hand, Call, etc. .. .. .	1,454,533	0	10
Reserve Fund .. .. .	355,000	0	0	British Government Securities .. .. .	1,344,753	0	0
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts .. .. .	7,023,546	14	0	Other Investments .. .. .	160,429	11	2
Bills Accepted by the Bank on account of Customers .. .. .	418,077	4	3	Bills of Exchange .. .. .	654,075	0	4
Open Credits, Foreign Bills negotiated, etc., as per Contra .. .. .	266,779	11	4				
Balance of Profit and Loss Account .. .. .	41,365	11	9				
				Advances to Customers .. .. .	£5,297,891	12	4
				Customers' Liability for Bills Accepted by the Bank .. .. .	418,077	4	3
				Open Credits, etc., as per Contra .. .. .	266,779	11	4
				Bank Premises and Furniture .. .. .	299,690	1	1
	£8,654,769	1	4		£8,654,769	1	4

We report that in our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books of the Company, and according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us. We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required. We further report that we have verified the correctness of the cash balances, money at call, Government Securities Corporation Loans, and Bills of Exchange.

16th July, 1915.

JONES, CREWDSON &amp; YOUATT, Auditors.

## MANCHESTER BRANCHES.

All Saints—137 Oxford  
road  
Ardwick — 8 Ardwick  
Green  
Broughton Bridge

Campfield—314 Deans-  
gate  
Cheetham Hill  
Corn Exchange

Deansgate—166 Deans-  
gate  
Irlams-o'-th'-Height  
Pendlebury  
Piccadilly

Prestwich  
Royal Exchange—11 St.  
Mary's Gate  
St Peter's — 2 Oxford  
street

Salford  
Salford Docks  
Seedley and Weaste—  
138 Eccles New road

Strangeways  
Swan street  
West Gorton  
Whitworth street—67

## COUNTRY BRANCHES.

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Alderley Edge  
Altrincham  
Ansdell  
Ashton-in-Makerfield  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
Astley  
Audlem  
Blackburn  
Blackpool  
Blackley  
Bolton

Boothstown  
Brierfield  
Brooklands  
Burnley  
Burnley, Colne Road  
Bury  
Church  
Colne  
Didsbury  
Farnworth  
Garston  
Hale

Heatley  
Heaviley  
Heywood  
Hollinwood  
Holmes Chapel  
Horwich  
Knutsford  
Lees  
Leigh  
Littleborough  
Lymm

Middleton  
Middlewich  
Mossley  
Nantwich  
Nelson  
Norden  
Northwich  
Northwich, Station Rd  
Oldham  
Parristoft  
Penketh

Radcliffe  
Rawtenstall  
Reddish  
Rochdale  
Romiley  
Royton  
St. Annes-on-Sea  
St. Helens (open  
[shortly])  
Shaw  
Southport  
Stockport

Stoneclough  
Styal  
Summit  
Tyldesley  
Warrington  
Whitworth  
Wigan  
Wilmslow  
Winsford  
Withington  
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New Series.

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## Passing Events.

There are two outstanding items in the Treasury statement of revenue and expenditure for the week ended July 24. The first is the entry of £150,000,000 received on the stock of the second War Loan, and the other is the proof by the repayment of £96,041,667 to the Bank of England of the desire of the Government to ease the position of the Bank as speedily as possible. Revenue proper amounted to £3,990,220, or £1,911,056 more than a year ago. Towards this total Excise contributed £815,000 more at £1,310,000 and death duties £628,000 more at £1,117,000, while Customs rose £56,000 to £888,000, the income-tax levy was £307,000 up at £480,000, and the income from miscellaneous sources was £105,056 higher at £105,220. Nothing, however, came in from the Post Office, against £260,000, and stamps were £90,000 down at £40,000. In addition to these, £20,000 was received from repayment of bullion advances and £386,000 by Ways and Means borrowings, making, with the War Loan receipts, an aggregate inflow of £154,396,220, or an increase of £151,967,056. Expenditure came to £18,938,207, of which Supply Services absorbed £18,823,000. Further, £5,197,000 was utilised in repayment of Ways and Means advances, but Treasury bills (nett amount) show a decrease of £20,000. Owing, however, to the enormous repayments to the Bank of England, the Exchequer balances were only increased by £34,239,346 to £78,420,358, compared with £5,991,607 a year ago.

So beautifully phrased and so just was Mr. Asquith's references to our Allies, to our Army, and to the work of our Fleet in his speech on moving the adjournment of the House last Wednesday until September 14 that no words of ours could paraphrase the passage. Therefore we make room for it here as reported in the *Morning Post*:—

"We should be ungrateful and insensitive indeed if we did not recognise, at this moment in particular, the gallant, indescribably gallant, efforts which are being made by our Russian Allies to stem the tide of invasion and to maintain the inviolable integrity of their positions. I do not think in the whole of military history there has been a more magnificent example before us of disciplined, patient endurance and

of both individual and collective initiative than that of the Russian Army during the last 11 months. In our new Ally, Italy, we recognise with the utmost satisfaction and gratification that with carefully prepared movements they are steadily gaining ground and making their way towards an objective which we believe will within a very short time be within their reach. We ourselves are fighting side by side in France with our French comrades, for such they have been now for the best part of a year, and I do not believe from the beginning of the war up to the present moment there has ever been a time when two armies were inspired by a more complete unreserved spirit of fraternity and comradeship or when they were more confident that victory—I do not predict times or seasons; we should be foolish if we did—but victory will be ultimately theirs. With regard to the operations which in conjunction with them we are undertaking farther east in the Gallipoli Peninsula, I will only repeat that our confidence is undiminished in the result. The only other thing I want to say to the House is this: It is just a year next week since the declaration of war. Has anyone in the history of the world ever seen a more complete—might I not almost say a more miraculous?—transformation in the country, not in its spirit, not in its soul and heart, but in the outward manifestation of its life, than has taken place here during those 12 months? I need say nothing about our Fleet—Britain has always been the greatest of naval Powers—except what we all acknowledge: that, strong as the Fleet was at the beginning of the war, it is far stronger now, and pursuing its quiet, unobserved, but ubiquitous and all-powerful activities to see that the seas are clear, or substantially clear—for this submarine manace, after all, serious as it appeared to be for the moment, is not going to inflict fatal or substantial injury upon British trade. The seas are clear, we have our supplies of food and raw materials on which we as a country depend flowing in upon us in the same abundance, the same freedom—you might without much exaggeration say, judging by the rates of insurance, or any other test, with the same immunity from serious hazard of risk as even in times of peace. The Navy so far has been denied the grim and glorious delights of pitched battle. They have the consciousness—and we ought to let them know that we realise the debt of gratitude we owe to them—that it is through their unrelaxing vigilance, through the supreme skill with which they have been handled, that this



country to-day can laugh at the scare of invasion to an extent unknown by any of the other belligerent Powers, and is immune from the actual ravages and dangers of war. But, as I have said, we have always been a great naval Power. Look at the position of the Army. Here we are—even in this House I see hon. members clad in military garb—a sight unknown, I suppose, for a hundred years. There is not a family represented here—and in that respect the House is typical of the whole country—that has not given its hostages in the shape of sons or brothers to the Army, and I am glad to be able to say that the process of recruiting the Army has now gone on for 12 months with undiminished activity. The process of recruiting the Army from the ranks of the people is in a highly satisfactory condition. The latest returns are among the best we have had for a long time past." (Loud cheers.)

It was said more than a week ago that the Kaiser had summoned his wife to help him to make a full dress "hail the conquering hero" procession into Warsaw, and we regarded the news as of good omen for Russia. His "all-highest" majesty has never once had his histrionic capabilities and ambitions properly exhibited or gratified in this war, not even in Brussels. And it seems probable that he will have to wait yet a long while before having to dress up for the leading part in the Warsaw pageant of victory—although Von Hindenburg, by the way, would seem to be as confident as his master. He, at least, is reported to have sent an urgent telegram to that comical lackey Sven Hedin urging him to scurry East in time to witness the show. But anticipatory gloatings of this kind are thoroughly expressive of the Prussian temperament. More even than the self-souled abjectness of the Teutonic masses, the boundless Prussian arrogance of conceit has brought us round to the belief that this war cannot be soon over. An enemy of the kind we have to deal with can only be reduced to impotence by being destroyed, and his destruction may mean that the Allies will have still to kill, maim, and capture eight to ten millions of human beings. A people endowed with sense and some measure of reasonableness would have begun long before now to see that the game they forced upon us was up, that every week the war was prolonged by their resistance lessened the chance of victory and diminished the power of the aggressor empires to continue in existence. And the democracies whose vital concern it is to have room and right to live, empire or no empire, would have begun to assert themselves against "war lords" and armed tyrants of every degree in a way that might soon have brought us in sight of a real peace. But, no; the German peoples go on throwing their lives away meek as the Paraguayans, conceited as the "Johnnie Head-in-the-Airs" of the nursery rhyme, learning nothing, believing everything their taskmasters order them to believe, dreaming the dreams these masters fed their raw minds upon in the years before they were ordered to muster and invade for the gratification of their Picrochole the Kaiser. That decadent, weedy Caligula, the Prussian Crown Prince, therefore, continues to brag of victory, of—"with God's help"—settling "finally" with France, just as if he had never been thrashed at all. And yet we must not deny to the abandoned creature all chance of grace; he admits that his "last success" was only obtained at the expense of "heavy losses." Think of that! The Kaiser himself has never gone so far. Our hope lies in the continuousness of these heavy losses. "You often can see no dead bodies in trenches that have been searched by high explosive shells" a warrior back from the front has told us. "There is nothing to be seen but red masses of formless, bleeding flesh." It is horrible, but it is war as the Germans have ordered it, and that war must proceed with increasing effectiveness until our enemies have been destroyed. Therefore, let Warsaw and other will-o'-the-wisp goals continue to lure them on and on, and the Russian armies be munitioned and otherwise helped to hold them at bay until winter

comes and buries all that are left of them in its snow. King Frost slays as surely as and in ways more seemly than machine guns and high explosives, those war deities of the Prussians.

Beyond what is said in Mr. Asquith's speech, and quoted by us, and what is added above, we have little to add to our war notes this (Thursday) morning, except to once more insist upon the progress made. At no point—East, South or West—are the Austro-German forces gaining. Everywhere their losses in men and material continue to press both empires towards exhaustion, and the greater the fury with which the attacks are launched, the sooner will that exhaustion be complete. An Austrian newspaper—the *Neues Wiener Tageblatt*, to wit—has, it would seem, been giving some figures about the increase in German and Austrian public debts. They are quoted by the City editor of the *Morning Post*, and intimate that since the beginning of the war to a date not specified the public debt of the German Empire has increased by £840,000,000 to £1,940,000,000 and the debt of Austria from £816,000,000 to £1,040,000,000. This would mean that the pair have spent about £1,070,000,000 during the war. We believe the spending has been much larger than that, more nearly double the sum, in spite of the fact that, as our dear, goody *Spectator* rejoicingly says, human pulp for guns in the shape of fighting pawns is "cheap" in the Austro-German armies. Their expenditure on ammunition alone must far more than balance the savings effected by the "cheapness" of human gun-fodder. Therefore, we cannot accept the statement of this Vienna newspaper; but it seems to give some other facts worth belief, such as the decline of Austro-Hungarian 4½ per cent. loans, issued just before the war began, to a discount of 34 per cent. Hungarian 4½ per cents., issued at 90½ per cent. last year, are now down to 52—rather below the figure for German 3 per cents.—although the yield is half as much again, but that is not to be wondered at, for two half-yearly coupons are in default. In other words, neither Austria nor Hungary appear to be now paying interest on their public debts, and we very much doubt whether Germany is in a better position to do so. The Kaiser's Government, however, must strain every nerve to pay the interest in order to keep up an appearance of solvency, because it needs another loan, and would be unable to borrow a single mark if interest on existing debts were not paid. But it has to be paid in depreciated and depreciating paper.

It is impossible, apparently, to get people to understand the Government's position in regard to cotton. All journalists are more or less ignorant of the law upon the subject and of the history of contraband in wars. Certainly we can plead only ignorance of anything like an exact knowledge, although we do know in some fashion what the practice has been with maritime nations, especially what the United States did during its Civil War. We have, however, seen that the difficulties in the way of declaring against all and sundry powers cotton to be contraband, with a view to stop its importation by Germany, are enormous, and have therefore abstained from joining the people who neglect no opportunity to try and embarrass the administration, who seemingly regard it as patriotic to blacken everything British, and do all that in them lies to encourage the enemy in the belief that we are fighting a losing battle. Here was Major, as he is now, Rowland Hunt, last Monday in the House of Commons once again raging at the Government, and declaring that "we are still allowing Germany to receive cotton for the manufacture of munitions to be used in killing our own soldiers." "This is fighting with the gloves on, so far, at least, as the Government is concerned," he declared. No wonder that wild assertions of that sort angered Lord Robert Cecil not a little, for he is one of the most level-headed amongst the younger men in the Ministry. "The honourable member," he replied,



"really believed what some of the more ignorant and venomous of the public prints were not ashamed to say, that the Government were permitting Germany to get ammunition. It is doing nothing of the sort. It is an absolutely necessary and essential part of the Government's policy to prevent cotton capable of being turned into ammunition from reaching Germany, and the only question which divides the Government from its critics is how the prevention can be best effected." Lord Robert was justly indignant at such remarks as Major Hunt's, and regarded them as "incredibly offensive," which, unquestionably, such language is. Yet Major Hunt was honest in saying that to the best of his view he expressed "the general feeling of the country," and, in answer to some insulting Harmsworth-Syndicate-inspired remarks indicative of the unbalanced and uninstructed mind, the Foreign Affairs Under-Secretary proceeded to say: "We are not restrained by any such follies as the hon. gentleman attributes to us. So far as putting cotton on the contraband list is concerned, it would make no difference. The only difference would be that if we declared cotton to be contraband, we should be entitled to confiscate the cargo, and perhaps the ship, but we should not be entitled to stop it under conditions in which we were not entitled to stop it now." That, we believe, is the exact truth.

But though it may be true that the Government has done its best it has not done enough. Statistics have come over of cotton exports from the United States, obtained by Mr. Sims, a Tennessee member of Congress, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in Washington. These show that the supply of American cotton to Germany in the period between August 1, 1914, and June 30 last was pretty nearly as abundant as in the preceding year; in fact, the decline would seem to be under 40,000 bales. For the later period, however, the supply has been procured through neutral countries. In 1913-14 Germany imported 2,664,000 bales of cotton, but only 242,661 bales are set down to her credit for the period ended June 30, 1915. Denmark, however, has taken in that period 35,257 bales against only 100 bales imported for the same 11 months of 1913-14. The Netherlands' supply in like style has risen from 33,822 bales to 502,000 bales, the Norwegian from 3,525 bales to 54,666 bales, the Swedish from 46,266 bales to 741,637 bales, and the Italian from 462,073 bales to 1,018,469 bales. Spanish supplies have also gone up by about 162,000 bales on the same comparison, and that fact cannot be associated with German demands. It rather leads us to infer that more cotton than usual was consumed in all the neutral countries mentioned in order to meet demands from other lands which German manufacturers and exporters were totally unable to supply. It would, therefore, be a mistake to put down the whole of the increase shown in the shipments to Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden to reshipments from their ports to Germany. At the same time German wants must have been supplied to a much fuller extent than we have supposed during the 11 months in question, and it surely is within the capacity of our Government to find a way to stop the cotton in transit. That it could do something in this direction by putting cotton on the contraband list is probable enough, but it would surely be more satisfactory could an agreement be come to with the Washington Government. Were it agreed that we should pay for all cotton seized and confiscated on a fixed scale of prices, the work of the Navy would be lessened and the difficulties of Germany in obtaining supplies of cotton indefinitely augmented. We can prevent her from getting any Indian or Egyptian cotton, and from no other part of the world are there any supplies that would be of the slightest value to her. Or why not consign all cotton to Havre or Liverpool in the first instance, and let neutral countries come there for what they need to meet legitimate home requirements? The question is from all points of view a perplexing and difficult one, but we may be sure that the utmost will be, is being, done to find a satisfactory solution.

It is very doubtful whether the well-meant attempt of the Government to regulate the price of coal to the consumer will meet with immediate success, but the experiment may, perhaps, lead ultimately to some better arrangement between the consumer and the producer than the clumsy, roundabout one now in existence. Primarily the dearness of coal would seem to be caused by the general movement to increase wages. No particular class is to be blamed for that movement, but it is obvious that if the wages of miners advance, and also the wages of railway servants—wages of labour in all directions handling coal—then the consumer has to pay. In proportion to the success of the workman in raising his wages is the recoil upon himself of higher prices for what he consumes. Recent events have shown us that railway companies followed the miners and raised their freight charges just because they had been forced to increase the pay of their men to avert serious labour troubles. It is thus all round, and the further prices advance the greater becomes the difficulty of making ends meet for very important sections of the community. Other influences of a similar description are at present affecting the price of meat, and according to statements made by a representative of the *Meat Trades Journal* quoted in the *Evening Standard*, the prices, though very high, are no help to the butchers. They are hardly able to meet expenses. Thousands have been obliged to shut up their shops because of the decreased consumption. Forequarters of beef have more than doubled in price since the war began, the actual increase being fully 111 per cent. On the dearer items the retailer has been obliged to drop something, and in turn has tried to make the loss up out of the lower-priced meat, the latter being really the dearer as regards margin of profit. Even so, it has been found practically impossible for many of the butchers to continue business at present prices. In home beef, mutton and pork the advance has ranged from 9½ to 47 per cent., and in imported meat from 28½ per cent. for veal to 111.11 per cent. for frozen forequarters of beef. Argentine and Australian mutton is from 67 to 77 per cent. higher than it was when the war began. Such advances in prices if maintained must have the effect of reducing the consumption of meat, of permanently altering the habits of the people in regard to food, but in the meantime for the belligerent nations it implies a very important increase in the cost of the war, and so it is surely incumbent upon all who control the distribution of food to our troops to see to it that waste is reduced to a minimum.

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AGENT-GENERAL FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA,

SAVOY HOUSE, 115-6 STRAND, W.C.



Many adverse influences afflicted the Hudson's Bay Co. in 1914. Its reports and accounts are made up to May 31 last, and the report begins by pointing out that the decline in the price of furs has been unprecedented, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. Owing to the company's collections of furs in many cases taking a considerable time to reach this country the further fall as compared with prices ruling before the outbreak of the war "has rendered it impossible to avoid a loss" in this department of the company's business, and the losses of various kinds have reluctantly forced the directors to abstain from recommending any dividend on the ordinary shares. They say that the outlook in the fur trade is still far from reassuring, and that for some classes of furs usually in demand for Germany no considerable sale is anticipated until trade again takes a normal course. The land department has also been smitten by absence of demand and diminished sales, while the new salesshops from which so much was legitimately expected have suffered considerably from decreased trade. Altogether the tale is a melancholy one, and the news that since October last the company has been making purchases as agents of the French Government in Canada, and hopes to continue to act in that capacity, is not much of a set-off. Last year the proceeds of farm land sales was only \$306,550, a decline of \$266,287, and the actual receipts in sterling declined £257,795 to £205,402. As the falling off in the previous year was £239,128 the shrinkage in two years has amounted to almost £500,000. Losses on the fur trade mentioned above amounted to £33,536, but there was a profit of £63,407 on the general trading. A year ago the fur trade gave a profit of £55,008. It follows that the nett profit realised from all sources was £55,996 less at £30,640. When the company will next be able to pay a dividend nothing in the report enables us to foresee, but the balance-sheet reveals considerable reserve strength, and also very heavy overburdens. The heaviest is connected with the development of salesshops and other trading enterprises. These reveal an increase of £4,161,323 in the capital commitments, and that lifts the total of the balance-sheet to £7,997,411, an increase of £3,846,181, a most formidable amount on which to earn interest or dividends. Under the heading of salesshops, the sundry debtors have risen by £4,068,417, and we should like to know how these debts are secured, what they consist of, who owes them. Everything, in fact, in the miscellaneous assortment of businesses carried on by the company has involved further expansion of credit or sinking of cash during the year, and there will have to be a long pause to allow these outlays to become fruitful even after the war is over. In consequence of these commitments the cash deposited or lent in London has decreased £680,033 compared with the year before, and now amounts to only £232,691. At the same time advances in London for carrying on the trade are up £160,678 to £222,102, and, plainly, the board will have to act with extreme circumspection if next year's exhibit is to be more encouraging than the one now made, immense and most valuable though the assets are.

In the report of the Western Canada Power Co., Ltd., Montreal, for the calendar year 1914 it is stated that the first six months gave every indication of a steady recovery from the industrial depression of 1913 on the Pacific Coast. The company, therefore, prepared to complete the installation of the third and fourth generating units at Stave Falls, but the whole prospect was changed by the outbreak of war, and all works of construction were postponed and expenses cut down wherever possible. Even the best customers of the company restricted their consumption to the minimum fixed under their contracts, and it follows that the temporary loss of business was considerable. As a matter of fact, the gross earnings only amounted to \$315,800, or some \$100,000 less than might have been expected, and as working expenses absorbed \$87,149, while \$250,000 was required for bond interest

and \$2,500 as reserve for doubtful accounts, the final result for the year was a deficit of \$23,848. In December last an increase of \$1,000,000 in the first mortgage bonds, making them \$6,000,000, was authorised, a portion of the new issue being pledged to secure existing indebtedness. All the proceeds so far derived from the second or refunding mortgage bonds have been applied to constructions, which as yet produce no revenue. The directors now propose to increase the authorised common stock from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and to create \$5,000,000 7 per cent. cumulative convertible preference shares. This is to be done in the hope that if the financial stringency be prolonged the holders of certain of the company's mortgage securities may decide to convert them, in whole or in part, into these preferred shares.

The gross earnings of the Calgary Power Co., Ltd., for 1914 amounted to much the same as in 1913 at \$231,186. Nothing, however, came in from miscellaneous sources, so that after meeting working expenses, nett profits were about \$8,000 less at \$180,207. Out of this much higher interest charges were paid, leaving a surplus of \$24,728 against \$88,026 in the previous year. For the current year it is expected that expenses will be considerably lower than in 1913 or 1914, notwithstanding that two generating plants are now in operation.

It has been necessary for the directors of the Gas Light and Coke Co. to reduce their dividend by 13s. 4d. per cent. to £4 4s. per cent. per annum owing to a variety of adverse influences, and yet the business of the half-year ended June 30 was better than might have been expected. An increase of £130,791 took place in the income from sales of gas, and rentals of meters and stoves both showed small increases, but £110,618 less came in from residual products, and although the cost of coal receded £75,187, oil cost £20,825 more and coke and breeze £15,804 more. Thus, in spite of a saving of £8,301 in wages and of £5,679 in repairs the nett reduction in working costs was only £54,744 at £1,239,152, or if we include cost of management, rates and taxes, public lighting, annuities to workmen, &c., we get a reduction of £69,249 in the entire outgoings, leaving the nett revenue £91,165 better at £630,040. Why should the dividends have had to be reduced when this display can be made? It is reduced because gas is dearer and because the balance brought forward from the December half-year was £229,515 less at £384,538, with the consequence that although only £5,000, as against £15,000, is this time set aside to redemption account, nett income, after meeting fixed charges, is £153,942 smaller at £779,589. Even after paying the reduced dividend there will be £54,663 less at £343,501 to be carried forward. Sales of gas fell off 4.31 per cent. in the half-year, and 12 months ago there was an increase of 1.88 per cent. The decrease was brought about by the continued official restriction of lighting in the company's area. Income has been affected by the high prices for coal and oil, which compelled the directors to add another 4d. to the price of 1,000 cubic feet of gas, making it 3s. But the business is expanding still, and there was an increase of 1,679 in the number of the consumers and 16,600 in the number of the stoves sold and let last half-year. A melancholy note is sounded when the report mentions that about 2,200 of the company's employees are on active national service, and that the list of casualties among them has been heavy. In the balance-sheet it may be noted that the company's investments have shrunk by £215,797 to £446,538, but its cash is £42,760 up at £105,280. Amounts due to the company show an increase of £65,677 at £880,423. Reserves of all kinds, including superannuation and guarantee funds and the savings and co-partnership bonus deposited with the bank, now aggregate £900,000, and the company's special purposes reserve increased £9,290 last year to £307,536.



Altogether the profits of C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., declined £8,839 in its year ended May 31 to £36,865, and directors' fees, &c., rose £339 to £5,275, so that the nett balance left was £9,177 down at £31,590. Therefore, including the £5,964 brought forward, the directors had £37,554 available for division, and they have paid a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares against 10 for the previous year. They also omit to give anything to the reserve this time against £5,000, and in these ways, in spite of a reduction of £9,674 in the balance divisible, the amount of £15,054 left to carry forward is £9,090 up. During the year the company bought the *Royal Magazine*, and the payment for it necessitated an increase of £25,000 in the ordinary share capital, which is now therefore £175,000.

Gross profits of Martin's Bank, Ltd., for the June half-year, including £21,425 brought forward, were £13,868 up at £93,190, against which interest paid to customers increased by £5,965 to £18,010, and salaries, directors' fees, &c., took £2,844 more at £24,779. After providing for rebate on bills, the nett balance was £46,840, or £4,703 more; but in order to meet any possible further depreciation of investments, the directors have set aside £10,000. The dividend is, therefore, reduced from 8 per cent. per annum to 6, and a slightly smaller balance of £21,840 is carried forward. Current, deposit, and other accounts have risen by £835,456 to £3,986,734, while, on the other hand, cash in hand and at the Bank of England is £141,067 down at £695,900, but loans at call and short notice come to £1,378,200, or £839,300 more, and investments have been increased by £285,700 to £546,000. Loans are also £150,550 higher at £1,225,980, but bills receivable show a decrease of £265,069 at £566,152, and investments, which include freehold premises adjoining the head office, come to £174,342, or £29,256 less.

In the first five months of the war, up to December 31 last, according to *Lloyd's Register of Shipping*, we lost 101 vessels measuring 229,179 tons in capacity. Next to us stands the German loss of 13 vessels measuring 67,641 tons, after which come the French with 5 vessels of 13,097 tons capacity. It does not follow that the whole of these were lost by the action of the enemy, but most were. Of sailing vessels, however, the number was practically the same as in 1913, but nearly 338,000 tons more of steam shipping was destroyed. During the whole of 1914 the gross reduction in the effective mercantile marine of the world was 766 vessels, measuring 1,055,112 tons in capacity. These figures leave out all vessels of less than 100 tons. Of the total, 491 vessels of 870,662 tons were steamers and 275 vessels of 184,450 tons were sailers. It is interesting to note that while the United Kingdom has lost 2.2 per cent. of the country's tonnage and 2.43 per cent. of the vessels owned, if all the neutral countries mentioned in the totals were taken together, they have lost 2.37 per cent. of the tonnage and 2.62 per cent. of the vessels owned by them. Measured by percentages the depredations thus look small, but they are irritating enough, and cause grievous loss, for which there is no compensation to be found in any direction. But that is war—destroy, destroy, until mankind itself is threatened with destruction.

With reference to the suggestions that have been published that the extraordinary high price ruling for spelter is the outcome of cornering operations, certain facts and statistics which we have given in previous issues, and which are repeated in a circular issued by the spelter experts, Messrs. Rudolf Wolff, Kreuger and Co., show that in the main the result is not due to the work of speculators. It is true that while the German Government is paying £40 per ton for spelter we are paying £100, but this is the result mainly of the monopoly which the German firms secured in peace times over the Broken Hill production. They took

practically the entire output, and when the war broke out Germany had enormous reserves of spelter and zinc concentrates, while the Broken Hill companies were unable to dispose of their output owing to the lack of smelters and the delay made in releasing the companies from any legal disability under their contracts. The European output in 1913 was 661,325 tons; the Belgian, Silesian, Rhenish, Northern French, Austrian and Polish smelters produced 570,152 tons. These enormous supplies have been cut off from the Allies, and they are forced to depend mainly on the United States, which in 1913 sent to Europe 308,549 tons. Our own producers have slightly increased their production since the war, but owing to the lack of labour and of furnace capacity the advance has been small. The United States Geological Survey estimates that the United States may furnish Europe with about 560,000 tons, an increase on 1913 of about 250,000 tons, and the American producer, of course, is taking full advantage of our reliance upon him to make good the deficiency in Europe. But with the suppression of peace trade requirements and the extension of smelting capacity here, in France, and in Australia, a lower level of prices may be looked for, though it must not be forgotten that America necessarily controls the situation, and is likely to do so for a long time to come.

It was only to be expected that such a business as Raphael Tuck and Sons would be amongst the worst sufferers from the war, as fine art publications are in no way a necessity. In addition, however, to the loss of trade in all parts of the world the company's misfortunes were increased through the sequestration by the German Government of its branch house at Berlin. The nett result for the year ended April 30 was consequently a loss of £10,708 compared with a profit of £33,117 for the previous twelve months. This deficit has been written off out of the general reserve, the preference dividend to January 1 has been met by the balance of £6,619 brought forward and £2,547 taken from the special dividend reserve, while the dividend for the four months to April 30 has been met by a further appropriation of £4,583 from that fund; but, of course, the ordinary shares which received 6 per cent. for 1913-14 can now get nothing. After making these adjustments the various reserves will amount to £80,425, which may be taken as being separately invested, seeing that in addition to £38,871 in Consols and Colonial and Corporation stocks specifically earmarked for the special dividend fund the company has £47,179 in gilt-edged securities and £21,379 invested in printing and publishing companies. Stocks and outlay on new season's goods show a reduction of £23,822 at £29,055 and debtors owe £7,927 less at £84,917, while sundry creditors come to £5,533 more at £24,529, but cash has risen by £15,467 to £56,057 and except for the high value of £240,732 put upon copyrights, patents and goodwill the position is sound enough.

We are sorry that a mistake was made in dealing with the Bodega Co.'s report last week, and hasten to correct it with apologies. This is how the chairman puts us right: "Allow me to point out to you that, as a matter of fact, the shareholders received a dividend of 5 per cent. on April 27 last, which is the largest dividend paid since 1908. It is quite clearly stated in the report that 'the interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares paid on April 27 last required a further sum of £14,000.' It is obvious that as the paid-up ordinary capital is £280,000, 2½ per cent. would only amount to £7,000, and I think you will agree with me such a misstatement as this can hardly be passed over, and I shall be obliged if you will correct this in your next issue."

What looks like a very generous offer was made to the shareholders of the Carnforth Hematite Iron Co., Limited, this week. A financial corporation, with which Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Lord Balfour of Burleigh



are connected, has put forward a scheme for the purchase of the undertaking and assets for a sum equivalent to £21 10s. per £10 share. The corporation, which we take to be the Imperial and Foreign Corporation as that is the only one having the two gentlemen mentioned on its board, undertakes to form a new company with a capital of £144,000, or the same as that of the existing company, which will be divided into 6 per cent. non-cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, and proposes to give £3 10s. in each class of shares, together with £11 10s. in cash and £3 in 4½ per cent. War Loan for each £10 share. In addition the new company will have power to issue £144,000 in 5½ per cent. debentures, and shareholders will be given the opportunity of subscribing for these if they so desire. Little or no information is obtainable about the present undertaking, which is not even mentioned in the "Stock Exchange Official Intelligence," but it appears to have been formed in 1898 to take over a business established in 1864. For 1900-1 it paid 20 per cent., and since then the dividends have ranged between 8 per cent. and 15 per cent., the latter being the rate for 1913-14, while a reserve of £35,000 has been accumulated, so that it has been fairly prosperous. What its assets consist of, however, or what they are valued at we have no means of knowing, and without further details it is impossible to form any opinion as to the merits of the scheme, but on the surface the terms seem very greatly in favour of the sellers.

With the solitary exception of Chelmsford, where there was a decrease of 2,166 in the number of 32-watt lamps connected, the various undertakings owned by the Electric Supply Corporation again showed expansion in 1914. This was most marked at Dumbarton, which provided 7,804 out of the total increase of 13,449 lamps, but Falmouth, Exmouth, St. Andrews and Hitchin also did fairly well. The aggregate sales of current rose by 283,890 units to 4,258,981 units, and the gross earnings were £956 better at £35,646. Interest on investments yielded more, partly because the Hendon Electric Supply Co. raised its dividend from 12 per cent. to 13 and the nett profits were consequently £2,228 up at £17,883. After providing for debenture interest and the cost of repairs and renewals, both of which took more, the nett balance, including £262 more brought in, was £1,288 better at £9,844, and the dividend is increased from 2 per cent. to 2½. Out of the balance only £273 as against £2,100 is transferred to renewals account, raising that fund to £10,000, but £3,000 is set aside as the nucleus of a reserve and £1,846, or £410 less, is carried forward. Expenditure on undertakings for the year amounted to £5,552, making a total of £295,308, and investments in other companies were increased by £6,246 to £57,105, but cash balances were reduced by £7,724 to £2,004.

At no time since it was formed in 1909 has the British Columbia Fruit Lands, Ltd., been able to fulfil the promises of its prospectus. It began with an estate of 6,700 acres of freehold fruit and townsite land, and in 1912 acquired a further 35,100 acres, which it proposed to develop for resale. Very slow progress was made, and by the end of 1913 only some 320 acres had been disposed of, while in spite of a jump from £54 12s. 7d. to £174 19s. 3d. in the average price realised, the working for that year resulted in a loss of £3,100. No accounts have yet been issued for 1914, but the company's troubles were aggravated by the financial upset in Canada, and the interest due on the debenture stock on September 1 could not be met. In addition, the half-year's interest due on March 1, has also fallen into arrears, but apparently all hope of ultimate success has not yet been abandoned, and efforts are being made to finance the company through the bad time. The proposals put forward, however, by the British Canadian and General Investment Co. would appear to be unfair to the debenture-holders, for whom that company acts as trustee, and they are likely to meet with considerable opposition.

Briefly put, the debenture-holders are asked to agree to the funding of their interest up to and including March 1, 1918, for which they will be given 6 per cent. participating convertible debenture scrip certificates entitled to a bonus of 100 per cent. of the face value before any dividend can be paid on the shares. There would be nothing much to grumble about if this were all, but the Investment Co. wishes to put a fresh charge upon the assets ranking in front of the existing debentures. It proposes to lend the company not less than £15,000 for two years at 8 per cent. per annum, of which at least £10,000 is to be applied in the purchase of cattle and the remaining £5,000 is to be used to pay the expense of carrying through the arrangement and certain outstanding liabilities, and for working capital. This loan is to be secured as a first mortgage on the Cherry Creek property, which forms the main security for the existing debentures, and on the whole of the cattle and live stock, and powers are reserved to the Fruit Lands Co. to borrow a further £35,000, on the same security, if the Investment Co. is willing to lend it. As an excuse for these harsh-looking terms, the British Canadian and General Investment Co. says that it is not anxious at this juncture to tie up a considerable part of its available cash resources, but has agreed to make the advance because it believes that at the present moment it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to realise the property, and that the arrangements suggested are likely to be more advantageous to the debenture stockholders than the foreclosure of their security.

A circular has been issued by the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Ltd., giving the reasons why the board has been unable to pay any dividend. We have already set forth the story of unlicensed competition by motor cars, and need only now add that the board seems hopeful of being able to cope with this revenue-obstructing rivalry. It has, however, been unable to continue the payment of dividends, and the circular, while giving a few figures, is merely issued to call formally an extraordinary general meeting of the company to vote an acceptance of the agreement entered into between the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Ltd., and two of its subsidiaries, viz., the Vancouver Fraser Valley and Southern Railway Co. and the Vancouver Power Co. In calling this meeting the board takes the opportunity to state a few facts about the approximate nett earnings of the company and its subsidiaries for the first six months of its financial year ended December 31 last. They amounted to £190,584, a decrease of 24 per cent., or £61,252, on the corresponding half-year, and for the subsequent period ended June 30 last when motor competition was rampant the nett earnings dropped to £152,379, or 65½ per cent. Thus for the entire year there is a decline of £213,631, or about 44 per cent., making the actual approximate nett earnings £270,588.

### Slaughter That Avails Not the Foe.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Asquith gave through the House of Commons to the country a complete list of British casualties from the beginning of the war up to the 20th inst. It looks and is a most formidable, a most sorrowful list. In France we have lost 3,288 officers and 48,372 men killed outright, a total of 51,660 done to death. The wounded number 6,803 officers and 156,308 men, or 163,111 in all, and the missing number 1,163 officers and 50,969 men, or 52,132 in all. Adding these figures together, we get 11,254 officers and 255,649 men, or 266,903 British and Irish citizens in all done to death and maimed or lost in France, of whom more than 19 per cent. have been killed. How many of the missing should be numbered amongst the killed is not now known, and may not be known for many a day. But this is not all the story of killed, wounded, and missing even as it stands. Already in the Dardanelles, including naval



and military together, we have lost 567 officers and 7,567 men killed, or 8,134 in all, while the wounded there number 1,379 officers and 28,635 men, a total of 30,014, and the missing 198 officers and 10,892 men, or a total of 11,090 men. That is to say, 49,238 officers and men have been killed or wounded in the Dardanelles. Adding in the naval casualties for the same period, we get 499 officers and 7,430 men killed. Adding further the wounded and missing, naturally comparatively small in number—the wounded being only 87 officers and 787 men and the missing 29 officers and 274 men—we reach a total of 615 officers and 8,491 men of the Navy, or an aggregate of 9,106 seamen lost permanently or for the time through this war. Then there are the operations in all parts of Africa, except the South-West, so that when the entire numbers, apart from the losses of Botha's troops, are added together we attain an aggregate of 330,995 killed, wounded, and missing, those out of this total reported as actually killed being 61,384, the number wounded 196,620, and of missing 63,885, exclusive of the above-mentioned naval losses. These being added, we get the total cost to us in men killed, maimed, and lost raised to 330,995, and daily the numbers are increasing.

This is a most melancholy record, and yet it represents a very much smaller sacrifice of life by the British Empire and of loss by wounds or capture, whether proportionately to its population or to the efforts made, than our Allies have had to bear. France keeps heroic silence over her losses, and so does Russia. Italy likewise will probably keep silence, at least until after the crisis of the struggle has been passed. But we know from the numbers of men engaged that all these three Powers must have suffered and be now suffering sacrifices of human life far beyond anything we have yet been called upon to endure. France and Russia, above all, have sacrificed tens, ay hundreds, of thousands of their citizens on many a hard-fought battlefield. Probably with us the height of agony in the conflict has not yet been reached, although these casualties show that we have had far more troops engaged in strenuous endeavour to stem the Teutonic aggression than the public has been led to estimate. And now our new armies are only waiting for sufficient accumulations of ammunition reserves to extend their field of operations, and take a still more active share in the labour of putting down and back the maddened enemy whose way to the sea we have helped to bar so long. We must consequently look for heavy additions to these figures, and brace ourselves to endure the agony until the end. The hotter the battle the sooner the victory, but there must be no pauses in the driving when once it really begins.

And can this desired end really be so far away as Lord Kitchener bids us expect, as military calculators in general are more and more agreed in expecting? We dare not prophesy because the ways of the insane are unpredictable; yet it does seem to us as if the crest of the wave had now been reached, and if that be so there is no knowing how soon collapse will follow. When the peoples with whom we are contending grasp the fact that they are being defeated, and ruined in defeat, they may turn on their tyrants and seek peace with the foes they have provoked. They have not grasped that fact yet, being beguiled by their Press, by the false teaching of generations which has warped their raw minds and confirmed perhaps in their resolution to fight on by the legends of victory or approaching victory still manufactured for their deceiving. Armies in the East are fed upon tales of victories over France and England both on land and at sea; armies in the West are bidden to gloat over the discomfiture of Russia, the triumphal entry of the Kaiser into Warsaw, the joy march of his armies upon Petrograd or Moscow, or both; and the complete domination of Germany over the Balkan nations, Constantinople, and Asia Minor is taken as assured. Even without these stimulants for the demented, however, the dull obstinacy of the Teuton race is likely to impel it to refuse to believe in defeat as

long as men can be found to stand up and fire rifles or to drag heavy guns and ammunition against fortresses and otherwise by action nourish the dream of approaching victory. How long, though, will the resources last? The waste in human pawns and in beasts of burden, let alone of iron, steel, brass, leather, woven fabrics of all kinds, must already have been many times greater than the would-be world subduers ever calculated upon. Is there anything like victory in sight for the Junker against Russia, against anybody? Are the armies of the Kaiser any nearer Warsaw? They do not seem to be, and the very fact that enormous new German armies have been hurried northward into the Baltic provinces of Russia with a view to attempt a raid upon the lines of communication behind the Russian armies in Poland appears to prove that Hindenburg and Mackensen recognise the hopelessness of their task. Neither commander has made any appreciable progress since we wrote a week ago. Every day they are held back weakens their capacity to assume and maintain the offensive. Warsaw is just as far away from the German swarms as ever, and meanwhile their men and horses, their munitions also and supplies of food must have been consumed at a speed perfectly appalling, a speed no nation however rich could long sustain at its present intensity of waste. The Germans, in other words, are being beaten in Poland and Russia, since the objects they set out to attain there last October and were twice foiled in trying to reach are just as far off now as they were then. In all the intervening period of ten months' fighting nothing whatever of a substantial kind has been gained by them. Russia stands inviolate, steadfast, and unsubduable, easy enough to invade but almost impossible to withdraw from. The armies which the German general staff has massed against the Slavonic empire in imitation of the first Napoleon seem destined to be for the most part buried in Poland and Russia. If the campaign drags on until the Russian winter comes upon them their destruction may be more complete than that of the grand army of Napoleon, and no second battle of Leipzig will be required to throw it into the impotence which enabled the Allies to overthrow Napoleon's empire in 1813 and 1814, in spite of a resistance on his part inspired by a genius in war no Junker of all the Kaiser's hordes has betrayed a trace of in this war, mercifully, perhaps, for us.

Good progress is also being made in the conquest of the Dardanelles, and it cannot now be long until that portion of the European campaign reaches a successful conclusion. Fighting, however, may drag on till the cold weather returns, especially if Bulgaria at last decides to throw in her lot with the Turk. Her selfish ruler bargains and watches and higgles still. If it be true that he has been given control of the Turkish railway lines through Macedonia to the port of Dedeagach on the Sea of Marmora, it would look as if some sort of agreement had been reached, but even that cannot long postpone the fate awaiting the decrepit and maleficent Turkish Empire. Italy progresses, and is fighting with that magnificent dash and spirit characteristic of the revived nation paying off old scores against Austria. She is fighting not only against Austrian, but against Bavarian and possibly German troops, although the Kaiser has not declared war, is deterred, perhaps, from doing so by the extent of German banking and industrial interests in Italy. His abstinence will make no difference in the end, for Germans will be ostracised in every civilised country, allowed to get no foothold in any free country after this war is over, perhaps for generations, if ever. For the moral penalty his crimes will impose upon the aggressor in this war will far outlast and outweigh the material losses inflicted by it, and may wipe out the Teutonic race as one of the master forces among mankind. Races and empires have been swept away before now, buried in oblivion for ever, for crimes less heinous than those of which the Germans have been guilty in originating and carrying on this war.

Our own share in the fighting has not been conspicuous this last week. We are waiting, just holding our own or little more, apparently provoking small



German attacks and dealing with them effectually when they occur. But the French Army is continuing most vigorously to clear the way for an advance over Alsace to the Rhine, and behind the lines facing the enemy on the French, British, and Belgian fronts great reserves of men and material are being gathered together, so that when the German lines are enfeebled to breaking point there may be no pause in the pressure to be applied and through force of which the foe will be driven out of the occupied countries to be himself hemmed in until his spirit is subdued sufficiently to make him willing to accept our peace when it does come. It will have to be a democratic peace, not a peace made with self-constituted potentates vaunting their familiarity with the Deity, clinging to privileges no human being should in these days have the right to claim from his fellow-man, and it is, we fear, a long way yet to the day when the disabused and impoverished citizens of the German and Austrian Empires will recognise that they have been betrayed, and grow willing, not only to lay down their arms, but to take up the burden their crimes must impose upon them, and pay damages for the evil deeds they have perpetrated.

### The Expansion of Banking Credit.

From the economic point of view nothing could well be more suggestive than the table we give this week exhibiting the figures of London banks, or banks whose head offices are in London, as disclosed in their balance-sheets or monthly statements made up at the end of June. In all the figures of 14 banks are embraced in the table, but in regard to one of them, the London and Provincial to wit, we can only print the figures of the 30th ult. This bank did not enter the Clearing-House until late last year, and at the end of June, 1914, published no figures whatever, its accounts being made up at the end of the year. Now, being amongst the "clearing" banks, the monthly statement is furnished on the same lines as those established by the other banks, but they do not go far enough back to enable us to make comparison. Doubtless if we had the statement of June 30, 1913, its comparison with that of June 30 last would reveal an extension of commitments such as is common to all the other banks, and a guess might be made of the extent of this expansion on the part of the London and Provincial by taking the average. It is better, however, to include no fictions in our table, even when the fictions reveal probabilities. As they stand the various items are significant enough of the strain which has already been put upon the banking credit of the country by the war. For the war almost alone is at the bottom of the expansion shown in deposit liabilities, in cash and credit at the Bank of England, in investments, and in floating money on the market. It will be noticed that the liabilities on deposit and current account of the 13 banks whose figures can be compared at the distance of a year have risen about £170,000,000, and that the assets against this enormous increase have grown in a corresponding manner. Cash in hand or at the Bank of England, that is to say the mixture of cash and immediately available credit, shows an increase of £87,271,000, and the call and notice money one of £5,768,000. Investments, too, are £47,404,000 higher, and the bills and advances have increased £39,608,000. The increase in assets thus represents, and to a very large extent is, the product of the increase in deposit, &c., liabilities. The banks have been compelled to expand their credit facilities in directions required to meet the Government demands for "money." Not only have they made large advances to their customers, but they have themselves created credit for the benefit of the Government, and that to an extent which at the date when the accounts were made up left them apparently with fully £87,250,000 more of unused or unusable resources on their hands.

What will be the end of this inflation? It is too early to ask in one sense, and in another it would be too indiscreet to attempt to answer. All is specula-

tion as to the future, because we are not now in a position to guess when the war will end. Week by week, in observing the tremendous waste of human life which goes on day by day and the loss of wealth accumulated during years of peace, we say it is impossible that this should continue on the present scale for many weeks longer; but when a nation, or group

BANK BALANCE-SHEET SUMMARIES as at June 30, 1915.

Name.	Deposits, &c.	+ Increase or — Decrease.	Cash in Hand.	+ Increase or — Decrease.	Money at Call.	+ Increase or — Decrease.	Investments.	+ Increase or — Decrease.	Bills, Advances, &c.	+ Increase or — Decrease.
Barclay and Co. ....	76,431,069	14,550,132	16,107,564	7,078,836	6,078,800	109,300	*14,354,863	2,856,234	40,754,174	4,355,080
Capital and Counties .....	47,885,909	7,000,367	9,336,489	2,988,630	8,583,264	2,005,264	8,542,676	3,173,065	22,982,131	1,276,525
Coutts and Co. ....	12,897,736	3,422,087	2,415,322	1,230,562	2,570,417	1,213,090	3,501,440	640,696	5,570,057	717,439
Lloyds .....	134,524,365	27,202,515	32,673,211	14,481,895	5,801,908	4,777,711	23,321,714	10,436,779	78,219,431	6,873,175
London and Provincial .....	24,630,539	—	4,381,936	—	4,192,183	—	5,355,906	—	13,431,914	—
London and South-Western .....	25,038,814	2,509,548	5,127,174	1,724,158	2,925,405	301,157	5,287,258	1,437,390	13,145,833	324,174
London City and Midland .....	142,388,314	47,360,875	36,356,672	21,228,481	9,529,997	2,080,359	20,069,794	11,234,097	82,506,561	18,194,879
London County and Westminster .....	113,396,556	22,531,433	31,242,440	18,742,912	12,402,966	1,265,441	15,813,128	6,138,986	59,816,928	1,437,827
London Joint Stock .....	45,173,086	7,813,582	10,346,998	4,502,123	3,800,308	1,681,191	7,185,121	779,513	26,895,584	4,218,866
National .....	15,559,869	789,506	2,952,457	851,434	2,940,560	263,514	3,019,148	694,483	10,288,018	103,369
National Provincial of England .....	85,184,187	13,957,822	13,226,909	2,485,408	4,442,618	1,023,794	19,049,515	3,708,036	53,997,290	8,565,888
Parr's .....	58,441,003	9,726,813	13,932,751	6,022,126	11,279,970	2,706,066	11,256,317	2,448,618	25,822,213	1,409,226
Union of London .....	50,201,178	8,363,526	11,008,456	4,523,084	8,150,588	1,239,038	9,171,082	2,340,571	24,626,157	241,993
Williams Deacon's .....	20,772,457	4,653,764	3,933,904	1,410,901	3,087,799	787,878	3,996,120	1,455,282	11,223,998	991,762
Total .....	852,225,083	+ 169,881,970	193,042,483	+ 87,270,610	86,686,273	+ 5,767,597	149,924,082	+ 47,403,742	469,280,289	+ 39,607,881

\* Exclusive of reserve fund, £1,600,000.

of races and nationalities forming an empire, has become so debased through pursuit of false ideals as to be ready to immolate themselves in pursuit of their dream of dominion, all ground for prudence or for calculation of probabilities vanishes, and observers can only stand by and watch the destruction of what were powerful communities. That may go on, not only



to a date beyond all reason and probability, but until both sides are either exhausted or on the verge of exhaustion, and the longer the conflict proceeds the greater becomes the strain upon banks, just as upon taxpayers, producers of wealth of every degree. In the end rich and poor may be confounded together in one common ruin. At least, that seems to be the consummation for which the Kaiser and his Junkers are striving, and only the utmost economy, the most vigilant circumspection can prevent the Allied Powers from being also engulfed.

Are we, then, to regard the figures presented in our table as sinister in their import? Not necessarily at all, at least not yet. Everything will depend upon the extent to which we are able to conserve our energies now and to hold ourselves ready to expand our wealth-producing capacities when peace does return. From the point of view of imperial resources there ought to be no ground for fear. To be sure, the war found all the nationalities embraced in the British Empire more or less irretrievably in the hands of the usurer, and the additions now being made to their debts are not calculated to ease the future for their peoples even when peace returns. But if this is recognised and the difficulty loyally met, it should lead to such a consolidation of the British Empire in fraternal unity as might make it stronger than ever before. In our view it may be necessary for us to begin by consolidating the obligations of the entire Empire in an imperial redeemable stock, and to go on to concentrate in the hands of an imperial council composed of representatives from every part of the British dominion, including India, all demands for new capital. We ought so to contrive it that each demand shall be scrutinised and weighed from various points before it is sanctioned. Changes like these may further involve a common system of taxation—not after the manner of the Protectionists, which would hamper the exchange of commodities, not only between the Mother Country and the outlying free communities forming the Empire, but still more adversely affect the Empire's commercial intercourse with its Allies and nations outside the European comity—in the direction of a special impost or assignment of revenue to the service of the consolidated and unified debt. And one thing seems inevitable—a European comity must come out of this war. No State that is engaged in it, striving against oppression, can take an independent line in the future. To ensure peace, to make disarmament practicable and maintainable, the Allies must draw together, attune their commercial systems in harmony with each other, and create such an accord as should go far to render future wars impossible. That is our consoling dream, and because of this and other visions of a better day to come there is nothing in the banking figures we print that in the least dismays us. They only warn the nation to practise the economy most voices now preach to it. Of over £3,000,000 and more a day now spent, £1,000,000 at least would appear to be wasted or to have been wasted hitherto.

### Departmental Stupidity and Waste.

The special correspondent of the *Daily Mail* in Petrograd, Mr. H. Hamilton Fyfe, sent it in the beginning of the week a letter in which it was stated that a "clean sweep" has been made at the Russian War Office. The former War Minister, General Sukhomlinoff, has not only been turned adrift, but also his assistant, and, it would seem, much of the *personnel* in the Office. In consequence the nation now feels confident that the terrible miscalculations for which the ousted Minister and staff were responsible will not be repeated, and Mr. Fyfe assures readers here that the country is putting all its energy into the task of repairing the past. No further delay will be tolerated. How far this assurance attunes with the facts we cannot say, or, rather, we cannot measure the amount of Russian popular enthusiasm that may lie behind and give warranty to Mr. Hamilton Fyfe's words. That

he, however, is an honourable man, totally incapable of disseminating a falsehood, we firmly believe, and the persual of his message caused us to wonder what is being done to clarify affairs in our own War Office. It has always been the weakest spot in the British Administration, far weaker, because usually less business-like, than the Admiralty. Not only is it a huge beehive cut into segments each independent of the other, each boum-boumed over by its own drone or drones, but it has neither a Parliamentary nor a permanent official head endowed with the power of ordering those under him to do what they are told. The War Office, in other words, is an anarchic institution by reason of the fact that it is composed of an invertebrate array of independent segments—often jealous of each other, always disposed to resent any interference the one with the other or from outside. And over and against the War Office is the manufacturing organisation at Woolwich Arsenal, where corruption has long reigned—we will not say supreme, but often voraciously enough to be above considerations of patriotism. It is self-interest first and country afterwards far too often.

Lack of organisation inevitably causes the department also to fall under the dominion of red tape and routine to an extent more productive of waste and delay than any profit-sharing could be, and which would be perfectly intolerable in any organisation devoted to business or conducted on business lines. Hence extravagance often immeasurable; hence ignorance of any army's requirements in wartime; hence "slackness" and a serene, imperturbable indifference as to what happens provided it does not affect this man's department or the work of that other functionary. Work does get done after a time, but at a cost that ranges from an average of from 30 to 50 per cent. above what it need be. We speak by the book, because the new munition committees now getting to work, not only in London but all over the country, are finding themselves at once bang up against the waste



D A 5

The road through Epping Forest from the point it leaves the fringe of London at Walthamstow to the point at which it reaches the township of Epping is a delight to the eyes. It is a wonderfully straight road and on either side are the woods in wave on wave of trees.

Owing to the closing of High Beech for military purposes a re-arrangement of routes serving Epping Forest has been made necessary.

No. 157 now runs from Finsbury Park (Underground Station) to the Wake Arms, the last inn in the forest and a very central point for the best of the woodlands.

A New Route No. 10B has been introduced between Elephant & Castle and Epping proceeding via Stratford and Leytonstone. This route traverses the main forest road from end to end as described above.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.





of incompetence and obstructed by the red-tape delays and *paperasseries* of these permanent departments, and not only obstructed but given the wrong things to do. The new Munitions Department, in fact, has raised war between the old departments on all hands, and out of the "shindies" and knowledge gained may come reform. Woolwich is jealous of the new office, and scornful; the War Office bungles and obstructs, until weeks of time are sacrificed or threaten to be sacrificed. Having no experience, moreover, either of official obscurantism or of the routine or usages of business, the new department is easily caught and led astray by passing enthusiasms, worships the fad of the moment with an amazing degree of blind enthusiasm. The Minister of Munitions, Mr. Lloyd George, addresses, say, the women who marched through London to emphasise their willingness to work, and says they must be "organised." His department catches hold of the idea, or the phrase, and for days talks of nothing else but "the organisation of women workers." But it has not the ghost of an idea where a single dozen of the women it proposes to train could be placed in work were they ready, does not know anything about the shops that would employ women, or the probability that they could be placed amongst men in a way that would not jar with their self-respect or that would ensure their full employment. It will prove to be the same thing with this registration cry, the most inept, senseless, and impracticable piece of legislation the Ministry has thus far perpetrated. Thousands of men and women have already been "enrolled" for this and that, put on the books of the Government—and the Government has found no work for them, cannot find any. Certain chosen firms get work to do, new candidates for admission among the chosen are looked on with jealousy, hindered sometimes almost as much as if the chiefs of the departments concerned had to be well bribed before they would give out any orders at all, and our hope of salvation begins to be the independent extra-departmental munition committees.

And when it comes to the methods of conducting business, they are such as must ensure waste of all kinds. Witness the story that Mr. Higham, the member for Sowerby, told in the House of Commons last week of the firm that executed a certain order for goods at a certain agreed on price, including cost of packing-cases. The goods were made and delivered with the intimation that if the packing-cases were returned an allowance of 5 per cent. would be taken off the account. These packing-cases came to a large sum, but in the hurry and waste of war only some five pounds' worth of their value was sent back as empties. For this amount the firm, in accordance with honourable business usages, sent a credit note. The credit was ignored, and the firm told to take its money as originally invoiced. That is "Government" all over; but what does it matter? We can borrow and still borrow.

There is that other glimpse, too, given by the same Yorkshire man of business in a question put by him to Mr. Tennant, who refused to answer it on the ground that it would be against public, i.e., against departmental unbusinesslike, if not corrupt, interests for him to do so, which was ridiculous. Mr. Higham wanted to know whether a certain bronze fuse used in the British Army weighed 2 lbs., whereas the similar instrument for the French shell weighed only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. After every artillery duel, he declared, the Germans can go over the battlefield and pick up bronze fusees of British make weighing 2 lbs. each to help them in maintaining their fire or in equipping their own explosives, because, although the fuse explodes the shell, it is not itself destroyed. Could any indifference to consequences be more suicidal? And these are but trivial examples of what goes on through the up-in-the-air absence in high places of any business capacity, any common sense such as can be drilled into average minds by contact with the actualities of life. Unfortunately, our Civil Service is seldom refreshed by the addition to it of men to

whom life has any meaning as an arena of conflict and endeavour.

No properly regulated house of business, for example, could tolerate and live amid such usages as were disclosed in an action at law last week. The facts revealed in court were pertinently commented upon in last week's *Illustrated Sunday Herald*. A gentleman introduced a certain type of motor vehicle to the War Office, and became entitled to a commission of £15,000 on the business which resulted, the sum representing 15 per cent. added to the price. But this gentleman was not the direct bargainer or sale agent. He did his introducing through other agents, who got 10 per cent. additional commission. This would make nearly, but not quite, £25,000 in all, because presumably the direct or actual agent's commission would be first paid and then the other gentleman would get his 15 per cent. on the nett amount left. It was, anyhow, a heavy handicap of very nearly 25 per cent. upon the price paid by the taxpayer, and that kind of thing goes on every day and all day. Anything resembling genuine patriotic self-sacrifice is rare and not to be looked for amongst the firms, boards of directors and individual manufacturers now busy, or beginning to get busy, in providing our Army with ammunition. That some commissions or percentages to middlemen would have to be paid in order that more people than are perhaps imperatively necessary might live we may accept as inevitable, but that any great firm conducted on business principles, and under a system whereby responsibility would extend from the head downwards to the utmost limits of the service, would permit itself to be sponged upon and robbed in the way and on the scale the War Office and other spending departments glory in is incredible. No business could exist for half a generation carried on amid such profusion. Perhaps the new munitions committees are going to revolutionise the departments and save the nation.

Although couched in hopeful language, the perfect frankness of Mr. Lloyd George's speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday really confirmed all that is said above. He showed that the new Munitions Department is fighting with chaotic elements, not only in the old War Office and Admiralty, but, above all, in industrial centres everywhere. Trade unions still keep down output by insisting that men shall only do the average amount of work allowed by their rules, and therefore the firms engaged in fulfilling Government contracts are, partly, if not mainly, for this reason, unable to keep their promise and to deliver the full tale of goods up to time. "It is really quite impossible to stand by the rigid rules of the trade unions in a great emergency like this," said Mr. Lloyd George, and that is emphatically true. In spite of all drawbacks, however, he was able to assure the House of Commons and the country that the deficiencies in equipment are in a way to be made good. Existing factories are to be multiplied, and new workers trained to factory work. He assured the House that the steps his department had taken and is taking to increase the supply of machine guns, of grenades, bombs, and other instruments of destruction would presently show good results. We often hear grumblings at the smallness of results hitherto obtained by our now great armies in the field, but surely the Minister of Munitions revealed the main reason why. The Army is not fully equipped, does not possess enough guns and ammunition to enable it to commence and to persevere without pause in an active campaign against the enemy. This war is to be won by, one may say, daily Neuve Chapelles, and for the most part our troops have only been able hitherto just to assist the French in keeping the enemy back and grinding him down; but before that "march to Berlin," on which our newspapers are so eloquent, can begin, there must be piled up behind our fighting front enormous quantities of shot and shell, reserve stocks of guns and of every kind of death-dealing tool, as well as of provisions, so that we may go on without pause to the goal. All the more reason why the pressure should now be put upon workmen all over the country to



brace themselves up, and give all their energies to a united and strenuous effort so to equip not only our own armies, but those of our Allies, as to bring them in sight of an early conclusion to this devouring war. We must also hasten to increase the effectiveness of our help to Russia, against whose heroic but hard-pressed armies the Prussians are still alleged to be hurling men in hundreds of thousands, withdrawn from the Franco-Belgian front. We doubt the story, but it is up to us to make the feat impossible.

### American Business Notes.

Danger of an outbreak of hostilities between the United States and the Middle Empires of Europe has not been increased by the latest American Note. It is a clever Note and almost peremptory in its terms, but its conclusion is somewhat lame, the last sentence running thus: "Friendship itself (that is to say, friendship for the German Empire) prompts the United States Government to say to the Imperial Government that repetition by the commanders of German naval vessels of acts in contravention of those rights must be regarded by the Government of the United States, when they affect American citizens, as deliberately unfriendly." We never can regard a sentence which ends with an adverb as emphatic, and the weakness of such a deliverance at the end of Mr. Lansing's letter, especially after the recital of facts and principles which precede it, forces us to conclude that there is no real intention whatever on the part of the American Government or people to enter into or take any active share in this civilisation-obliterating war. On the whole we are glad it should be so, having no desire to extend the area of ruin. At the same time, it is a pity that President Wilson has not made more emphatic his Government's determination at least to hold the Berlin Government responsible for damages after the war is over. He could have indicated many pains and penalties lying within the power of the North American Republic to impose when peace comes back. Instead of that, we get the same primness of elaborate academic reasoning in defence of elemental human rights, as they might be called, which previous despatches from the same quarter have familiarised us with. They carry us no further. To be told that "if a belligerent cannot retaliate against an enemy without injuring the lives of neutrals as well as their property, humanity as well as justice and due regard for the dignity of neutral Powers should dictate that the practice be discontinued. If persisted in it would, in such circumstances, constitute an unpardonable offence against the sovereignty of the neutral nation affected." This is quite nice and is Mr. Wilson's deliverance upon the submarine atrocities, most conspicuously exemplified by the sinking of the *Lusitania*. But the Note then goes on to explain how the Government of the United States is "mindful of the extraordinary conditions created by this war," and of "the radical alterations in the circumstances and methods of attack produced by the use of instrumentalities of naval warfare which the nations of the world cannot have had in view when the existing rules of international law were formulated." Admitting all this, the Note insists that Germany is transgressing all law, and ends, as we have indicated, with the usual professorial class warning—"Naughty boys, you must not do this again else I shall be very, very angry indeed."

It is a pity, and not least a pity because such an attitude merely provokes Germany to increase her defiance of every consideration of humanity. The first answer to the Note was not a diplomatic one, but a naval one—a sudden renewal of submarine attacks on defenceless vessels at sea. One of the most conspicuous of these was the sinking of another American ship, a San Francisco steamer, coming from Archangel to Belfast. Her crew was rescued, so that the President of the United States will not have to insist upon "humanitarian" considerations in this instance; but the incident is significant of that con-

tempt shown in Berlin official circles towards the interests and people of every other country. The *Junker* thinks himself above all human law, and has long been the creator of his own "divine" law. Probably also he would not care a straw now were the United States really to flare up and muster its fleet to be sent to help the Allies in the Mediterranean or to increase the intensity of the blockade on German coasts. That might, from his point of view, suit his game, because it would hinder, and perhaps stop, the supply of ammunitions to the Allies by United States manufacturers, prevent also any help being given to these Allies in the way of loans from American bankers and wealthy citizens. Obviously, recklessness has become extreme amongst the entourage of the Kaiser, and we may expect the perpetration of submarine atrocities to be continued with recurring spasms of brutal intensity as long as the war lasts. There was a lull of a week because the submarines had to go home for fresh torpedoes, but when re-supplied this cowardly and mean sort of devastation, directed principally against humble fishing vessels, has been renewed with the utmost fury, and Wednesday's papers contained a list of about a dozen vessels attacked and either sunk or set on fire. A hundred seamen who formed the crews of vessels recently sunk by submarines left Stornoway in the end of last week, but all the crews of ships attacked were not sunk. There is, in fact and at the moment, less loss of life than there was, and that may help to placate the American people, to keep them from listening to Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, who is still on the warpath and ready to join in the fray with all his energy. There is enough war without him and his roughriders, and we would rather fight the fight out in Europe and Asia by ourselves than have any eleventh hour intervener threatening to take a masterful share in arranging the peace. We mean to have no peace with empires; on that our good Yankee friends may "bet their bottom dollar."

A closely printed pamphlet has now been circulated giving particulars with regard to the readjustment of the Missouri Pacific Railway Co. and St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Co. Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb and Co. have been appointed readjustment managers by three committees—viz., the bondholders' committees, representing the 5 per cent. first and refunding mortgage loan; secondly, each of the 40-year 4 per cent. gold loans, and, finally, the committee of shareholders. The essential part of the scheme so far as these stockholders is concerned is the assessment of the common stock. At present the Missouri Pacific stock outstanding represents a nominal value of \$82,839,585, and upon this a cash assessment of 50 per cent. is to be levied. For that 50 per cent., amounting to \$41,419,792, an equivalent amount in the new 4 per cent. general mortgage bonds will be given. These bonds will rank after the new first and refunding mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, whose aggregate will be \$46,932,150. To this \$44,399,292 of the same 4 per cent. mortgage bonds has to be added, and also \$76,751,635 of new 5 per cent. preference stock, or 5 per cent. income bonds, into which last form of security the existing Missouri Pacific 4 per cent. loan, Missouri Pacific first and refunding 5 per cent., and the Kansas and Colorado Pacific 6 per cent., with other smaller securities, will be converted, the result being that although the entire mass of the capital will be augmented by at least \$45,000,000, the fixed charges will be reduced. As it stands the burden of fixed interest obligations per mile of line is \$39,996. After readjustment this will be \$31,357, a saving of \$8,639 per mile. On the completion of readjustment it is therefore estimated that the nett available income, measured by the past year's earnings, will be increased by \$3,581,000, so that after meeting the fixed interest charges, paying the interest on the new general mortgage 4 per cent. bonds, and also what will be due on the \$44,399,000 of these bonds to be issued under the plan, enough will be left to yield over 3 per cent. to the holders of the \$76,752,000 of



new preferred stock. This estimate takes no account whatever of the probable—nay, certain—future increase in earnings. Although perhaps sanguinely framed in the circumstances, the plan seems as good as could be arranged, and we think it ought to be adhered to forthwith by all the parties interested, for, as the introductory statement in explanation points out, failing voluntary action, foreclosure of mortgages and compulsory reorganisation involving serious expense, delays, and complications cannot be avoided. It ought to be avoided even at a great sacrifice.

In 1914 cloth sales of the Montreal Cotton Co. fell off from \$3,017,704 to \$2,291,885. Cloth in process was slightly higher, but nearly \$300,000 more had to be deducted for cloth stock at the beginning of the year, so that the total was still about \$920,000 down at \$2,393,871. Raw cotton, wages, &c., however, absorbed some \$765,000 less at \$1,678,103, and as nothing was set aside for depreciation compared with \$115,000, the manufacturing profit, after meeting taxes, interest, &c., was very little smaller at \$368,421. Out of this bond interest and bad debts are provided for and the dividend of 11 per cent. is repeated, leaving a surplus of \$7,306, against \$18,259 in 1913.

The year ended December 31 last proved a very difficult one for the Dominion Cannery, Ltd., Hamilton, Ontario, owing to the financial depression existing in Canada, a depression augmented by the outbreak of war. Nett profits, therefore, showed a decrease of \$135,562 at \$330,853, and the dividend on the common stock is reduced from 6 per cent. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , leaving the surplus \$71,579 down at \$27,353.

### Critical Index to New Investments.

#### INDIA 4 PER CENT. RUPEE LOAN.

In issuing its new loan for Rs. 4,50,00,000 the Indian Government has followed the example of the home Government in making special provision for the small investor. Applications in the ordinary way will be received by Government offices in the various Provinces and by the Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras between August 2 and 17, and applicants not in India must name an agent resident in that country to whom an allotment certificate may be issued. When an allotment is less than Rs. 3,000 payment must be made in full on September 8, but in other cases the amount is payable by instalments spread over until October 30. From August 2 to October 30 applications for the loan in sums of Rs. 100 or multiples thereof up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 will also be received, irrespective of the limit of Rs. 4,50,00,000, at all post-offices in India authorised to transact savings bank business, payment in full being made at the time of application. The loan, which bears interest at 4 per cent., is issued at par in the form of promissory notes, and will be repaid at par on November 30, 1923, but the Government reserves the right to redeem it on or after November 30, 1920, on three months' notice.

### Insurance News.

Among the first of the important life offices to publish revised rates for annuities is the Legal and General Life Assurance Society. In view of the rise in the rate of interest, a revision by some of the companies of their annuity terms was regarded as probable, but the offices as a whole are not agreed that the present moment is altogether propitious for improving the terms of annuities. The new rates of the Legal and General, both for male and female lives of between 40 and 60 years of age, show an additional income of about 4s. per cent. to purchasers of annuities. After the age of 60 the difference between the new and old scales becomes gradually less. It is understood that the Royal Insurance Co., though it has not yet issued any new prospectus on the subject, has decided to increase the annuities for all ages by 7s. per cent. Some offices appear to have experienced an increased mortality among older lives, presumably owing to the strain and anxiety caused by the war, so that it appears unlikely that there will be a general improving of

rates. The Law Union and Rock is another of the companies which is prepared to grant annuities on terms which, for certain ages, show a substantial advance on those hitherto in force; for the later years the improvement in terms is most marked in the case of male lives.

A special leaflet has been issued by the Standard Life Assurance Co. giving particulars of a deferred pension scheme the principal features of which are that if death occurs before age 50 there is no loss of money, all premiums being returned, while a large guaranteed cash option is available at age 50 if it be not desired to take the pension. The pension need not be taken at age 50, but a larger pension may be taken later. Should the policy-holder die after age 50 without having agreed to take the pension the full cash option which would have been receivable at his last birthday would be paid. The terms offered by the company are favourable, and no medical examination is required. Premiums of £1 per annum and upwards are accepted. The pension may be made available at age 60 or later instead of at age 50.

In view of the fact that depreciation of securities will have to be faced, and that the heavy income-tax must necessarily diminish the yield from investments, although the strength and security of the life insurance companies' great reserves will, of course, remain intact, the surplus profits will probably show some falling off. Consequently at the present moment there is not the same disposition on the part of the public to effect with-profit policies as formerly, the tendency being rather to secure the largest amount of cover at the lowest cost. For the benefit of those who feel that they would like the fuller protection of a without-profit policy, combined with some measure of profit in the case of policies of long standing, the Standard Life Assurance Co. has devised a new plan of assurance under the name of "the bounty policy." Under this scheme policies are issued as without-profit at a low rate of premium, but if a whole-life policy be effected a guaranteed bounty is given in the form of an addition to the sum assured when the life has survived a certain term of years, while if an endowment assurance policy be effected a guaranteed cash bounty is paid with the sum assured when the policy matures. The amount of bounty is in all cases guaranteed and inserted in the policy.

Shareholders of the United Dominions Insurance Co. have approved a provisional agreement for the sale and transfer of the business of the company to the British Dominions General Insurance Co., the basis of the agreement being an exchange of shares. Very friendly relations have hitherto existed between the two undertakings, several of the directors being on the boards of both companies. The British Dominions Co. has built up a premium income of over £600,000 a year, and has total assets according to the last balance-sheet of £872,000. For each of the six years to 1912 a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, while for 1913 and 1914 the dividend was 6 per cent. Shareholders in the United Dominions Co. will receive in place of their present holdings an investment involving a materially reduced uncalled liability in shares of a lower denomination.

## AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Established 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

FUNDS, £32,000,000.

ANNUAL INCOME £24,000,000.

Moderate Premiums, Liberal Conditions, World-wide Policies.

Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	July 23	£	£	*	£	£
Belfast and County Down..	23	4,900	—	222	108,288	+ 10,530
Grand Canal..	23	1,161	—	69	3,418	+ 426
Great Northern ..	23	25,835	+ 1,035	*	657,750	+ 23,450
Gt. Southern and Western..	23	35,598	+ 1,678	*	927,564	+ 87,475
Midland Great Western ..	23	12,307	—	1,277	361,985	+ 9,438

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Apl. *	32,402	—	9,662	—
Canadian Northern ..	July 21	\$277,100	—	\$101,800	—
Canadian Pacific ..	21	\$1,670,000	—	\$562,000	—
Egyptian Delta ..	June 30	3,979	—	1,526	—
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	July 21	160,366	—	8,876	—
Gr. Trk. Western ..	21	29,507	—	1,377	—
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	21	11,681	—	1,135	—
Gr Trk Pac PrairieSc ..	21	9,354	—	7,074	—
Mashonaland ..	May *	36,180	—	25,885	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	21	5,795	—	4,952	—
New Cape Central..	June 26	1,954	—	222	—
Rhodesia ..	May *	61,504	—	26,653	—
W. Pass & Yukon..	July 7	\$68,208	—	—	—

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. a April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	June 19	1,36,000	+ 4,142	15,33,079	+ 56,996
Barsi Light ..	12	16,900	—	2,84,900	—
Bengal & N.W. ..	19	3,79,080	—	46,46,047	—
Bengal Nagpur ..	12	7,90,000	—	1,00,75,000	—
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 24	9,29,000	—	2,03,13,000	—
Burma ..	June 19	3,64,953	—	47,31,679	—
Delhi Umballa ..	July 24	57,300	—	11,11,662	—
East Indian ..	24	20,14,000	—	3,57,72,000	—
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	17	13,18,600	—	2,55,17,769	—
Lucknow-Bareilly..	June 19	38,928	—	4,77,776	—
Madras and S. ..	26	9,10,000	—	1,19,51,499	—
Nizam's Guarante'd ..	26	1,05,863	—	14,83,864	—
Rohilkund and ..	19	33,325	—	4,44,591	—
Kumaon ..	26	5,74,485	—	71,11,332	—
Southern Indian ..	26	6,89,429	—	37,46,996	—
Southern Punjab ..	Mar. 8	—	—	—	—

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 14	789,000	+ 72,000	1,407,000	+ 121,000
Chicago G.W. ..	14	284,000	+ 9,000	517,000	+ 23,000
Colorado & South'n ..	June 30	315,000	+ 2,000	14,064,000	+ 842,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	July 14	438,000	—	888,000	—
Inter. of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	42,400	—	225,500	—
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	July 14	1,002,000	—	1,926,000	—
Mexican ..	Nov. 21	103,600	—	3,852,700	—
Do. ..	Oct. *	262,500	—	1,149,000	—
Do. ..	21	905,600	—	3,405,200	—
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	July 30	634,000	—	27,799,000	—
Missouri Kansas ..	June 21	570,224	—	1,175,884	—
Missouri Pacific ..	14	1,023,000	—	2,041,000	—
National of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	628,408	—	17,894,408	—
Do. ..	June a *	74,000	—	2,287,000	—
Southern ..	July 14	1,123,000	—	2,251,000	—

a 1914. † Nine days. \* Nett. † Includes Wisconsin Central.  
† From July 1. † Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	May	\$242,000	+ 285,000	11	\$3,101,000	+ 3,561,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	565,000	—	11	6,630,000	—
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,133,000	+ 1,247,000	11	24,707,000	+ 1,410,000
Canadian Northern ..	June	335,300	—	12	4,828,700	—
Canadian Pacific ..	May	2,443,000	—	11	30,807,000	—
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,215,000	+ 208,000	11	10,843,000	+ 542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,562,000	+ 552,000	11	20,393,000	—
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	1,640,000	+ 431,000	11	28,499,000	+ 205,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	208,000	+ 15,000	11	3,092,000	—
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	1,694,000	+ 136,000	11	21,894,000	—
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	804,000	+ 348,000	11	12,985,000	+ 902,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	169,000	+ 45,000	11	3,313,000	+ 749,000
Cuba ..	"	540,877	+ 78,876	11	4,749,143	+ 16,656
Do. ..	"	260,649	+ 111,003	11	1,688,244	+ 143,315
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	643,000	+ 13,000	5	2,864,000	+ 492,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	593,000	+ 91,000	5	5,864,000	+ 233,000
Erie ..	"	1,100,000	—	5	4,787,000	+ 530,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	\$215,950	+ 49,050	11	\$756,650	—
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£1,200	+ £8,700	11	£7,000	+ £5,500
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£7,300	+ £1,200	11	£26,400	+ £13,050
Gt. Northern ..	"	1,050,000	—	11	27,687,000	+ 1,144,000
Illinois Central ..	"	681,000	—	11	10,398,000	—
Kansas City Southern ..	"	267,000	+ 36,000	11	2,845,000	—
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,220,000	+ 108,000	11	9,899,000	+ 780,000
Louisville & Nashv'l ..	"	829,000	+ 227,000	11	9,218,000	—
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	"	337,000	—	11	7,599,000	—
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	593,259	—	11	1,742,556	+ 1,187,462
Missouri Pacific ..	"	778,000	—	11	11,962,000	—
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	3,716,000	+ 1,463,000	5	13,477,000	+ 4,953,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	1,738,000	+ 478,000	11	15,850,000	+ 2,525,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	176,000	—	11	1,957,000	+ 130,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,367,000	+ 202,000	11	11,670,000	—
Northern Pacific ..	"	1,341,000	+ 41,000	11	19,446,000	—
Pennsylvania East ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
and West Lines ..	"	6,766,000	+ 777,000	5	20,292,000	+ 1,060,000
Reading ..	"	556,091	+ 114	11	6,119,201	+ 57,204
St. Louis & San F. ..	Apl. *	915,000	+ 591,000	10	10,273,000	+ 1,045,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	May	473,000	—	11	4,890,000	—
Southern ..	"	1,338,000	+ 382,000	11	12,260,000	—
Southern Pacific ..	"	2,653,000	+ 141,000	11	32,091,000	—
Union Pacific ..	"	1,827,000	—	11	27,354,080	—
Wabash ..	"	295,000	+ 17,000	11	5,692,000	+ 320,000

† Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July 24	Ps. 10,000	—	Ps. 2,000	Ps. 390,900	—	Ps. 10,050
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	25	31,820	—	4,210	855,475	—	412,339
Arauco ..	June *	5,250	—	712	41,575	—	10,374
Argentine N.E. ..	July 24	6,096	—	129	20,184	—	959
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	"	3,655	—	70	26,573	—	5,921
Bolivar ..	"	8,250	—	1,648	86,169	—	25,698
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	—	M239,757	M12,681,000	—	M787,350
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Feb. *	M18,28,250	—	M6,250	M55,750	—	M10,250
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 24	79,000	—	2,000	264,000	—	2,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	25	79,000	—	—	277,908	—	15,033
Do. Western ..	25	42,000	—	—	147,000	—	—
Central Argentine ..	24	118,600	+ 12,600	—	423,600	—	26,600
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	24	10,143	+ 2,090	—	36,693	—	4,139
Do. East'n Ex. ..	24	3,400	+ 624	—	11,950	—	2,127
Do. North'n Ex. ..	24	1,871	+ 290	—	6,655	—	837
Do. West'n Ex. ..	24	1,581	+ 408	—	4,890	—	536
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	—	500	37,900	—	1,733
Cordoba Central ..	July 24	39,200	—	1,560	127,550	—	7,400
Costa Rica ..	Feb. 27	7,608	—	5,050	224,179	—	85,033
Cuban Central ..	July 17	8,041	—	1,240	18,774	—	1,733
Dorada Extension ..	June *	8,400	—	1,400	44,500	—	4,100
Entre Rios ..	July 24	8,800	—	100	29,900	—	1,400
Gt. South. of Spain ..	17	Ps. 61,176	—	Ps. 18,659	Ps. 642,689	—	Ps. 80,213
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	24	6,500	—	3,000	302,600	—	107,000
Havana Central ..	July 10	5,544	—	889	7,550	—	226
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May c *	16,233	—	13,356	80,959	—	52,099
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	6,250	—	1,750	42,250	—	17,250
Leopoldina ..	July 24	29,810	—	8,951	834,121	—	115,707
Manila ..	24	3,603	—	1,017	172,911	—	33,112
Midland Uruguay ..	June *	10,532	—	580	113,751	—	14,636
Mogovana ..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	—	M125,225	M6,570,000	—	M1,57,804
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$22,300	—	\$333	\$232,228	—	\$66,325
Nitrate ..	July 15	18,820	—	10,758	145,541	—	237,100
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	12,627	8,634	—	12,627
Paraguay Central ..	July 24	\$378,000	—	\$106,000	\$1,231,000	—	\$285,000
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	—	M59,123	M1,350,000	—	M39,662
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	June *	\$759,374	—	\$244,044	\$3,359,705	—	\$471,249
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	May *	3,737	—	513	19,858	—	1,392
Salvador ..	July 24	\$22,750	—	\$7,250	—	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	18	35,844	—	2,045	—	—	—
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	—	M132,722	M5,440,000	—	M94,558
Taita ..	June *	10,500	—	14,202	132,886	—	176,687
United of Havana ..	July 24	24,372	—	5,443	82,337	—	10,399
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 11	\$64,400	—	\$6,200	\$403,900	—	\$54,300
Uruguay Northern ..	June *	1,936	—	132	18,266	—	7,862
West'n of Havana ..	July 24	5,276	—	908	17,921	—	17,921
Zifra and Huelva ..	June *	7,061	—	6,038	43,248	—	42,578

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Nett. † 15 days.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bath Electric ..		—	—	—	—
Bristol ..	July 23	9,823	+ 373	—	270,723
British Elec. Fed. ..		—	—	—	—
Dublin United ..	July 23	6,529	—	65	175,986
Gearless Motor Bus ..		—	—	—	—
Hastings and Dist. ..	July 22	1,063	—	199	24,089
Isle of Thanet ..	24	577	—	853	14,477
Lancashire United ..	21	1,849	—	111	49,043
London Cnty. Cncl. ..	14	46,405	—	1,632	624,099
London General ..		—	—	—	—
London United ..		—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Elec. ..		—	—	—	—
Nat. Steam Car ..		—	—	—	—
Provincial ..	July 24	2,457	—	24	87,926
South Metropolitan ..		—	—	—	—
Sunderland District ..	July 21	591	—	10	20,969
Tramways (M.E.T.) ..		—	—	—	—



## SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,250,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

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Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

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Special Terms to Annuityants where health is impaired.

Apply to The Secretary. } Head Office—ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

*Norfolk House, Thursday Evening.*

War Loan payments continue to dominate the Money market, and seem likely to do so for some considerable time to come. The Revenue return showed that during the week ended on Saturday last £150,000,000 had been handed over to the Government, of which about £110,000,000 represented payments in full. That, however, was only an instalment on account, and it is estimated that altogether four-fifths of the ordinary subscriptions, or about £320,000,000, has already been paid up. Cheques are still being cleared as fast as possible, but the task is a heavy one, and it is very doubtful whether it will be completed in time to prevent overlapping with the next instalment, which falls due on Tuesday next. Allowing for the amounts paid up in full this will probably require something like £50,000,000, and the loss of this, added to the already heavily indebtedness of the market to the Bank, will effectually prevent any weakening in loan rates. As it is, the indebtedness to the Bank is taxing the market resources pretty severely, and although on one or two days part of the amounts falling due have been repaid, the burden has been increased on balance. Weekly advances have cost  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. without exception, and have been difficult to obtain at that, most of the joint-stock banks preferring in present circumstances not to lend except from day to day, while overnight loans mostly cost  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Supplies, however, have occasionally come out from special quarters, which were said to be American houses who were willing to lend for the time being the money received for munitions, and that owing to this the charge has sometimes come down to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and sometimes 3 per cent. during the later business hours.

While the market noted the large receipts on account of the War Loan, it was much more interested

in the fact that the Government had repaid to the Bank no less than £96,041,667, of which something under £50,000,000 was for advances on the "cold storage" bills. The complete withdrawal of so large a sum without any possibility of its finding its way back to the usual channels has caused the market to regard the outlook with some apprehension. At the present rate of expenditure the proceeds of the War Loan are expected to provide for the country's requirements until November, but a good deal depends upon whether or not the Government adheres to its present policy of paying off the Treasury bills, of which there are now £244,707,000 outstanding, and although the market is quite in the dark as to their maturity owing to the method adopted of giving only the aggregate of the sales each week without disclosing the proportions of three, six, and twelve months' bills it estimates that about £200,000,000 of the total falls due this year. For the present the Government is paying off the bills as they mature, but with the growing expenditure on the war this policy may be altered. Even allowing for a change being made, however, the market would really feel the pinch occasioned by the loss of nearly £100,000,000 at the time when it would have most effect, that is, when its end of the year requirements have to be met. As against this view it may be urged that the market will benefit in the long run by the Bank being relieved of the burden it has been carrying in the shape of credit locked up, as with its hands freed it will be in a better position to finance the Government if necessary until the period of pressure is over.

While money remains so dear the discount market is not in a position to work with any freedom. Most of the brokers quoted  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for three months' bills, and some of them were unwilling to take parcels at the lower figure. On the other hand, holders of very fine paper preferred to go to the Bank with their parcels rather than accept the higher rate, and business has consequently again been on a very small scale. The easier tendency of money, however, was promptly reflected in a greater disposition to buy being shown, and 5 per cent. became the more general quotation. A fair inquiry sprang up for Treasury bills, which were dealt in at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for short-dated maturities and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for Octobers.

An issue of £2,000,000 Chilean Treasury bills will mature on August 4, and in view of the difficulties caused by the dislocation of the nitrate industry, the market displayed some anxiety to know how they would be dealt with. All doubts on the matter have been satisfactorily dissipated by Messrs. Rothschild's announcement that they were prepared to buy them up in anticipation of the due date at a discount. The bills were sold in January, 1914, under discount of £5 6s. 8d. per cent., and the present action by the Government is all the more satisfactory when it is contrasted with the recent action of other South American Governments and of several municipalities.

The Petrograd exchange has fluctuated between  $145\frac{1}{2}$  and  $147\frac{1}{2}$ , and the Italian rate has risen to 30, which is the highest point yet touched, but the Paris cheque after being firmer at 26.90 has gone back a little to 26.85.90. New York cable transfers have been steady round about 4.77, while Rio after being slightly easier rallied to 13d.

It is useless in these days to attempt to solve the mysteries of the Bank return, as the movements are complicated by transactions with which the market is at the most only indirectly connected. The large repayments by the Government to the Bank last week led to forecasts being made of to-day's figure, which have proved hopelessly wide of the mark. Instead of the expected big decrease in "Other" Securities the total shows an increase of £27,628,000, which may have some connection with the War Loan payments. Public Deposits are £68,410,000 higher at £177,636,000, and Other Deposits have been reduced by £39,080,000 to £95,540,000. In addition to £602,000 from abroad £878,000 in gold came back from the country, so that stocks of coin and bullion



rose by £1,480,000 to £60,907,000, and with a contraction of £243,000 in the note circulation the reserve is £1,723,000 higher at £45,825,000. The proportion to liabilities, however, is again lower at 16½ per cent.

## SILVER.

A moderate demand from India put the price of bars up ½d. to 22½d. per oz. on Saturday, and the rise was followed by a further advance to 22½d. per oz. on a little Continental inquiry. At this level buyers held back, and the quotation has since relaxed to 22½d., or the lowest point touched this year.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers at rs. 3½d. No allotment was made. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 27th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,74,36,978, realising £1,876,796, compared with Rs. 4,60,13,332 for £3,071,778 to July 28 last year.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 28, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 78,390,760	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 59,940,760
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 78,390,760		£ 78,390,760

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 53,157,910
Res .. ..	£ 3,404,608	Other Securities .. ..	£ 192,195,214
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	£ 44,859,425
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 965,740
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 177,636,201		
Other Deposits .. ..	£ 95,540,497		
Seven Day and other Bills	£ 44,583		
	£ 291,178,289		£ 291,178,289

Dated July 28, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year. July 29.		July 21. 1915.	July 28. 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,491,756	Rest .. ..	3,381,176	3,404,008	22,832	—
12,713,217	Pub. Deposits ..	109,226,335	177,636,201	68,409,866	—
54,418,903	Other do. ..	134,620,428	95,540,497	—	39,079,931
10,969	7 Day Bills ..	46,097	44,583	—	1,514
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
11,005,126	Gov. Securities.	53,157,910	53,157,910	—	—
47,307,530	Other do. ..	164,567,210	192,195,214	—	27,628,004
26,876,194	Total Reserve ..	44,101,916	45,825,165	—	1,723,249
				68,432,698	68,432,698
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
29,706,350	Coin and Bullion	33,774,310	33,531,335	—	242,975
38,131,544	Proportion ..	59,426,246	60,906,500	1,480,254	—
40 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	18 p.c.	16½ p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
4 "	5 "	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £602,000 in.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 9, 1915.	July 2, 1915.	June 25, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 43,604,200	£ 46,273,600	£ 44,765,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	223,200	216,000	—
Gold Settlement Fund ..	9,421,200	6,368,000	6,272,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,498,800	4,968,200	9,569,600
Total reserves .. ..	57,747,400	57,825,800	60,607,000
30-day bills and loans ..	2,601,600	2,664,400	2,866,600
60-day bills and loans ..	2,273,400	1,947,000	2,014,000
90-day bills and loans ..	1,711,400	1,619,400	1,470,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	749,000	1,006,600	924,200
Total .. ..	7,335,400	7,237,400	7,275,000
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,579,600	1,530,400	1,520,200
Municipal Warrants ..	2,779,000	2,478,000	2,301,800
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	1,221,400	1,972,400	1,662,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,675,800	1,520,200	1,824,800
All other assets .. ..	738,800	732,000	1,100,200
Total assets .. ..	73,077,400	73,296,200	76,291,800
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,820,800	10,825,600	10,840,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	59,161,600	59,576,600	62,269,800
Note circulation—nett.	2,675,000	2,559,400	2,523,400
All other liabilities ..	420,000	334,600	658,000
Total liabilities .. ..	73,077,400	73,296,200	76,291,800

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £5,197,000 of the Treasury Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. The reduction in the amount outstanding, however, was only £4,790,000, so that the sales of new bills during the period apparently amounted to £407,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3½
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 1½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
* 172,207,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
244,707,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—Set aside Miscella-
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	neous .. ..
	Thursday—Set aside Miscel-
Nett Efflux .. ..	laneous .. ..
£ 3,163,000	Thursday—Bars Sold .. ..
£ 3,950,000	£ 3,950,000

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	£ 335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	233,285,000	306,206,000	—	72,921,000
" ..	231,525,000	285,464,000	—	53,939,000
" ..	225,460,000	329,729,000	—	104,269,000
" ..	236,435,000	275,105,000	—	38,670,000
" ..	266,789,000	445,419,000	—	178,630,000
July ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" ..	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" ..	394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
" ..	332,781,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000
Total ..	7,568,384,000	10,140,467,000	—	2,572,083,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended July 24.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. ..	£ 888,000
Excise .. ..	£ 1,310,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	£ 1,117,000
Stamps .. ..	£ 40,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	£ 480,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—
Land Values Duties .. ..	—
Post Office .. ..	—
Crown Lands .. ..	£ 50,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. ..	£ 105,220
Bullion advances repaid ..	£ 20,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under	—
the Capital Expenditure	—
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	£ 150,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—
1913 .. ..	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—
1897-1903 .. ..	—
Issue of War Stock and War	—
Bonds .. ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments .. ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on	—
account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	£ 386,000
Temporary Advances Defi-	—
ciency .. ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances .. ..	—
	£ 154,396,220
	† Reduction.
National Debt Service ..	£ 3,801
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	£ 675
Development & Road Impvt.	£ 110,731
Payments to Local Taxation	—
Other Consolidated Fund	—
Charges .. ..	—
Supply Services .. ..	£ 18,823,000
Bullion Advances .. ..	—
For Advance for Interest	—
on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Capital Expenditure	—
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	£ 20,000†
For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
under the War Loan Redem-	—
ption Act, 1910 .. ..	—
For Repayments to Bank of	—
England .. ..	£ 96,041,667
Under Telegraph (Money)	—
Act, 1913 .. ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—
1897-1903 .. ..	—
Under Public Buildings Ex-	—
penses Act, 1903 .. ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8,	—
issued under Section 9	—
of Finance Act, 1908 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11,	—
issued under Section 16	—
(1) (b) of the Finance Act,	—
1911 .. ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12,	—
issued under Anglo-Persian	—
Oil Company (Acquisition)	—
Act, 1914 .. ..	—
China Indemnity, issued	—
to reduce debt under the	—
Finance Act, 1911 .. ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
repaid .. ..	£ 5,197,000
Increase in Exchequer	—
balances .. ..	£ 34,239,346
	£ 154,396,220

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	July 24, 1915.	July 17, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	July 25, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 119,036,000	£ 119,068,000	£ 119,274,000	£ 114,610,400
Specie .. ..	9,742,000	9,740,000	9,810,000	8,547,400
Deposits .. ..	122,898,000	122,736,000	119,568,000	114,740,600
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,870,000	1,948,000	1,966,000	1,961,800



## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	July 10, 1915	July 25, 1914
Loans .. ..	£512,266,000	£510,010,000	£509,632,000	£411,696,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	88,262,000	86,640,000	84,766,000	93,316,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	25,678,000	25,482,000	25,170,000	
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,814,000	7,080,000	7,126,000	
Nett Demand Deposits ..	504,818,000	502,086,000	499,192,000	391,444,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	27,040,000	26,718,000	26,780,000	
Circulation .. ..	7,578,000	7,592,000	7,580,000	8,348,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	33,520,000	32,448,000	308,140,000	5,026,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 22, 1915	July 15, 1915	July 8, 1915	July 1, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£162,052,240	£159,458,960	£157,799,450	£157,262,000
Silver in hand ..	14,685,920	14,701,160	14,766,360	14,862,810
Bills discounted ..	10,499,280	10,715,280	10,442,600	10,820,410
Advances ..	24,294,160	24,592,120	24,598,640	24,072,880
Note circulation ..	500,311,360	497,937,760	493,129,600	488,033,880
Public deposits ..	7,715,920	3,866,400	2,654,040	3,280,560
Private deposits ..	95,018,880	95,600,960	95,356,340	94,609,720
Foreign Bills..	55,000	67,080	68,760	65,520

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35½ per cent. against 35 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £252,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £42,899,200, decrease £700,600, and at the branches to £43,615,680, decrease £404,880.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 14, 1915.	July 6, 1915.	June 29, 1915.	July 14, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£8,943,500	£7,448,100	£8,743,100	£6,962,600
Cash in reserve ..	157,886,100	157,946,000	157,719,200	159,974,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	9,996,700	10,555,400	10,858,700	14,377,000
Circulation note issue ..	384,500,000	377,000,000	367,000,000	170,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	22,633,500	24,787,100	34,729,700	49,106,500

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 23, 1915.	July 15, 1915.	July 7, 1915.	July 23, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£122,119,650	£121,001,800	£121,790,550	£84,569,900
Treasury Notes ..	14,367,200	14,158,100	9,165,050	3,473,950
Bills discounted ..	227,580,050	232,720,650	244,020,520	37,544,600
Advances ..	681,000	670,600	730,900	2,510,000
Note circulation ..	265,739,100	270,612,300	280,180,750	94,544,750
Public deposits ..	85,677,600	86,810,950	86,878,150	47,193,200

Clearing House returns during June £235,431,975 against £208,056,720 in May.

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 17, 1915	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	July 18, 1914
Gold .. ..	£30,789,793	£30,557,485	£30,022,649	£14,086,967
Silver .. ..	165,427	150,264	146,450	660,973
Bills discounted, &c... ..	14,942,867	15,087,649	15,561,384	12,756,580
Note circulation ..	42,066,355	42,029,695	41,942,958	26,075,598
Deposits.. ..	3,303,795	3,094,775	2,957,774	352,093

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 17, 1915.	July 10, 1915.	July 3, 1915.	July 18, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£6,298,000	£6,297,000	£6,300,000	£5,878,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	4,721,000	4,496,000	4,525,000	6,416,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,695,000	2,703,000	2,732,000	1,556,000
Discounts and Loans ..	8,212,000	7,706,000	7,918,000	5,361,000
Notes in circulation ..	14,947,000	15,340,000	15,920,000	11,753,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,873,000	4,614,000	4,180,000	3,835,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 27, 1915.		July 29, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland.. ..	Three months' bills ..	12.2	12.3	12.2	12.3
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.84	11.87	11.78	11.83
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.20	30.40	30.60	30.75
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	2.80	30.00	30.20	30.35
Lisbon & Oporto..	Cable transfers ..	37	36	37	36
New York ..	Cable transfers ..	4.76½	4.77½	4.76½	4.77½
Do. .. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	4.77	4.78	4.76½	4.77½
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.25	27.35	27.35	27.45
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	26.87½	26.92½	26.95	27.05
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	142	146	146	150
Scandinavia..	Cable transfers ..	18.30	18.55	18.15	18.35
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	46½	46	46½	46
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.00	25.15	25.00	25.20
Switzerland..	Three months' bills ..	25.90	26.10	25.90	26.05
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.50	25.70	25.50	25.65

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .. ..	cbqs.	26.90	27.00	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	cbqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	slight	29.70	30.12½
Amsterdam ..	slight	11.89	11.80	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. ..	cbqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	13.7½d.	13d.
Hamburg ..	cbqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	slight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	143½	147½	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York ..	slight	4.77½	4.77	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/9d.	1/9d.
Lisbon .. ..	slight	36½	36½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/1½d.	2/2½d.
Madrid .. ..	slight	25.10	25.10	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	24	23
Six months ..	34	31
Nine months ..	37	33
Twelve months ..	32	31

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5	5-5½
Three months ..	5-5½	5-5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½-5½
Three months' bare inland bills ..	5½	5½-5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½-6	5½-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
" " short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½	4½
" " for call loans ..	3½-4½	3½-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

It is still War Loan and little but War Loan on the Stock Exchange, and as we write on this (Thursday) afternoon—we go to press a day earlier because of the Bank Holiday—the entire country may be said to be waiting to see what will happen when dealings begin in the new scrip. The market for the new loan opened to-day, and much discussion had been going on as to whether the scrip would go to a premium or not. We never believed that there could be any premium, because while the war goes on and continues in its present undecisive position there is no motive to put the price up. We shall be perfectly satisfied if the War Loan holds at or near the nett issue price, and think that it will do so if the nation is not misled as to what is really going on. That, indeed, is what it has done to-day, although the market has had far too much stimulus to pessimism bestowed upon it in recent weeks, not only by the newspapers of the Harmsworth syndicate, but by M.P.'s, by anti-war agencies, and by all sorts of society influences tending to magnify fear and disseminate mistaken ideals. In spite of all these, however, the stock fully paid was quoted at 98½-99—about ½ discount nominally—and the Stock Exchange does manage to transact a certain amount of general business. In one or two directions something of the old spirit of adventure has been manifested. In some Marconi shares, for example, there has been a good deal doing, especially in the shares of the American Marconi Co., which went up to 20s. yesterday, but closed 6d. under. The nearest approach, however, to an old-fashioned gamble has been in the common and preferred stocks of the Canadian Car Co., and there has likewise been a certain amount of business proceeding in the shares of sundry Yankee railroads on Wall Street impulse, in consequence of which Milwaukee, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific and Atchison shares have moved up with something like vigour. Firmness in these directions has influenced the whole market, which, although it cannot be described as buoyant, is nevertheless as cheerful as circumstances will permit. Therefore, it is probable that the London and North-Western Railway Co. will have no great difficulty in getting the £1,500,000 of new money it is seeking by issue of preference stock. To be sure the news that this issue was coming has had an adverse influence on the price of the ordinary stock, which has now been pressed down to little more than 107, but railway dividends generally, as we show in another column, do not encourage pessimism even in this direction, and once the great War Loan has been paid up and, as it were, put aside from troubling dealers in credit, we may expect better markets. For the present all that the public can do is just to hold on and wait, never selling at a ruinous loss and buying only on well-weighted probabilities. We look, for example, to see a revival of interest in Argentine Railway securities, and it may even extend to Brazilian, for in the progress of these two great republics lies no small part of our hope for the future.



**AGUA SANTA COFFEE CO., LTD.**—Very disappointing results were obtained in the year ended December 31, the crop, owing to unseasonable weather at the flowering season, having only amounted to 6,548 cwts., as against 18,551 cwts. in the previous 12 months. The price realised showed a satisfactory improvement of 6s. 2d. at 58s. 3d. per cwt., but this gain was not sufficient to offset the smaller quantity, and net profits, including £2,834 brought in, were £4,737 down at £5,139. A year ago £500 was written off preliminary expenses, and the ordinary shares got 3 per cent. per annum as from the dates of the instalments, but this time the preference shareholders have to be content with only half their fixed dividend, and £310 less at £2,514 is carried forward. Prospects for the current year were affected by want of rain in the early months, but a considerable improvement is said to have since taken place, and a crop of 12,000 cwts. is now expected.



## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A very steady tone continued in this market, and a good general demand prevailed. Of British makes, Tate's cubes No. 1, sold at 31s.; No. 2 30s. 6d.; fine granulated, 28s.; standard, 27s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Of imported, white Java lying in outports, sold, 26s. 9d. to 27s. 3d. Cuban receipts 16,000 tons. No cane sales held. Privately St. Lucia crystallised, sold, 24s. 6d.; Demerara, 24s. 9d.; and Argentine, Molida, sold freely, 26s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—In auction, small supplies met with quiet attention at about late rates. East India, Naidobatum, bold, 70s. 6d. to 72s. 6d. Jamaica, small brownish, 47s. 6d. Costa Rica, fine bold, 79s. 6d. Nicaraguan, good to fine ordinary, 52s. to 56s. 6d. Futures continued quiet.

**COCOA.**—Fairly good supplies in auction met a fair demand for Colonial kinds. Ceylon and Trinidad steady. Grenada and similar sorts rather dearer respecting common descriptions. Foreign neglected. Ceylon, good red, sold, 84s. Trinidad, good, 83s. to 84s. Grenada, common to fine, 75s. 6d. to 80s. St. Lucia, ditto, 72s. to 80s. Dominica, 73s. to 79s. Jamaica, common, 73s. Guayaquil, Machala, 89s. Caraquez, 89s. to 89s. 6d. Costa Rica, fair, 75s. to 75s. 6d. Samoa, common to fine, 75s. to 82s. Java, fine, 88s. St. Thome, fair to fine, 76s. 6d. to 80s. 1,000 bags Trinidad, being part of the gift of the Colony to our Navy and Army, sold at 81s. 6d. to 84s. 6d. Privately, Trinidad, sold, 85s. Summer Ariba, 93s. to 94s. 6d. Ceylon native, 70s. to 78s. Costa Rica, fair polished, 80s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales passed off with a good demand for the better qualities, which realised steady rates, but inferior grades were in slow request. Ceylon auctions experienced less competition, and prices were somewhat irregular and easier, especially for poor liquoring kinds, which showed a decline of 1d. per lb. The better grades, while in fair request, also tended in buyers' favour. Large offerings of Java in auction experienced a fair demand, but prices were rather easier.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but rates showed no particular alteration. Black Singapore, on spot, sellers, 5½d., basis fair; Tellicherry, fair, 5½d.; Lampong, fair, 5½d.; fair white Singapore, 9d.; Muntok, 9½d.; and Penang, 8½d. To arrive, black Singapore, August-September shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry nominal; white Singapore, August-September, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, ditto, 9½d.; and Penang, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves dull. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.; August-September delivery, 6½d. At public sale moderate supplies were offered, and passed off quietly. West India nutmegs sold at 4½d. to 6½d., and Eastern ditto at rod. Eastern mace at 2s. Flake tapioca at 2d. to 2½d.

**RICE.**—Market firm, with moderate demand. No. 2 cleaned Bassein, nearly due, sold, 12s., c.f. and i., London. Rangoon beans, August shipment, sold, £17 2s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**JUTE.** dull, and values tended in buyers' favour. Native first marks, July sellers, £22 5s.; new crop, August, £23 15s.; and September, sold, £23 5s. to £23. Chittagong C.C., in diamond, spot, £29 10s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila descriptions firmer and a fair business transpired. New graded fair, August-October, sold, £36 to £36 5s.; medium, £32 to £32 10s.; coarse, June-August, £28 10s.; July-September, £28 10s.; August-October, £28, £28 15s., and £28 10s.; coarse brown, £26, £26 15s., £26 5s., and £26 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand dull. G.F., July-September, sellers, £31; H.P.F. ditto, £30 10s.; fair, £30, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Market firm, and a fair demand existed respecting spot parcels. Fair T.N. orange, on spot, sold, 61s. to 62s. Futures firmly held. T.N., August delivery, sold, 61s. to 61s. 6d.; and December, at 64s. to 65s.

**GAMBIER.**—Steady. Good marks, August-September shipment, sold, 32s., c.f. and i.

**RUBBER.**—Market generally quiet. Plantation, standard crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d.; August, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; September, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; October, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 5d., 2s. 5½d., 2s. 5d.; August, 2s. 5d.; September, 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot and forward, quoted 2s. 5d.

**WOOL.**—The fifth series of Colonial auctions, which commenced on the 29th ultimo, terminated on the 24th inst. Good competition was forthcoming, though prices displayed some irregularity, and there was a strong dividing line between long sound free grease and short wasty and faulty sorts. The former opened at an advance of 7½ per cent., which subsequently improved to 15 per cent., but prices subsequently eased, and at the close values showed an appreciation of 10 per cent. on last sales. Ordinary sorts, which at the opening showed an advance of 5 per cent., also fell away as the sales progressed. Heavy faulty lots were very irregular, especially during the middle of the series. Best scoureds were in strong demand on Russian account at an advance of 5 per cent. to 10 per cent., with ordinary descriptions 5 per cent. better.

**OILS.**—Linseed quiet. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 15s.; barrels, £26 10s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 10s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £30 5s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £28 15s.; refined pale, spot (pipes), £31; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £42. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £22 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine dull, and rates easier. American spirits, on spot, 34s. 3d. Petroleum: American, 8½d.; water-white, 9½d. per gallon. Linseed: market quiet, and prices easier. Calcutta, June-July, 55s.; July-August, 55s.; August-September, 55s.; La Plata, July-August, 51s.; August-September, 51s. Rapeseed: Guzerat, July-August (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), July-August, 50s. 6d. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, spot, £9 16s. 3d.; August,

£9 16s. 3d. Resin: common strained, spot, 12s. Palm oil, Lagos, £31.

**TALLOW.**—Market ruled steady. At public sale, 2,139 casks were brought forward, and 1,871 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 36s.; dark to dull, 29s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; hard, 36s. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 34s. 9d.; dark to dull, 29s. to 32s. 3d.; sweet, 37s. per cwt. Market letter 1s. up for tallow and 9d. firmer for stuff. Town tallow, 34s. 6d.; melted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6½d. per 8 lbs.

**METALS.**—Copper: Speculative market manifested a flat tone last Monday, and prices relapsed sharply in sympathy with weaker American advices and a further reduction in electros, while

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian		
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	3 2 6	1 3 2 6
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 2 3	1 0 2 3
Lyle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	Greasy Merino	0 8 1	7 0 8 1
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 1 8	1 0 1 8
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	7 2 7	7 1 7 2 7
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 2 1	6 0 2 1
prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 2	5 0 2 2 5
Crystallised, West			<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
India	24 0-26 6	23 6-28 6	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 6	0 2 5 2
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Indian Pekoe	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souehong	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	Steam, best	1 0 6	1 2 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10 1 0	0 10 1 0	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Broken	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	English Pig	25 15 0	25 0 0
Broken	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 2	Foreign soft. Sept.	24 12 6	24 0 0
Pekoe Souehong	0 10 1 0	0 10 1 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	18 10 0	18 10 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
Trinidad	79 0 84 0	79 0 84 0	English Ingots	£163-£164	£163-£164
Grenada	73 0 80 0	75 0 82 0	Do. bars	£164-£165	£164-£165
West Africa	nom.	75s.	Standard cash	£162 10 0	£158 12 6
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 90	72 0 90	Tin Plates, per box	19 0 19 3	18 9 19 0
Guayaquil Ariba	92 0 95	92 0 95	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	English, Tough	£90-£91	£97-£98
East India	66 0 100 0	66 0 100 0	per ton	£86-£87	£85-£86
Jamaica	49 0 118 0	49 0 118 0	Best Seleced	£104	£104
Costa Rica	60 0 86 0	60 0 86 0	Sheets	£74 10 0	£71 7 6
<b>Provisions</b> —			Standard		
Butter, per cwt.	138/-140/-	138/-140/-	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Australian finest	142/-150/-	142/-150/-	Native firsts for sh'pmt. Sept.	£23 15 0	£23 0 0
Irish Creameries	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b> —		
Dutch ditto	128/-132/-	128/-132/-	Linseed, per ton.	£261-£27	£252-£264
Russian finest	120/-142/-	120/-142/-	Rape, ref. English, casks	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Normandy baskets	162/-165/-	162/-165/-	Brown English	£38-£40	£38-£40
Danish finest	13 6-16 0	13 6-16 0	naked	£36-£37	£36-£37
Brittany rolls			Cott'n Seed, crude	£29	£28 15 0
doz. lb.			Ditto, refined	£314-£37	£31-£37
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	8½d.	8½d.
Irish	90 0 97 0	90 0 97 0	Water White	9½d.	9½d.
Continental	84 0 97 0	84 0 97 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Canadian	76 0 88 0	76 0 88 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., July-Aug.	2 15 3	2 15 0
American	65 0 74 0	65 0 74 0	Rape, Guzerat	2 15 6	2 16 0
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			June-July		
Irish	106 0 116 0	106 0 116 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton.		
Canadian	72 0 82 0	72 0 82 0	Cleveland Cash	3 6 10 3	3 6 6
American	54 0 80 0	54 0 80 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			3/8, 4/14 per lb.		
Edam	72 0 82 0	72 0 82 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	74 0 76 0	74 0 76 0	per lb. bond	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Gouda	74 0 80 0	74 0 80 0	Virginalea	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
English Cheddar	86 0 98 0	86 0 98 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
New Zealand	76 0 82 0	76 0 82 0	Havana	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 7/-lb.	2 0	2 0
Bassein	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	280/-600/-	280/-600/-
Dutch	13 3-15 6	13 6-15 6	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	11 0 11 6	10 6-11 0	Town households, official	45/-	45/-
Danish	13 0 15 3	13 0 15 3	American, 1st patents	45/-	45/-

realisations were frequent, standard, cash delivery, declining to £71 12s. 6d., and three months to £72 15s. After again starting in a downward direction on the following day the tendency improved, while a good deal of "bear" covering ensued, values of these dates rallying to £72 5s. and £73 10s. respectively. During the middle of the week prices were rather lower, standard, cash delivery, settling down at £72, and three months £73 5s., Thursday's final rates of these positions being again lower at £71 7s. 6d. and £72 12s. 6d. respectively. Tin irregular and dealings limited, while standard, cash delivery, by the middle of the week fell back and closed at £160 5s., three months at £160. The tone was again weaker on Thursday under moderate selling pressure, chiefly of cash and near dates, spot closing at £158 12s. 6d., with three months at £158 15s. Lead rather weaker, foreign, July to October, ruling at £24. Spelter steady, G.O.B., July, £100; October, £85. Iron dearer.



CORN (Mark Lane).—Prices in some cases moved in a further upward direction this week, business being on a moderate scale. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, quoted at 58s. 6d. to 61s.; and reds, 58s. 6d. to 60s. 6d.; exceptionally, 61s. per qr., 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 60s. 6d.; No. 2, ditto, 59s. 6d.; No. 3, 58s. 6d., ex ship. Plate, 56s. 6d., landed. Indian, ex ship, 55s. 6d. to 56s. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s. 6d. to 46s. 6d.; Canadian export patents, 44s. to 45s., landed. Grinding barley: Karachi, 36s. 6d., ex ship; Plate, 36s. 6d.; and Japanese, 37s., ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, new, 31s. 6d., ex ship; 32s. 6d., landed; white flat South African, 34s. Oats: Plate, 27s. to 30s., landed, according to quality; American white clipped No. 2, 32s. 6d., quay terms.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In several ways the report of the Vallambrosa Rubber Co. for the year ended March 31 is exceedingly pleasant reading. A year ago the directors anticipated that the two younger properties would become self-supporting, and their expectations were more than borne out, as the proceeds of the crop from Bukit Kraiong exceeded the expectations on that estate and Athlone together by about £3,800. Probably because of the thinning operations which have been carried out on Vallambrosa the total crop was 14,035 lbs. below that of 1913-14 at 542,203 lbs., and the gross price realised was 2.64d. smaller at 2s. 1.88d. The company, however, was again very successful in its efforts to work cheaply, and brought the "all-in" cost, including 0.26d. for war risks insurance, down to the exceptionally low figure of 10.65d. per lb. Receipts from Bukit Kraiong and the expenditure on that estate as well as on Athlone are brought into the profit and loss account for the first time, instead of being put to development account, and the nett profit shows a decrease of £1,397 at £24,873. Adding £5,753 brought forward the available balance was £3,092 down at £30,626, but the directors seem to be of opinion that it is no longer necessary to set aside so large an amount as hitherto for development, in view of the advanced state of the newer plantations, and transfer only £5,000 as against £15,000 to the reserve. A small sum of £1,473 is written off the estates, reducing the book value to £100,000, and the dividend is then raised from 25 per cent. to 37½, leaving £6,759 to be carried to the new account. The company's planted area is now 3,346 acres, of which 1,887 acres are now being tapped, and the cost works out at a little over £15 per acre, this figure being presumably arrived at after deducting the reserve, which now stands at £45,000. As the directors also foreshadowed, they have been able to clear off their indebtedness on loans, and the £3,000 appearing in the last balance-sheet has given place to £7,307 cash in hand.

No explanation is given by the directors of the Rubana Rubber Estates of the company's failure to realise its estimates for the year ended April 30, although this meant that the crop was only 7,402 lbs. larger than that of 1913-14 at 511,662 lbs. The "all-in" cost was reduced by 0.23d. to 1s. 0.04d., but this does not take into account 0.38d. for war risks insurance, and as the price fell by 6.31d. to 2s. 1.28d., the nett profits showed a decrease of no less than £15,173 at £27,037. Out of this a dividend of 10 per cent., as against 12½ per cent., is paid, and £7,500 less at £2,500 is transferred to the development reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £463 down at £2,384. No extensions were made to the cultivated area, but property and plant accounts were increased by £6,320 to £270,703. The company has invested £9,500 in the 3½ per cent. War Loan and cash balances have been reduced by £27,107 to £12,179, but against this current liabilities are £5,672 lower at £3,937. The estimate for the current year is 590,000 lbs.

Another undertaking which gives no reason for the check to its progress experienced in the year ended April 30 is the Tali Ayer Rubber Estates. It is a companion of the Rubana, and, like it, gives a favourable report of the condition of its properties, but, instead of the crop of 480,000 lbs. expected, the actual

output was 462,046 lbs., or only 28,981 lbs. more than in the previous year. The gross price realised was 5.25d. smaller at 2s. 1.50d., and the "all-in" cost, exclusive of 0.29d. for war risks insurance, was 1.67d. lower at 1s. 0.17d. Nett profits were £26,843, or a decrease of £6,391, but £3,235 more was brought forward, so that, after repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. the balance carried out was only reduced by £3,156 to £5,209. Outlay on development, buildings, &c., amounted to £7,132, making a total of £275,116 against the paid-up capital of £300,000. Cash is £26,037 lower at £36,151, but stocks of rubber are £4,068 larger at £12,508, and the company has invested £9,500 in 3½ per cent. War Loan, while current liabilities are £2,185 down at £6,820. Tapping was commenced at Sungei Bogak towards the end of the year, and the crop from both estates for 1915-16 is estimated at 540,000 lbs.

A crop of 330,000 lbs. had been expected by the Cicely Rubber Estates Co. for the year ended March 31, but the actual output fell very much short of this figure, and was only 11,828 lbs. above that of last year at 298,265 lbs. The average gross price was 6½d. lower at 2s. 1½d., and the "all-in" cost, exclusive of 0.48d. for war risks insurance, was reduced by 2.95d. to 1s. 1.24d. Including £6,426, or £407 more, brought in the nett profits showed a decrease of £4,946 at £17,181, and the reduction of 72½ per cent. in the dividends on both classes of shares made a year ago is now followed by a further cut of 17½ per cent. to 65 per cent. on the preference and 60 per cent. on the ordinary shares. Out of the balance £4,000, or £1,000 more, is transferred to reserve, leaving the amount carried forward £3,146 down at £3,281. The crop for the current year is estimated at 340,000 lbs.

A further increase of 63,368 lbs. to 302,309 lbs. is shown in the crop of the Sumatra Consolidated Rubber Estates for the year ended April 30, which was more than sufficient to offset the drop of 2d. to 2s. 2.78d. in the gross price realised. The "all-in" cost was only reduced by 1.85d., but would have been another 1d. down but for war risk insurance and increased freight charges, and, in any case, the figure of 1s. 1.22d. is by no means an unsatisfactory one. Nett profits were £2,967 up at £19,038, but £1,073 less was brought in, so that the available total of £20,833 was only £1,894 better. Somewhat unwisely, it seems to us, the directors have decided to double the dividend at 20 per cent., although this means that the reserve gets nothing compared with £7,862 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is only increased by £634 to £2,798, subject to managers' commissions. During the year a further 10,850 shares were issued at par to option holders, increasing the paid-up capital to £100,000, while the reserve stands at £30,000. Outlay on the property for the same period, less £1,500 written off, was £8,694, making a total of £104,249. Stocks of rubber are £2,960 higher at £9,040, and in addition to £2,161 more at £21,699 in cash the company holds £9,828 in Treasury bills, against which current liabilities, including £8,250 for drafts on London agents, have risen by £3,499 to £12,809. It is expected that some 40,000 new trees will be brought into the tapping round this year, and the crop is estimated at 350,000 lbs.

TANDJONG RUBBER Co.—Crop harvested for the 12 months ended June 30, 1915, was approximately 804,327 lbs., the corresponding period last year showing an increase of 259,060 lbs. Of this 575,010 lbs. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2s. 1.47d. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 53,760 lbs. out of 1914-15 crop at an average of 2s. 1.25d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 320,320 lbs. out of 1915-16 crop at an average of 2s. 1.66d. per lb. (London equivalent).

KERALA RUBBER.—The crop harvested for the year ended December 31 exceeded the estimate by 8,842 lbs., and was at 90,842 lbs., 54,609 lbs. larger than that of the previous year, while the gross selling price receded 1.70d. to 2s. 2.27d. The year's working yielded a profit of £3,668, out of which the directors propose to write off the preliminary expenses, £767, carrying forward the balance of £2,901. The company has now 3,904 acres, of which 2,240 acres are in reserve, and at the date of the balance-sheet the capital cost of the cultivated area, estimating the value of the reserve land at the original purchase price, was about £28 12s. per acre, or 17s. more than a year ago. For the current year the estimated crop is 135,000 lbs.



**MABIRA FOREST (UGANDA) RUBBER.**—As a rubber producer this company is steadily going backwards, and during 1914 there were further reductions in the numbers of hevea and ceara trees planted, which brought the total of all kinds down to 278,419. Only 1,880 lbs. of ceara were produced, but 7,891 lbs. were sold at an average of 18. 7½d. The output of Nyasaland coffee increased by 470 cwts. to 1,223 cwts., but the price dropped by another 5s. 6d. to 63s., while in addition 379 cwts., or 241 cwts., more Robusta coffee were harvested which realised 41s. 7d. Further economies were effected in working, but the nett outcome of the year's working was still a loss of £4,706, making the debit balance £19,635.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY CO., LTD.

During the 12 months ended March 31 the number of passengers carried rose by 391,710 to 5,480,806, but decreases in the other branches of revenue quite offset this advance, with the result that gross receipts were Rs. 1,57,320 lower at Rs. 68,85,473. At the same time expenditure chargeable to revenue went up Rs. 3,82,401 to Rs. 51,54,065, the ratio to the gross receipts being 74.85 per cent., as against 67.75 per cent. in the previous year. With the exception of traffic expenses, and the working of Chittagong jetties, every item of expenditure showed an increase. Nett earnings were Rs. 5,39,721 down at Rs. 17,31,408, and this sum, under the contract, is retained by the Secretary of State in reduction of the charges for interest incurred by him. The customary dividend of 3 per cent. has again been paid. A concession has been granted by the Government of India to a recently formed railway company for the construction of a line about 113 miles long, and it has been arranged that the Assam-Bengal Railway shall construct the line and work for the new company on terms which it is expected will make it a valuable extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway system. Arrangements are also practically completed by which the company will build and work for another branch line a length of rail of about 53 miles. The directors announce that they have received news that abnormal rains and floods have lately caused serious damage on the plains section south of Badarpur, as well as on the hill section between Badarpur and Lunding. According to latest advices the mischief in the latter section has been so extensive as to render it likely that this part of the line will have to be closed for a long time.

### W. AND C. T. JONES' STEAMSHIP CO., LTD., CARDIFF.

Owing no doubt to the company having had the full benefit of the three new vessels delivered in the previous year, the profits for the 12 months ended June 30 showed a recovery of £36,157 to £90,875. With £6,027 brought in, there is £96,903 or £36,363 more available, and the directors double the dividend at 2s. per share, restoring the distribution to the level of 1912-13, after which they set aside £10,000 more at £40,000 for depreciation, and £3,000 more at £5,000 for insurance. Income-tax requires an extra £2,618, and interest charges are heavier by £2,797, but after providing £5,000 as against £6,000 for reclassing account, the sum carried forward is still £4,948 up at £10,975. The balance-sheet also presents a strong appearance. To begin with, the company has been able to pay off its entire loan of £61,250, and to reduce bills payable by £44,987 to £11,578, but sundry creditors have risen £14,787 to £26,373. During the year £53,000 was spent on a new steamer, but £57,050 was received for the loss of one ship and sale of another, so that after allowing for depreciation the total value of the fleet was £44,050 lower at £330,963 against the paid-up capital of £280,000. Debtors owe £16,731 more at £22,822, but the most important item among the assets is an increase of no less than £71,202 to £94,531 in cash balances. So far £5,950 has been deposited on account of the purchase of £30,000 War Loan, but bills receivable for £5,297 have disappeared, and the £9,156 due to the company last year on uncompleted voyages has given place to a liability of £86,081. The insurance fund now stands at £21,000, and the risk on each steamer remains at 12½ per cent. on the insured value.

### IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN CORPORATION, LTD.

This company holds a large interest in the Russian and English Bank as well as other interests in Russia, but the directors say that as they have no intention of withdrawing the roubles from Russia, they have taken the amounts into the balance-sheet at the normal rate of Rs. 94.60 per £10 instead of that of Rs. 129 per £10 current on June 30. To this extent, therefore, the accounts now presented are unreal, but £11,000 of the general reserve has been earmarked to provide for any possible loss. The total income from commissions, dividends, &c., for the 12 months ended June 30 shows a shrinkage of £18,433 at £63,689, but expenses were heavier, and although nothing is written off for loss on exchange compared with £735, the nett profit was £19,104 smaller at £52,454. With £17,170 brought in, the available balance was £69,625 or £16,270 less, out of which the preference dividend is met, but no dividend is paid on the ordinary shares, compared with 6½ per cent. a year ago and 7½ per cent. for 1912-13, and for the second year in succession the reserve gets nothing. The balance carried forward is increased by £3,619 to £20,790. Investments are taken at their book values, owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable quotations, and show a small reduction of £2,453 at £983,580, while advances and short loans have risen by £3,099 to £265,767. Sundry debtors owe £22,545 more at £92,793 against an increase of £22,124 to £33,526 in sundry creditors and a decrease of £3,705 to £77,913 in liabilities for loans, while cash, including the Russian balances, is £7,467 up at £205,343.

### AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Various reasons may be assigned for the considerable decline shown in the profits of this company for the calendar year 1914. Firstly, the Hebburn Colliery and Aberdeen Railway passed into other hands after the first five months of the year, while even during the time in which it still belonged to the company work was affected by several strikes. In addition, the nett proceeds of the wool clip from the Warrah and Corona stations, though said to have been satisfactory, were less than in 1913, and at the latter estate the results of the lambing, owing to drought and intense heat, were disappointing. At Warrah large sales of both sheep and cattle were made at splendid prices, but the wheat harvest was below standard, and altogether the accounts show a decrease of £23,065 in profits, reducing them to £97,567. Sales of land brought in £25,758, and interest, &c., £8,845, but the total was still £22,154 lower at £132,170, so that neither colliery depreciation account nor reserve get anything compared with £10,000 each in 1913. Expenses, including £6,000 for depreciation of investments, were slightly lower, and as a dividend of 10s. per share is paid, against 10s. 6d., the directors are able to add £4,908 to the carry forward, making it £12,007, after again setting aside £3,000 to stock renewal. Changes of considerable importance are visible in the balance-sheet. Cash is £121,300 up at £173,735, investments have risen by £46,285 to £168,266, debtors and bills receivable by £14,616 to £158,849, and stores, &c., by £12,716 to £66,352. Part of the purchase price of the Hebburn Colliery consisted of 115,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 150,000 ordinary shares in the new company, and these are now entered at their full value of £265,000. Against the proceeds of the sale the capital expenditure on the colliery and railway during 1913 and 1914 has been charged, thus explaining the reduction of £5,653 to £8,555 in that item. Property account has been reduced by no less than £426,312 to £283,688, as a result of this sale, which means that over and above the shares the company got some £161,000, thus helping to explain the increases in cash and debtors. Uncompleted sales of land and contingency accounts are £36,645 up at £154,871. The current year so far seems to have been a series of ups and downs. It began with good rains, which were followed by a severe drought, and this in turn was succeeded by rain in the middle of May. Since then, however, dry weather has again prevailed, and now again a good downpour is hoped for to make safe the position for lambing and the fattening of stock. In May last a property of 650 square miles was purchased with about 50,000 sheep thereon for £70,000.

### ALDERSHOT GAS, WATER AND DISTRICT LIGHTING CO.

With an increase of 45,664,300 cubic feet to 215,434,900 cubic feet in the sales of gas, and an improvement in the receipts from residuals, the income from this undertaking for the six months ended June 30 was £12,446 better at £44,058, while the water undertaking yielded £1,193 more at £7,034. In the new electrical department, which only began working during the half-year, the sales amounted to 12,149 units, and although there was a small loss of £133, the prospect of this department appears to be good. The income from all sources was £14,003 up at £51,456, but expenses swept away £11,346 of the increase, leaving the nett profit £2,657 higher at £11,804. After providing for all fixed charges the full statutory dividends are paid on the various classes of stocks, but these mean reductions of 15s. to 5 18-20 per cent. on the "A" and 6s. to 4 8-20 per cent. on the "B" issues. The balance left to be carried forward, including £364 more brought in, is £2,517 larger than a year ago at £16,310. Current liabilities have risen by £17,354 to £28,080, against which stocks have been increased by £11,309 to £25,673, debtors owe £3,371 more at £12,691, and cash is £4,225 up at £18,643. Capital expenditure, less £1,004 written off the gas undertaking, amounted to £9,461, while £16,350 was received from the issue of "C" stock and preference stock, and the credit balance now stands at £9,540.

### TOTTENHAM DISTRICT LIGHT, HEAT, AND POWER CO.

In the half-year ended June 30 the sales of gas increased by 17,483,000 cubic feet, or 1.5 per cent., to 1,179,830,000 cubic feet, but receipts from residuals were much smaller, and the total income of this branch showed a decrease of £3,158 at £185,630. Expenses rose by £2,174, mainly because of the increase in the cost of oil and coke used in the manufacture of carburetted water gas, leaving the nett profit £5,332 lower at £19,415. This company also has recently added an electrical undertaking, the working of which for the six months resulted in a small loss of

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£251. The balance brought in was £26,068 smaller at £25,561, but there were no special charges to write off, compared with £7,889 for compensation to the Enfield directors and staff and £1,124 for stock redeemed, so that the actual sum available for distribution, after providing for interest charges, was £22,670 down at £40,171. The full statutory dividends are paid at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the "A" stock and 6 per cent. per annum on the "B" stock, and £14,680, or £23,153 less, is carried forward. In February last £40,000 "B" stock was offered by tender and realised an average price of £112 16s. 9d., but the debit on capital account has been increased by £1,561 to £38,559. Cash is £13,623 down at £10,321, and a temporary loan of £10,000 has had to be obtained from the bankers. In order to meet the greatly increased cost of coal and the many extra charges which fall upon the company in consequence of the war the price of gas was increased by 3d. per 1,000 cubic feet as from the reading of the meters at midsummer.

#### PARKER'S BURSLEM BREWERY, LTD.

Nett profits for the year ended June 2 were £4,704 down at £66,821, but the balance brought in was £1,512 larger at £15,700, so that after repeating the dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and the transfer of £25,000 to reserve, the amount carried forward was only £2,706 lower at £12,994. Less the £2,000 reserve in respect of surrender of licences, property account shows an increase of £20,155 at £1,129,770, against which there are reserves aggregating £340,000. Cash is £24,129 up at £85,545, and debtor balances have risen £11,796 to £26,626, but stocks have been reduced by £3,196 to £43,410, while sundry creditors come to £30,383 more at £46,245.

#### W. H. CHAPLIN AND CO., LTD.

The report covers the 12 months ended March 31 last, and in spite of the difficulties which tended to interfere with business, the outcome of the trading has been, on the whole, satisfactory. The profit balance amounted to £12,225, or £155 more than a year ago, but this sum includes £2,327 brought forward, which was £369 up; consequently, the actual business of the year gave about £214 less, so that the directors could have easily paid the same 8 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares as for the previous year; but circumstances advise caution, and accordingly the dividend is limited to 7 per cent., or 1 per cent. less—that is to say, the interim distribution was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and the final at the rate of 9 per cent., making 7 per cent. in all for the year and saving £600. Directors' fees come to £92 less at £1,100, and the balance of £3,175 left to carry forward is £848 up. It is stated in the report that the Budget regulation which now prohibits the sale of spirits under three years old, and also limits the sale of drink in munition and transport areas, has considerably dislocated the spirit trade, and will continue to perplex it until a regular rotation of three-year-old bondings has been established. As it is, businesses like this have had to face a threefold difficulty—viz., a decreased turnover, scarce and uncertain supplies, and greatly increased cost both of labour and materials. Happily, the difficulties seem to have been surmounted, and all is well.

#### EGYPTIAN HOTELS, LTD.

Owing to the war, there were practically no visitors in Cairo during the past season, and the Ghezireh Palace and Semiramis Hotels remained closed. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that the profits of this company, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, should have declined £24,367 to £6,285. After providing for the charges payable in London, the accounts show a profit of £3,965, which, with £2,712 brought forward, gives an available balance of £6,677. From this £3,553, or £24 less, is deducted for debenture interest, and also one-fifth of the debenture expenses—viz., £575—reducing the balance carried forward on this account to £1,275. Last year dividends of 5 per cent. on the preference and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares were paid, and £5,611 placed to the reserve for depreciation. None of these assignments can be made this year, and the balance carried forward is £2,549, or £163 down. During the year £3,429, or £6,552 less, was expended out of revenue on maintenance of buildings, gardens, fixtures, and furniture at the company's hotels. The directors say that the charges for food and hotel accommodation have been reduced very considerably, and the local board in Egypt have felt it to be their duty to place the conveniences of Sheppard's Hotel at the disposal of the officers and men of the Expeditionary Force, and this has been much appreciated. The nett expenditure on capital account during the year has been £956, a decline of £6,371 in the preceding 12 months. In the balance-sheet freehold and leasehold land and buildings are £1,654 down at £192,097, and stocks of wine, provisions, &c., £917 less at £6,413. Shares in and advances to the Schweizerisch Egyptische Hotel-Gesellschaft have declined £6,874 to £45,015, but owing to the war this asset is at present unrealisable, and its ultimate value cannot be ascertained. Sundry debtors owe £1,343 less at £5,345, as against £3,295 more at £14,521 owed to sundry debtors and reserves for income-tax. Cash at bankers and in hand is £5,580 lower at £2,854, while advances by bankers and interest accrued are £10,000 larger at £15,931.

#### WELDON, LTD.

War economies have left their mark on this company's business for the year ended June 30, but, on the whole, it has come through much better than might have been expected. Profits were £11,177 down at £35,770, and the balance brought in was £903 smaller, so that the disposable total of £44,438 was £12,080 less. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 10 per cent., but there is no bonus this time compared

with a per cent. a year ago. Reserve, too, only gets half last year's amount at £5,000, and the appropriation of £5,000 to special business development fund is not repeated, while the staff bonus is reduced from £1,250 to £1,000, but £1,770 more at £10,438 is carried forward. Goodwill and copyrights stand at £337,415, and represent such a large proportion of the capital of £380,000 as to make it doubtful whether the foundation of the company can be really sound. Leasehold property, &c., has been increased by £5,930 to £19,360, and investments, including £85,000 on account of the reserve, are valued at £100,000, or £10,000 more. Stock is £942 up at £7,344, but debtors owe £4,307 less at £22,027, against a decrease of £3,322 to £10,196 in sundry creditors, and cash is £8,600 down at £24,488.

## Answers to Correspondents.

**\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

S. A. G.—We are decidedly of opinion that if you can get 110 or thereby, you should sell, because there may be considerable reaction when the present stimulus ends.

Apus.—We know of no company which undertakes this class of business in the ordinary way, but we believe the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation will consider propositions of the kind. You might write to the secretary, giving particulars of the kind of policy you require.

S. P.—We think not. The business is good and well managed.

E. D. O.—Your broker is quite right. You did not pay duty at the time of purchase, and under the Act you must now pay to make your shares a good delivery.

E. A.—We hope to know definitely next week whether some such arrangement can be carried out.

C. A. L.—We think so; the market does not look very solid.

M. E. B.—We see no reason to sell, unless you want the money. The stock is good, redeemable at a premium by drawings. Another transaction is recorded still higher.

D. P. H.—Yes. See reply to E. A.

A. J. C.—We think you might hold on for the report. The company must have done very well.

## HOME RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

Name.	Mid-summer, 1915.	Mid-summer, 1914.	Mid-summer, 1913.	Mid-summer, 1912.	Mid-summer, 1911.
		Rate per	cent.	per annum.	
Barry .. ..	9½	10	10	7	6½
Chatham, 1st pref..	4	4½	4½	4½	4½
District, 2nd pref..	3	3	2½	nil	nil
Great Eastern ..	½	¾	¾	1½	2½
Great Northern ..	3	3	3	3	3
Hull and Barnsley..	¾	¾	3	1	2
Lancs. and Yorks...	3½	3	3½	3½	4½
Lon. and S.W. ..	4	4	4	3	4
London Brighton ..	1½	1½	1½	1	1½
London Electric ..	1	1	1	1	1
Metropolitan ..	1	1½	1½	1½	2
Midland ..	3	3	3½	2½	3½
North Eastern ..	5½	5½	5½	4½	5½
South Eastern ..	1	1	1½	1½	1½
Taff Vale ..	3½	4	4	3	4
Underground ..	6	6	6	4	1½

Hull and Barnsley Railway Co.—The Right Hon. Lord Plunket, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., has been elected a director in place of the late Sir Arthur Charles Lucas, Bart.

We are informed that Mr. Wm. H. Moxey, the secretary of the San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Co., Ltd., retires from that position at the end of the current month, and he will be succeeded by Mr. Vernon Hinde.

Savings Bank Record in New Zealand.—The returns of the New Zealand Post Office Savings Bank for the four months from January 1 to April 30 of this year, show the excess of deposits over withdrawals at the remarkable figure of £1,040,592 6s. 2d. One reason for this large sum may be that people are not investing so freely on account of the war, preferring the safety of the Savings Bank.

## NOTICE.

### THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

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MEMBERS of the STOCK EXCHANGE are NOT ALLOWED to ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue Circulars or Business Communications to persons other than their own Principals. Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are Not Members of the Stock Exchange, or in any way under the control of the Committee. Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature. A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,  
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange  
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.



## The Week in Mines.

There was some increase in activity in the Mining markets early this week, but it was not maintained, and the condition of the House generally encourages no hope of any improvement in the position for some little time to come. On the whole, however, prices have been fairly well maintained, except for some of the leading South African and copper shares, the latter having been depressed by profit-taking on the part of American speculators, which was induced partly by a sharp fall in the price of the metal here and the weakening of the market for electrolytic in the United States.

## SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market, Brakpans, after touching 2 25-32, were supported on the improved developments for the past quarter, and rose to 2 1/8, and Springs Mines at 22s. 6d., Consolidated Mines Selection at 8s. 9d., and Transvaal Coal Trust at 1 7/8, were also in request at a slightly higher range on the quarterly reports of the Brakpan and Springs Mines. Knights, after falling to 3, attracted attention and rose to 3 1/8, while City Deep has been in request at 3 1/8. City and Suburbans, on the new estimate of life, have also been inquired for at 2 1/8, and Nourse Mines and Rose Deep have risen slightly to 1 1/8 and 1 1/8 respectively. Crown Mines relapsed to 4 1/8, but then recovered to 4 1/4. Central Minings, however, have been on offer and have fallen 1/4 to 6, and Rand Mines changed hands down to 4 13-32. East Rands and Van Ryns have been on offer, the former falling to 1 9-32. The diamond department has been stagnant, with an almost complete absence of buyers, in spite of news from Amsterdam showing an increased demand for the stones from America. De Beers deferreds have been a poor market at 10. Among Rhodesian shares, Chartered have sagged steadily on a few sales, and show a further loss at 10s. Falcons have also been weaker at 7s. 6d., and Tanganyikas fell 1/8 to 1 1/4 after the meeting. Shamvas, too, reacted to 1 1/8 after the issue of the report. West Africans have been a lifeless market, and Benues were recorded as having been dealt in at nil; presumably the seller thought that in view of the reconstruction the shares were worthless. In the height of the Nigerian boom they changed hands at over £6!

## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have weakened considerably this week, especially the American descriptions, which have been on offer in Wall Street owing to the reaction in the market for the metal. Amalgamateds have relapsed from 76 3/4 to 73 1/8, Anacondas 1 3/8 to 7, and Utah 3/8 to 13 1/2. Rio Tintos have been rather steadier, and only show a loss of 1/8 at 55 1/4. Hampden Cloncurrys were rather dull until the resumption of dividends, which have been in abeyance since the outbreak of war, was announced. The shares were then bought up to 30s., after having been quoted at 1 1/8 sellers. Russian shares have been very dull, but on the news that the Germans had received a check on the Narew, Kyshtims were rather buyers at 1 1/8.

In the West Australian market, Ivanhoes were raised slightly to 2 9-32 on a development report from the manager. Interest revived in Oroville, which have again been dealt in fairly freely up to 14s. 9d. Tough-Oakes have been in some request, and changed hands at 7s. as compared with less than 6s. a week ago. The Broken Hill group has been rather quiet and irregular, but Amalgamated Zincs rose 1/8 to 1 7-32 on news that the company's fresh contracts with American and French smelters had been sanctioned so as to permit of shipments being made. Proprietaries have remained in the neighbourhood of 44s., but South Silvers declined 1/8 to 6 7/8, and Norths weakened to 1 1/8. Among Indian shares, Mysore have relapsed to 3 7/8 on a number of selling orders, and Nundydroogs have been dull at 25s. 9d.

## MINING NEWS.

**RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.**—The production of gold in June amounted to £322,473, as against £318,898 in May, and £306,421 in June last year. The following table shows the production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	207,903	214,918	220,776	249,032	293,133
February..	203,055	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789
March ....	231,947	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686
April .....	221,296	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,341
May .....	211,413	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898
June .....	215,347	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473
July .....	237,517	240,514	249,301	320,670	—
August ....	243,712	239,077	250,576	316,972	—
September	225,777	230,573	250,429	309,398	—
October ..	218,862	230,072	247,068	337,241	—
November	214,040	225,957	239,036	311,711	—
December	217,026	218,661	254,687	309,669	—
Totals	2,647,894	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	1,836,520

For the half-year the total shows an increase of £161,974 on last year. The number of producers last month was 210 against 221 in May; and the output of other metals was 15,743 ounces of silver, 3 tons of lead, 32,504 tons of coal, 320 tons of copper, 4,536 tons of chrome ore, 283 tons of asbestos, and 33 carats of diamonds.

**SPRINGS MINES.**—The report for the June quarter shows a marked addition to the ore reserves in the past half-year. The total is given as 854,000 tons, averaging 10.6 dwts. per ton as compared with 553,000 tons, averaging 10.3 dwts. at the end of 1914. In addition, 490,000 tons of unpayable ore have been developed, averaging 2.26 dwts. per ton. In the last quarter more development work was done, but less was actually on reef, and values showed a further decline as compared with the high-water mark in the December quarter. Thus the total footage was 2,533, against 2,424, of which 1,843 feet was on reef, against 1,867. There were sampled 1,750 feet, the average value being 17.52 dwts. over 22.88 inches; these results, though lower than in the March quarter, are up to the average since development work began. Of the footage sampled 58 per cent. was in payable ore, averaging 21.6 dwts. over 28.8 inches.

**BRAKPAN.**—The quarterly report shows an improvement in development results in the three months to June 30. Work along 4,685 feet of reef gave an average assay of 15.68 dwts. over a width of 32.7 inches. This compares with 4,260 feet in the March quarter, averaging 11 dwts. over 35.5 inches. Of the footage developed, 2,690 feet were in payable areas, and averaged 24.14 dwts. over 34.2 inches, against 2,135 feet, averaging 17.9 dwts. over 38 inches in the preceding three months. Working profits for the quarter increased by £9,591 to £86,854.

**CHAFFERS GOLD.**—The scheme for the reconstruction of this concern was passed this week at a special meeting. The assets of the company will now be transferred to a new company, in which Australian creditors will receive debentures for the amounts owing to them, the present debenture-holders receiving similar debentures, and in which holders of the present shares of 4s. each will be entitled to receive equal numbers of shares of 1s. 3d. each credited with 3d. per share as paid up. There was some criticism of the scheme and the past management of the undertaking, and it was agreed that the calls should be made as light as possible. This, it should be pointed out, is the third reconstruction of the company. The first took place in 1905, and the second in 1913.

**EL ORO MINING AND RAILWAY.**—A circular has been issued stating that as the directors have not received any accounts from the mine for a long period, it is impossible to draw up a statement showing the net realised profit for the year ended June 30. The economic position in Mexico has gone from bad to worse, and the great bulk of the inhabitants are on the verge of starvation. Fighting has continually taken place at El Oro, and brought all mining work to a standstill. But notwithstanding the most serious disturbances, no serious loss has been sustained and no material damage done to the mine and reduction works. The rolling stock, however, has suffered. At present the directors are unable to make any prediction as to when operations at the mine will be resumed.

**HAMPDEN-CLONCURRY COPPER.**—The report for the half-year ended February 28 shows that the production amounted to 3,057 tons of blister copper, as against 3,109 tons for the corresponding period, but that the working profits declined from £80,326 to £53,018. But the position has greatly improved in the current half-year, owing to the advance in copper, and a dividend of 2s. per share, the first since the war broke out, has just been declared. Including the sum brought in, and after allowing £8,306 for depreciation reserve, £161,627 was carried forward at the end of February. The debenture issue will be finally redeemed in April next. The ore reserves are estimated at 240,000 tons, containing 21,920 tons of copper.

**EAST INDIAN COAL.**—The accounts for the half-year ended April 30 show that after writing off £7,000 for development account, there is a profit of £9,231, which compares with £10,286 in the corresponding period. It is again proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the half-year, but less tax, instead of free of tax, the board having decided that present circumstances justify them in reverting to the old practice of paying dividends less tax. The output of coal for the period rose from 292,464 tons to 332,878 tons.

**MODDERFONTEIN DEEP LEVELS.**—The following cablegram has been received from Johannesburg:—"The board of directors has decided to increase the capacity of the reduction works immediately to 40,000 tons per month by the addition of 10 stamps



and the necessary plant. The extension of the reduction works is expected to be completed about the middle of next year. The estimated cost is £23,000, most of which will be payable next year."

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Aberdeen Heritable Securities and Investment.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Aramayo Francke Mines.—First interim on account of current year of 6d. per share, free tax, payable July 31, same as a year ago.

Bank of Montreal.—2½ per cent. for quarter ending July 31, same as a year ago.

Brazilian Traction, Light and Power.—The directors of the Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Co., Ltd., have declared a dividend of ¼ per cent. on the issued ordinary capital stock, payable in Toronto on Sept. 1. In view of the unsettled conditions surrounding exchange with Brazil and the low rates prevailing and owing to the prolongation of the war, and notwithstanding that the earnings of the company have continued to increase in a very satisfactory way, the directors have decided upon the conservative policy of making the dividend on the common stock for 1915 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Three per cent. has been paid during the first half of the year, and the board has now declared a dividend of ¼ per cent., making 3½ per cent. for the three-quarters of the year.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 4.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—1s. per share, payable Aug. 18, same as a year ago, but payment was postponed until Oct. 28.

British Oil and Cake Mills.—Interim on the ordinary of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Aug. 21. For 1914 the distribution was 7 per cent., but no interim dividend was paid.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—2½ per cent. for three months ending Aug. 31, payable on Sept. 1.

Charing Cross, West-End and City Electricity Supply.—Interim on the ordinary of the West-End Undertakings for half-year ended June 30, 1915, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

Coliseum Syndicate.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Colonial Property and Rubber.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Aug. 10.

County of London Electric Supply.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Sept. 15, same as a year ago.

Cressington Steamship.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for first six months of 1915, payable Aug. 25.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Extra dividend of 5 per cent. on the common, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Dominion Bank (Canada).—Nett profits for six months ended June 30 £420,000.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year ending July 31, payable Sept. 4, same as a year ago.

Gopeng Consolidated.—4d. per share on the fully-paid shares and 3d. per share on shares 15s. paid, tax free, payable 30th inst.

H. R. Baines and Co.—12½ per cent. per annum, same as last year, after applying £3,344 to the depreciation of investments, carrying £6,180 forward, against £6,041.

Hackney and Shepherd's Busn Empire Palaces.—Interim for year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Hampden Cloncurry Copper.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 26. This is the first dividend declared since the war broke out.

Henrietta Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent. on account of current year, less tax, payable 30th inst. This is the first dividend declared by the company.

Lake View and Star.—Interim of 7 per cent., payable Aug. 26, same as last year.

Leicester Palace Theatre.—Interim for the year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Loders and Nucleine.—Second interim on the ordinary on account of year ending Aug. 31 of 5 per cent., making 12½ per cent. on account of the year to date. The total dividend for 1913-14 was 12½ per cent.

Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire.—Final at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for year ending June 30, making 7½ per cent. for the year.

Moss' Empires.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 5 per cent., free tax.

Nelson Brothers.—Interim on the ordinary of 4 per cent. (at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum) for six months ended March 31, payable Aug. 16.

National Gas Engine.—Interim of 9d. per share on the ordinary, same as last year.

Perry and Co.—Interim for first six months of this year on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax.

Scottish Insurance.—Interim of 10 per cent., same as last year.

Scottish Reversionary.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, same as last year.

Selangor United Rubber.—5 per cent. in respect of year ended March 31, less tax, on the amounts paid up per share for the period during which they were paid up.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—The directors intimate that the dividends declared and announced for the two half-years ended June 30, 1915, by the North-Eastern Railway will, after payment in full on the Three per Cent. First Charge Pre-

ferred Stock (North-Eastern Consols), permit of a dividend of £1 17s. 6d. per cent. on the Deferred Charge Stock for the year, as against £2 7s. 6d. per cent. last year.

United States Investment.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Vickers.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 of 1s. per share (free tax) on the ordinary, payable August 26.

Western Wagon and Property.—Usual interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, payable 31st inst.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and July 24, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	—	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 24, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to July 25, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England .....	£	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....		1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.	£	83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	—	12,123,000	11,021,000
Excise .....	—	17,615,000	11,230,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	—	12,036,000	9,892,000
Stamps .....	—	1,864,000	2,766,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	320,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	—	13,243,000	6,855,000
Land Value Duties .....	—	41,000	50,000
Post Office .....	—	8,400,000	9,010,000
Crown Lands .....	—	160,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	6,472	771,816
Miscellaneous .....	—	1,000,092	671,422
Revenue .....	—	66,808,564	52,697,238
Total, including Balance .....		150,259,516	63,131,757
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		280,000	200,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	1,500,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		142,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		178,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances— Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £201,783,000 in 1915-16 and £1,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		202,783,000	1,000,000
Total .....		567,364,861	66,581,757
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	—	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 24, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to July 25, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	11,656,546	8,860,775
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	396,324	—
Road Improvement Fund ....	—	529,682	486,321
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	—	1,652,260	1,615,267
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	—	763,312	666,570
Supply Services .....	—	325,155,298	47,600,303
Expenditure .....	—	340,213,422	59,229,236
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		345,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		26,479,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		96,041,667	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		830,000	800,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	22,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11— Issued under the Finance Act, 1911— Section 16 (1) (b) .....		50,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	53,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12— Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	—
Temporary Advances repaid— Ways and Means (Treasury Bills) .....		7,751,000	—
Balances in Exchequer— Bank of England .....	1915. July 24.	77,735,573	5,364,388
Bank of Ireland .....	1914. July 25.	686,785	627,219
Total .....		78,422,358	5,991,607
Total .....		567,364,861	66,581,757

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 24, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	*172,207,000
Total .. .. .	£244,707,000

\* Includes £3,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 26, 1915.

General Hydraulic Power Co.—Receipts for quarter ending June 30, £34,922, showing a decrease of £289 over corresponding period of 1914.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

FUNDS £4,823,000.

## NEXT YEAR'S VALUATION.

The annual general meeting of members was held at the office of the society, the Sanctuary, Westminster, on Tuesday, July 20, under the presidency of Sir Paget Bowman, Bart., the chairman of the board of directors.

The Actuary and Manager (Mr. Frank B. Wyatt, F.I.A.) read the notice convening the meeting, the minutes of the previous annual meeting were confirmed, and the report of the directors was taken as read.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—When I had the pleasure of addressing you this time last year we little thought that just one fortnight afterwards the country would be involved in the greatest and most terrible war in history.

## THE NEW BUSINESS.

In view of the great upheaval which has taken place and of the way in which all business and financial matters have been affected, you would naturally be prepared to hear of a check to our usual rate of progress and prosperity. It is, therefore, satisfactory to be able to call attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the stress of the war, our new business in respect of life assurance policies is only slightly below the amount recorded last year. Part of our usual business has been lost because we have not undertaken the grant of assurances on the lives of persons engaged in warfare or likely to join his Majesty's Forces. I may mention here that, following the practice of other life offices, we have not charged extra premiums to our civilian members who assured with us some years ago, and who therefore do not hold free policies covering all risks, and who have volunteered to serve in the war. This generous action on the part of the life offices has been publicly acknowledged by the War Office.

## DEATH CLAIMS AND THE WAR

With regard to the mortality of the year, you will observe that, notwithstanding claims amounting to about £27,000 in respect of 22 members who were killed in action, our experience has been favourable, though naturally not so favourable as in past years. Excluding the losses due in the war, the death claims were about £74,000 less than the amount expected by the mortality table on which our reserves are based, and the difference would have been even larger had it not been for a death-rate rather heavier than usual amongst our very old members. We must, of course, expect further losses from the war in the ensuing year, but it is reasonable to hope that we shall not suffer nearly so heavily as other life offices, as only a portion of our members are laymen and a large proportion of these are of advanced age.

## THE FUNDS AND INTEREST YIELD.

Our funds amounted at the end of the year to £4,823,000, and the average rate of interest, subject to deduction of income-tax on our invested assets at the close of the year, was £4 3s. 3d. per cent., which is almost identical with that reported last year. The expenses of management, which include nearly the whole of the cost of our Act of Parliament, were at the rate of only £6 16s. 8d. per cent. on the premium income, and this is only about one-half of the average rate of expenses of life offices, as shown by the returns to the Board of Trade. We have not, however, sacrificed efficiency to economy, and have spent a reasonable amount in advertisements and circulars in order to keep the society before the public.

We have been working since August 7 last year under our new Act of Parliament, under which we have become a corporate body, our constitution being also simplified. In addition to business facilities we have already reaped some advantages from the Act, as we have been able to grant several assurances on the lives of University and public school men. Those persons are now entitled to ensure with the society, and we have derived considerable advantage during the past year from their ability to do so.

## THE MORTGAGES AND OTHER SECURITIES.

In anticipation of the valuation of our assets and liabilities, which is due to be made as at May 31, 1916, we are about to commence an exhaustive inquiry into all our assets. I may, however, explain that our securities continuously receive our careful consideration, and with regard to our investments in mortgages, ground rents, and other similar securities representing a total investment of 2½ millions, I anticipate with confidence that our examination will prove satisfactory. Your directors have always given the greatest attention to the consideration of our mortgages, and it will be satisfactory to you to know that there has been practically no difficulty during the past year in obtaining payment of the interest, while in many cases a higher rate of interest will be obtained than we have at present. We must at the same time realise that the serious growth of the income-tax, which has very possibly not yet reached its high-water mark, must trench considerably on our profits.

Our investments in Stock Exchange securities must inevitably show a serious depreciation next year in comparison with our last valuation in 1911. The depreciation since this time last year is mainly, if not wholly, due to the war, and it will be necessary for us towards the close of the current financial year to endeavour to ascertain the then value of those securities, so that we may decide on the value to be attached to them in our balance-sheet next year. It would be difficult, and of no profit, to attempt the task at the present time. We do not feel able to offer any forecast regarding the result of next year's valuation, because so much may happen during the next 10 months, but it seems only right that I should point out that it would not be reasonable for the members to expect a distribution of bonus next year at anything like the exceptionally high rates declared in 1911 and on former occasions.

## SUMS ASSURED AND BONUSES "AMPLELY PROVIDED FOR."

In connection with this statement, which I have no doubt you will have anticipated, it will be a satisfaction to you to know that, in the opinion of your directors, the security for the payment of all sums assured under policies and of the additions thereto made by past bonuses is amply provided for by our reserves, which, as you are aware, have been made on an extremely stringent basis. There is a matter to which I should like to allude before closing. In these troublous times our members may find a difficulty in making their periodical payments of premium when due, and I would therefore call attention to the exceptionally favourable terms which we adopted some years ago in regard to premiums in arrear and the revival of lapsed policies. I believe these terms are almost unique in their liberality. So long as the surrender value of the policy is sufficient to cover debts due to the society the benefits of a policy cannot be forfeited. As a matter of fact, our members seem so far to have succeeded in maintaining their payments—though, doubtless in some cases, not without difficulty—the cases of arrear being rather less than usual.

## THE STAFF.

You will observe that Mr. W. N. Neale, who was our respected secretary, retired on June 1 last after upwards of 46 years spent in the service of the society. (Cheers.) It gives me great pleasure to say that he was a much valued official, and the directors desire to record their appreciation of the manner in which he carried out with invariable efficiency and courtesy the responsible duties of secretary. (Hear, hear.) The directors have appointed as his successor Mr. F. T. M. Byers, F.I.A., who has been with us 27 years, and who has for many years effectually discharged the duties of assistant actuary. (Hear, hear.) In praise of the staff generally I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the board's appreciation of their services throughout the year. (Hear, hear.) Though normally a small staff, their number has been materially reduced by the war and by the difficulty of obtaining substitutes for those who have left to serve their country, of whom there are several. Those who remain with us have cheerfully performed the additional labour consequent on the absence of their colleagues. (Hear, hear.) With those few words, gentlemen, I will ask you to adopt the report. After the motion has been seconded I shall be glad to hear any remarks which any member may have to make.

The Deputy-Chairman (the Rev. Prebendary Harvey) seconded the motion.

The Actuary and Manager, in reply to questions, stated that the number of those who assured with the society under the new rule in the past year was apparently 30 out of the total of 401; there were 30 university and public school men, including several students of the theological colleges, and the total amount assured by them was £10,000. The expenses of the society were down to the minimum, and an increase of new business would mean an increase in certain items.

The Chairman, in answer to Mr. Birch, stated that the society bought £20,000 of the old War Loan, and they were subscribing for £80,000 of the new War Loan. The directors thought that that was sufficient to indicate the warm interest they took in the success of the loan, and that they thought well of it as an investment.

The report was then unanimously adopted.

On the motion of the Hon. Sir Edward Thesiger, K.C.B., seconded by the Rev. Canon Pennefather, the retiring directors, the Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev. the Dean of York, and the Rev. Canon J. J. Scott, were re-elected; and Mr. E. R. Frere, chartered accountant, was reappointed auditor of the society for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and the directors.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, assured the members that his colleagues and himself did their best to carry on the affairs of the society with the utmost care. Like many other people in the City of London and elsewhere, they had to look forward this year to a period of anxiety. They took care that the value of the mortgages and other investments which were under their own control was well maintained, but the value of their Stock Exchange investments was beyond their control, and he feared that depreciation in them was inevitable. On behalf of his colleagues and himself he expressed the highest appreciation of the services rendered to the society by Mr. Wyatt.

The Actuary and Manager afterwards stated that the life offices for some years endeavoured to obtain an improvement in the method of their assessment to income-tax, and a small concession had just been made to them. By the new Finance Act



they would in effect obtain an abatement of income-tax on an amount equal to their expenses of management.

The proceedings then terminated.

### MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, under the presidency of Senatore G. Marconi, G.C.V.O., LL.D., D.Sc., the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. Henry W. Allen, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The profit and loss account shows on the debit side a substantial balance, amounting to £232,716 8s. 11d. profit carried to the balance-sheet. This figure shows a marked increase over the profit of the preceding year. We all realise that we are passing through most exceptional and serious times, and everybody, I am sure, will appreciate that the outbreak of hostilities at the beginning of August of last year must have caused very considerable disturbance to a world-wide business such as ours. As was to be expected, wireless telegraph apparatus was promptly declared to be contraband of war, and for the time being, therefore, our work in many parts of the world practically came to a standstill. On the other hand, our factory has been kept very fully occupied in carrying out the very important orders which we have received both from home and abroad. Very naturally, the businesses of our associated companies in some cases have also been very much disturbed. The American company have been deprived of the use of their Transatlantic station, owing to the stations on this side being required for other purposes. It is hoped, however, that in due course they will receive fair compensation. Their high-power stations, however, of San Francisco and Hawaii have been completed, and a telegraphic service is being conducted with very satisfactory results. We are daily awaiting information with regard to the opening of the service through to Japan. The Canadian company has continued to make progress, but the changes which we informed you last year were contemplated have not yet been able to be carried out, owing to the war. The Argentine company have had to defer for the present the work upon their high-power station which they proposed to construct. The Belgian company continues to conduct its business from our office in Marconi House under the direction of the English directors of that company, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs and Captain Sankey. The business is progressing satisfactorily, but it has been quite impossible to make up any balance-sheet. The French company has continued to do a satisfactory business, and has paid for 1914 a dividend similar to that of 1913. The Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Ltd., has continued to show satisfactory progress, although it has not been altogether free from loss directly arising from the state of war. Our Russian company had a very good year, and has paid a dividend of 15 per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. for 1913. They have a considerable amount of work in hand, and are doing a very satisfactory business. The Spanish company's negotiations with the Spanish Government, to which reference was made last year, were not facilitated by the outbreak of war. They have, however, continued to make progress, and we are now advised that they are assured of an early and satisfactory termination. The development of the Automatic Telephone Co. has not made much commercial progress in consequence, of course, of the war. The name of the company has been changed to that of "The Relay Automatic Telephone Co.," as the Swedish name under which it traded was liable to be mistaken, which would not have been to its advantage. We have signed an important agreement with the Italian Government, which we contemplate will be put into operation in the early future. With regard to the Imperial chain, you will remember that in their report of last year the directors informed you that they were permitted to make but slow progress with the erection of the six high-power stations for which they had contracted with his Majesty's Postmaster-General, and the company's interests were being seriously prejudiced thereby. Within a few days of our general meeting war was declared, and at the end of the year the Postmaster-General informed the company that, owing to the altered circumstances resulting from the war, the Government had decided not to proceed with the Imperial wireless chain. We were further informed that the governing factors in determining the Imperial scheme would be better met by means other than the construction of stations of the character and in the situations contemplated by the contract for the Imperial chain, and that the amounts disbursed by the company in respect of the contract would be refunded to us. Subsequently, in February, negotiations were entered into with his Majesty's Government for the erection of certain stations on conditions differing from those contained in the original scheme. Negotiations are proceeding on a basis which, if agreed to, would represent to the company a reasonable equivalent of the terms of the 1913 contract. Nothing, however, has yet been definitely decided. Since I last addressed you there have been some important developments in the art of wireless telegraphy, and we have applied for several new patents. On behalf of my co-directors and myself I wish again to place on record our high appreciation of the services rendered to your company, and, I might also say, to the British nation and her Allies, by our managing director, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs. I believe it to be an indisputable fact that it is very largely due to him that wireless telegraphy has become and has remained a great

British industry—I might also say a great British enterprise—of perhaps greater value to the nation during war-time than in peace.

The Managing Director (Mr. Godfrey C. Isaacs), in seconding the motion, said: I want to remind you that I joined the company, at Mr. Marconi's personal invitation, on January 25, 1910. At that time the company had an issued capital of £547,299. It had practically no cash resources whatsoever, and it had no credit. It had been extremely difficult to find money in this country for wireless telegraphy. Mr. Marconi had personally made great efforts to find the necessary money to conduct the business of the company, and he only succeeded by going to Italy and obtaining there a substantial subscription to the preference issue which was at that time made. But for that fact—but for his being able to obtain that money in—there is little doubt, I think, that the Marconi Company would have then come to an end. When I joined, in 1910, Mr. Marconi personally left to the company the sum of £12,000, and he then proceeded to Canada upon the company's business. Within a very few weeks of his absence I had to draw a cheque on my own banking account to pay the salaries which were due on the Saturday morning for the preceding month. To-day, ladies and gentlemen, we have a capital issued of somewhere approaching one and a-half million sterling, and I think you have but to refer to the balance-sheet to be satisfied that we are in a very sound financial position. We have to-day nearly one million sterling to the credit of our general reserve account, and we have very large assets in the shape of cash, realisable first-class securities, freehold property, leasehold property, and we have, in addition, a large number of shares in our associated companies, most of which have to-day a very substantial value, and all of which we hope in the future will have a very big value. I want to tell you something of the reasons why the business did not prosper in its first years. Very soon after Mr. Marconi provided the company with this very valuable invention the methods which obtained abroad were adopted with regard to this science, and the very valuable patents which were then this company's property, and the property of this company alone, were imitated in Germany, and with the great ability of the German people and their great foresight a big German company was created. This German company was created by the German Government. It had for its direction the most, or some of the most, eminent and able commercial men in Germany—men who were then the directors of some of the biggest commercial industries of that country. It had, further, the great advantage of the financial aid of some of the principal German banks, and it had, finally, a very large subsidy from the German Government. The German company, no doubt under the direction to a large extent of the German Government, proceeded to create powerful agencies in pretty well every country in the world, and they made great headway. Wherever one went, whatever negotiations one had with a foreign Government, one was always in competition with the powerful German agency. But that was not all. We had not only to contend with the German agents, but we had also to contend with the German Ambassadors, and we eventually found that our position was so impossible under such conditions that I returned from a journey abroad and made an immediate appeal to Sir Edward Grey, and placed these facts before him; and from that time forward I obtained the support of the British Ministers abroad in our different negotiations with foreign Governments, and from that time also we commenced to make substantial progress until we reached undoubtedly the preponderating position in the industry throughout the world. It is easy to understand that to a company like this German company, which had the support of the German Government and conducted the greater part of its business under the direction of the German Government—always with the aim of obtaining the contracts or concessions for the construction of wireless telegraph stations in foreign countries, having in view the importance which they one day would play, and with the prospect where a German station was built that German hands would work that station—it mattered little or nothing to the German company, with the German Government behind it, at what price or in what conditions it entered into contracts for the construction of those stations. In those circumstances, I think you will agree that it was not easy for the Marconi Company to maintain its own. Within three months of my joining the company it was evident to all of us that the future of our company lay in the commercial wireless telegraph service around the world, and we adopted the policy of creating such a commercial telegraph service; and one of our first acts in April, 1910, was to apply to the British Government for the right to erect high-power stations in all the British possessions, we stating at the time that we had determined to create this telegraph service, that we had determined to create that service on British soil, if possible, but that we had made up our minds that the stations were to be built and the service created. Unfortunately, the Government did not see its way to grant us that right, although we had asked for no money. Immediately the matter was mentioned the German Government resolved to build a chain of wireless stations in all German colonies. I am informed—and I think I am correctly informed—that the price which the German Government paid for each of those stations was three times the price which we had asked of the British Government. Besides that price, which provided for a very handsome profit, there was a subsidy which represented in amount far more than we ever contemplated we should get in any year from the royalty which we were to receive upon the Imperial stations, and that subsidy was



to be paid, not for 18 years, but for 25 years. Those stations were built, and, I believe, cost the German Government two millions sterling. In the light of what has subsequently happened, you will probably say that it was a very bad investment, but you would be mistaken. You will remember that this country declared war on Germany at 12 o'clock midnight on August 4 last. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon of August 4 last Germany sent out a message to all its wireless stations, which passed that message on from one to another, and each station sent it out to sea, covering a radius of something like 2,000 miles or more, to this effect:—"War declared upon England; make as quickly as you can for a neutral port." By that message, which occupied but a few minutes, Germany contrived to save the greater part of its mercantile marine. If it had but saved one of its big ships, the *Vaterland*, or any one of that class, it would have paid for the whole cost of its wireless stations. We all know that it did a great deal more than that, and that it did a great deal more than send this message to its mercantile marine, but I do not think I am permitted to go further or to tell you any more than what I have told you already with regard to the saving of the mercantile marine. Mr. Isaacs went on to explain why the directors were adopting a conservative policy and paying a smaller dividend. He also paid high tribute to the staff, and mentioned in conclusion: The five balance-sheets of this company published since 1910 show a nett profit of close upon one million sterling, and I think, in face of the difficult conditions under which we have had to work, that is not a bad result.

The report was unanimously adopted.

## GLOUCESTER RAILWAY CARRIAGE AND WAGON CO.

### THE COMPANY AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., was held at the company's offices, Bristol Road, Gloucester, on Monday, July 26.

In the absence through indisposition of the chairman of the directors (Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith, of Charlton Park, Charlton Kings), Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas (London) presided, the other directors present being Mr. J. Albert Matthews (Gloucester), Mr. Ernest K. Little (Newbold Pacey Hall, Warwick), and Mr. John J. Steinitz (managing director). It was explained that of the other directors, Viscount Quenington, M.P. (Coln St. Aldwyns, Fairford), was with his regiment in Egypt, and Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P. (Astley Hall, near Stourport), was engaged with the Committee concerning the internment of aliens.

The directors, in submitting the statement of accounts for the year ending May 31, 1915, reported as follows:—The profit on the year's trading, after making the usual provision for depreciation and payment of war allowances to dependents of employees serving in the Army and Navy, also for contingencies and internal reserves, is £53,330 19s. 3d., and the disposable balance, after deducting the interim dividend paid February 1 last, amounts to £76,537 6s. 1d. The directors propose to transfer £10,000 to reserve, which will then amount to £170,000, and recommend the payment of a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (£18,394 8s. 6d.), less income-tax, making 10 per cent. for the year, and that the balance (£48,142 17s. 7d.) be carried forward. The directors have concluded an arrangement under which the 124,996 fully-paid shares in the Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., are to be exchanged for an equal number of fully-paid shares in Baldwin's, Ltd., and Mr. Vassar-Smith, Mr. Evan-Thomas, and Viscount Quenington will join the board of Baldwin's, Ltd. The company now repair and maintain 28,955 wagons, including those belonging to the company.

Mr. Evan-Thomas, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, stated that the past year's working showed less profit, and the turnover was smaller than in the previous year. That was accounted for by the fact that so many of the company's men—nearly 800—had either joined or rejoined the colours, and that, of course, had had a very great effect in the shops. In addition to that the company, in common with all other industrial concerns of the kind, had experienced a great difficulty in obtaining the raw material required. As regarded the coming year, the probabilities were that they would be doing more and more war work, and the other contracts received were only accepted subject to War Office requirements. The company had done a great deal of work during the past year for the War Office—work for which their equipment was suitable, such as general service limbered wagons, 18-pounder gun limbers, ambulance wagons, ambulance stretchers, tool carts, transport wagons for bridge building cranes, draught poles, rollers, wheels, and spokes; and lately they had been asked to take a share in the construction of shell cases and copper driving bands for shells. In this connection, Mr. Evan-Thomas called attention to the first two shell cases which the company had made, as well as an axle of a gun limber, a very considerable number of which were being made for the Government. He pointed out as an interesting fact in connection with those gun limbers, the extreme accuracy of the workmanship. He thought he could safely say that, whoever might be taxed on war profits, at any rate as regarded the manufacture of the shell cases and the copper driving bands for shells the company would not be amongst the number. The board felt it would be the wish of the shareholders that they should assist in every possible way the requirements of the Government.

(Hear, hear.) The making of shell cases being new to the company, they were not able to take it up with the same certainty that they could other manufactures with which they had long been familiar; but, at the same time, they had every expectation and belief that the company's works would be an important factor in the output of shell cases and driving bands for shells for the Western district. After pointing out that since the last annual meeting the directors had invested £100,000 in the two War Loans, Mr. Evan-Thomas said the fact that the profit for the past year was less than for the previous 12 months was partly accounted for by the allowances which had been made to the wives and other dependents of the company's employees who were on active service, which, together with the company's subscriptions to charitable objects connected with the war, amounted to about £11,000. In addition, there was, as he said, a reduced turnover. The work going on now was as much as the company could do, but naturally, with so many hundreds of men less, the turnover must necessarily be smaller. Alluding to the reference in the report to the arrangement for the exchange of 124,996 fully paid shares in the Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., for an equal number of fully paid shares in Baldwin's, Ltd., he said the reason for that was partly that it was an advantage to the Wagon Co. to have a holding in a company like Baldwin's, Ltd., which was a strong concern with a varied output. As soon as conditions would allow, Baldwin's, Ltd., were going to put up blast furnaces, which would enable that company to manufacture entirely in their own works, without having to go outside for any of the materials. Of course, it would readily be understood that when steel was good there were very satisfactory profits to be made in work such as theirs which did not confine itself to one branch only of the steel trade. In regard to such trades, however, it was very often the case that when one trade was dull other closely allied trades were doing very well; and he thought the shareholders could take it that the directors had, by increasing the base upon which the prosperity of their holding depended, done that which was an advantage to the Wagon Co. (Hear, hear.) They would still have the same opportunities for obtaining their raw material from the Port Talbot Steel Works that they had had in the past, and the board thought that the arrangement which had been made was a very good one from the point of view of the Wagon Co. (Hear, hear.) Passing on, Mr. Evan-Thomas said that during the past year the difficulties which had been in the way of their managing director and the heads of the different departments in the matter of carrying on the business of the company had been very great. The managing director had taken a very large share in helping the company to arrange for the manufacture of war munitions, and he had also taken a prominent part in the work of the Munitions Committee for the district. Things being as they were, namely, that the company were likely to have to devote themselves mainly to the manufacture of war munitions, the board thought that a great deal of the success which they felt sure would be achieved would be due to their managing director. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. A. Matthews seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, which was unanimously agreed to.

Upon the proposition of Mr. George Aldridge, seconded by Mr. W. S. Morland, Viscount Quenington, M.P., and Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., the retiring directors, were re-elected.

Referring to the regretted absence of the chairman of the board, Mr. Aldridge said he supposed there was no man in Gloucester, and scarcely in Gloucestershire, who had such responsible work in hand as Mr. Vassar-Smith, who was also, amongst other important positions, chairman of Lloyds Bank, Ltd. Mr. Vassar-Smith had, he believed, been engaged at the Treasury in connection with the finances of the country during the present crisis, and the Wagon Company had reason to be proud of having him to preside over them. (Hear, hear.) They all hoped that he would soon have recovered from the chill which prevented his being present that day.

Mr. Alfred Slater moved that Messrs. Hudson Smith, Briggs, Smith and Taylor, chartered accountants, Bristol, be re-appointed auditors, and that their remuneration be £250 for the year. He expressed pleasure at the statement as to the help given to the wives and other dependents of the company's employees who had gone to the front, and remarked that the £11,000 so expended, and in charitable objects connected with the war, accounted for nearly one-half the difference in the balance of profit and loss, as compared with the previous year.

Mr. Morgan Matthews seconded the proposition, which was adopted.

Upon the proposition of Mr. J. M. Collett, seconded by Mr. Morgan Matthews, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman and his co-directors and the officials of the company for the excellent results which they had been able to produce.

Mr. James Bruton (Mayor of Gloucester), in supporting the vote, paid a tribute to the splendid lead which the company's men had given to the city in the matter of recruiting, and to the valuable work which the managing director had done in that direction, as well as in his capacity on the local Munitions Committee.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, said that with the experience already gained the company might be relied upon, under the managing director's direction, to do all in their power to help the Government in the production of munitions. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated.



## FURNESS, WITHEY AND CO.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held at the registered office, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, on the 24th inst., the Right Hon. Lord Furness (chairman of the company) presiding, supported by the directors.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, and Mr. W. T. Walton, of Messrs. W. T. Walton and Son (the auditors), read the auditors' report.

The Chairman, after referring with regret to the death of the late Sir Stephen Furness, Bt., said: Coming now to our own immediate affairs, and speaking of the year that is past, we have, I think, every reason to be gratified with the results, since the profit shows an increase of £32,619 5s. 3d. Bearing in mind, on the one hand, the contractual obligations of the company, largely engaged in line business, and, on the other hand, the very large proportion of our fleet requisitioned—and rightly requisitioned—by the Government, you will, I think, be inclined to agree that we have a great deal to congratulate ourselves upon, and little, if anything, to lament. More than 50 per cent. of the company's fleet has for some time been, and still is, upon Government business, so that we are withheld from profiting by freight rates to anything like the same extent as shipowners whose whole fleets are engaged in tramp business, and practically the whole of our steamers outside Government service are employed as liners, bringing food and other necessary supplies direct to this country. Our American business, under the supervision of Mr. H. C. Blackiston, has shown substantial development, and the establishment of an office at Baltimore completes our direct representation at practically all the important ports on the North American seaboard. The construction of the new wharf and warehouse at St. John's, Newfoundland, has been completed, and the acquisition of these properties is very much increasing the efficiency of that particular branch of our business. We are also rebuilding our wharf at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and when the work is finished our facilities at that important port will be very considerably increased. Mention was made at the last annual meeting of the formation of the Furness-Houlder Argentine Lines, Ltd., and in the course of the year an issue of £500,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. debentures was made, with very satisfactory results. Three-fifths of the capital of this concern is owned by the British and Argentine Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the whole of the capital of which belongs to your firm, whilst the remaining two-fifths is held by Houlder Brothers and Co., Ltd.—an important undertaking, in which, as you know, we are also very largely interested. At the present time the entire refrigerated tonnage controlled by your company is serving the country and its Allies in a manner that is doubly effective, the right of requisition exercised by the Board of Trade securing that department, not only in regard to the carriage of the meat supply, but also in power to limit the price. We have acquired interests in a very old-established Irish company—the British and Irish Steam Packet Co., Ltd.—and our coasting trades continue to develop and expand. In consequence of the congestion in shipping at Liverpool and London, we have inaugurated an additional service from New York to Cardiff, as a means of increasing the facilities for bringing supplies to this country. The results of this service have been very satisfactory, particularly as your company has its own office and organisation at each of these ports. In common with many other shipping concerns, we have sustained some losses in our fleet through the activities of enemy submarines. The steamers *Mobile*, *Queen Wilhelmina*, and *Tunisiana* have been sunk—the first-named during the last financial year, and the other two in May and June respectively. The losses, whether as to hull or cargo, are covered by insurance, and there was, happily, no loss of life. Of the clerks employed by your company in this country at the outbreak of the war 40 per cent. joined his Majesty's forces, and, in acknowledgment of their patriotic self-sacrifice, we are keeping their places open for them until their return to civil life, and we are paying their full salaries during their absence from business.

Mr. F. W. Lewis (deputy-chairman) in seconding the adoption of the report, said: The strength of the company's position, as disclosed by the balance-sheet and accounts, must be a source of extreme satisfaction to the shareholders, who, I am sure, will also cordially support the conservative policy of the board in regard to the appropriation of the profits of the company. The chairman has told you that 50 per cent. of our tonnage is on Government service, but, in addition, a large number of steamers owned by our subsidiary and associated companies has been requisitioned. It is true that the rates of freight paid by the Admiralty on an average are less than one-half of what could be earned in the open market, but, inasmuch as the increase in freights generally is principally due to the Admiralty demand, I do not think any shipping companies can complain on this score, so long as the requisitioning of tonnage is regulated, as far as possible, on a proportionate basis, which the Admiralty are endeavouring to do. It has been suggested in some quarters that shipowners have taken advantage of the position to raise freights, but any comparison of rates of freight, without taking into account the increased war risk expenses, wages, stores, coal, and abnormal conditions at loading and discharging ports, is exceedingly misleading. It will interest you to know that the amount of premium paid out for war risk insurance alone, from the commencement of the war up to the middle of this year, by ourselves and our associated companies, amounts approximately

to £350,000. Generally speaking, a very small proportion of the increase in the price of various commodities is due to freight. It should also be remembered that a considerable amount of the increase in rates of freight has been contributed by foreign countries, and the earnings of the mercantile marine of this country has assisted in lessening the disparity in the trade returns caused by the increase at the present time in our imports over our exports.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

## THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Australia, Ltd., was held on Monday at the head office, 71, Cornhill, E.C., Mr. Henry P. Sturgis (the chairman) presiding.

The Manager (Mr. A. C. Willis) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that the war had had a disturbing effect on business generally throughout the Commonwealth and Dominion, and it had been an important factor in the large decrease in exports. This decrease in exports, however, only referred to Australia, for in New Zealand the exports were considerably in excess of the imports. But whatever effect the war had had, the immediately important factor during the half-year was the severe drought, from which practically all the States in the Commonwealth suffered, many localities experiencing the worst drought, for the time being, of which there were records. New Zealand also had an unusually dry season in certain districts. The wheat harvest in the Commonwealth was a failure, and importation of wheat had become necessary. There had also been heavy losses in stock, and lambing in many parts had been poor. It was not possible to state with any accuracy the result of the wool clip, but it was probable that the actual shortage might be from 200,000 to 250,000 bales, and a further serious diminution must be looked for next year. The dairying industry, too, which showed very satisfactory expansion, had also temporarily suffered from the want of rain. That was rather the dark side of the picture. On the other side, it was satisfactory to be able to state that the prices obtained for the wool had been good, and went some way to compensate for the reduced quantity. But the most encouraging feature had been the fine rains which had recently fallen throughout all the States, except parts of Queensland, where rain was still wanted. The rains, unfortunately, came too late to materially help the pastoralists, but they entirely altered the prospects for the agriculturists, and it might fairly be said that these latter started the season under most favourable conditions. The figures of the balance-sheet, as compared with those of February, 1914, showed an increase of £206,000. On the liabilities side no special comment was called for, the increases being spread. On the assets side the increases of £553,000 in specie, £487,000 in investments, and £1,134,000 in advances were offset by decreases of £1,041,000 in money at call and short notice and Stock Exchange loans in London, and £917,000 in remittances and drafts in transit. The Stock Exchange pre-moratorium loans in the balance-sheet stood at £264,000, which amount had since been considerably reduced, leaving the total outstanding under that head at a very small figure. After the deduction of £1,000,000 set aside in investments for the reserve fund, the liquid assets amounted to 8s. 6d. in the £ of the bank's total liabilities to the public. As regarded investments, he had again to announce a considerable reduction in values. At the end of the half-year there was a comparatively small depreciation on the values at which they stood in the books, and this was provided for from funds already set aside for the purpose. On a valuation taken recently further depreciation was disclosed, but this had also been fully provided for. The minimum prices, however, on which they had chiefly to base their calculations were very nominal, and he was afraid that they would be called upon in the future to provide further sums to meet this unfortunate shrinkage in values. After providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and making full provision for depreciation of securities, they were able to declare a dividend equal, with the bonus, to 14 per cent. per annum. Of their London staff 35 had joined his Majesty's forces, and others were going shortly.

Mr. Arthur P. Blake seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

## RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS.

The fourteenth annual ordinary general meeting of the members of Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., was held, on Wednesday, at Salisbury House, E.C., Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. W. Bretherton) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The war, unprecedented in its magnitude, unprecedented in its methods, is no less unprecedented in its dire effects upon the commerce of nearly all nations, and, for the first time in the history of this business, dating back nearly half a century, the balance-sheet is on the wrong side. The very causes which hitherto contributed to the welfare and to the prosperity of the company—namely, the wide extent of its ramifications—have, in the first year of this cruel war, led to exactly the opposite results almost from the moment of its outbreak. The parent company in London, our branch houses in Paris, the companies in Berlin, in New York, and our agencies everywhere were stricken as by a blight. The 50 and more travelling men, including the company's representatives in Australia, India, China, Russia, &c., one and all sent disquieting reports about the state of trade, and from that period orders, where they were taken at all, were cut down to the lowest possible



dimensions. Cables arrived from customers in the most distant parts of the world, some reducing, others altogether annulling orders taken months previously, and on account of which considerable expenditure had already been incurred by us. It is but fair to point out that the activities of our various departments are not fully evidenced by the actual turnover recorded in our books. Thus the issue by us of the important national subject, "Defenders of the Empire," painted by Mr. Harry Payne, in the first instance in picture form for framing, again as a "Zag Zaw" picture puzzle, then in a reduced size as a national Christmas card, and finally as a picture postcard—every one of these issues being entirely in aid of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, with none of the sales credited in our own books—accounts for quite an appreciable amount of time devoted by the respective departments to the service of the nation. The issue of a series of six specially designed Red Cross postcards in aid of the British Red Cross Fund will, we trust, result in a desirable contribution to this most efficient and valuable organisation. The staff of Raphael House has, as a matter of course, been depleted by a number of our men who have gone to the front. The Raphael House Women Workers' Guild, started immediately on the outbreak of the war under the presidency of my wife, and which has already provided many thousands of garments and comforts for the wounded, and the fighters at the front, is as keen and industrious as ever, and will continue its patriotic work to the end of the war. The total amount of the War Loans subscribed by us, and which will be held by the company is £15,000. I should like to give you the assurance of your entire board that the report placed before you to-day, like all previous annual reports presented to you, combines an exact record of the past year's work and its results with a careful, conservative estimate of the standing of your company at the commencement of the new financial year. We have made every proper provision in the matter of allowances and writing off, and if we have erred at all we have done so on the right side—caution. The results of the coming year are necessarily in the lap of the future, but if present indications are maintained we certainly hope to meet you 12 months hence with a different report from that which it has been our lot to place before you to-day. We have faith in our British Empire; we have faith in ourselves. Let us but continue to follow Cromwell's injunction to his soldiers, "Trust in God and keep your powder dry," and when the end of the war sees our Empire, as please God it will, emerge triumphantly from the trials and vicissitudes of to-day, an era of renewed prosperity will surely again dawn and gladden the hearts of all shareholders of Raphael Tuck and Sons.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. J. G. B. Stone (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Wm. Abbott, having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: If you will turn to your report, you will note the satisfactory growth in the number of lamp connections—210,266 to 214,715—though in the case of Chelmsford we have to record a lower figure than last year. The latter is due to the withdrawal of a large customer whom we had supplied at an exceptionally low rate for a number of years, so I am glad to say the reduction in lamp connections at Chelmsford is not accompanied by a corresponding loss in profits. The Hendon Co., in which we are largely interested, progresses most favourably, as evidenced by the handsome dividend we receive on our shareholding. The Dumbarton Tramway pays the same small dividend, but we hope will ultimately yield us a better return. In connection with Dumbarton, you will remember last year I told you we had arranged for a bulk supply for the town, but as the war caused considerable delay in the delivery of the necessary plant, it is only during the current year that the supply has become of beneficial use to us. I have no doubt shareholders are wondering how we are affected by the war. As regards the sale of current, I do not think we have been adversely affected, as we have had an increased demand for power supply, more particularly in Dumbarton, which is an active centre for ship-building and for the production of war munitions. In other places dependent on visitors for their prosperity the ordinary business has been replaced to a large extent by increased trade brought by the billeting of troops. As to the other side of the account—namely, the production of electricity—the actual cost during the year under review has not been very materially affected—though we shall have to face higher prices for skilled and unskilled labour and for coal in future. A very large number of our staff are now serving with the Forces, and we have at present only 54 per cent. of the men who were in our employment at the outbreak of the war. You will observe in the renewals account that we recommend bringing it up to a sum of £10,000, and we propose to continue paying for repairs and renewals out of the yearly revenue, unless we have to meet some abnormal expenditure. I point out that there is a considerable increase in our bill for repairs, due to renewal of our batteries. Most of our works have now been in operation for about 10 years, and a battery does well if it lasts for that period. It was particularly to meet battery repairs that this fund was built up, and it is gratifying to feel that we can carry out such work without trenching upon it. We now propose to inaugurate a general reserve fund, setting aside £3,000 for that

purpose. Apart from general depreciation charges, we have to bear in mind that item on our balance-sheet representing the cost of issuing shares and debentures, and the shareholder will no doubt agree that it would be wise to make some provision of this nature. With regard to the dividend, the board do not think it politic to pay more than 2½ per cent. The small additional payment under the present conditions is encouraging, and marks the general improvement in face of the difficult conditions which have prevailed.

Mr. Francis Reeves seconded the adoption of the report, and it was carried unanimously.

### THRELFALL'S BREWERY CO., LTD.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of shareholders in Threlfall's Brewery Co., Ltd., was held, on Thursday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London. Mr. Charles Threlfall (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. C. W. Sheppard) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Before proceeding with the business of the meeting it is my painful duty to state that we have lost, through death, our Mr. William Griffin, who had been associated with the company ever since it was formed, and had been one of our directors for the last eight years, and whose loss we very much regret as he had the welfare of the business at heart, and always worked most harmoniously with us all. I have now great pleasure in asking you to adopt the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, which, I am sure, you will consider very satisfactory. The gross trading profit for the year amounts to £216,075 7s. 4d. as against £209,368 2s. 6d. for 1914, which is an increase of £6,707 4s. 10d. We have written off for depreciation the sum of £56,326 14s. 2d., against £50,599 7s. 2d., being an increase of £5,727 7s., and we have added £1,000 to the Workmen's Compensation Fund, and carried forward the sum of £40,868 16s., being an increase of £1,176 19s. 2d. over that of the previous year. We have contributed £1,000 to the Prince of Wales's Fund, and £200 to the Belgian Fund, which I am sure you will approve. You will be interested to know that 86 of our employees have joined the colours, and that one of them—Corporal (now Sergeant) J. Borders, of Salford, Royal Lancashires, has gained the D.C.M., which was presented to him by his Majesty the King in France. An amount of £2,052 12s. 2d. has been paid by the company, from the commencement of the war to June 30, to the dependents of the 86 of our employees who have joined, and I regret to say that two out of the number have been killed at the front. I should like to draw your attention to the following items in the balance-sheet, namely, "Trade creditors and sundry credit balances." For the year 1915 this item amounts to £94,879 16s. 9d., and for 1914 the figure was £63,155 7s. 9d., there thus being an increase of £31,724 9s. This increase is principally caused by the alteration in the system of collecting the beer duty, a further credit being allowed by the Government before payment of the same has to be made. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and that dividends be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, which, with the interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, makes 9 per cent. for the year.

Mr. P. J. Feeny, J.P., said that it gave him very great pleasure to second the proposition.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously without discussion.

The Chairman said that owing to the death of Mr. William Griffin, and to the absence of Captain Threlfall at the front, the directors elected Mr. Thomas Barker and Mr. William Basil Feeny as directors. Both of these gentlemen were business men. They now retired, and sought re-election. He had, therefore, great pleasure in proposing their election. As he had said, they were both sound men of business, and had already considerable interests in the company. During the few months that he had had the pleasure of working with those gentlemen since they had joined the board to fill up the casual vacancies to which he had referred, he was confident that if the shareholders elected them that day, as he felt sure they would, they would greatly strengthen the board. They both of them had youth on their side, and to use a vulgar phrase, they had their heads screwed on the right way. The whole of the board were thoroughly satisfied with them, and felt that the shareholders should re-elect them. He had, therefore, much pleasure in moving their re-election.

Mr. George Barker (managing director) seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

### SPIES PETROLEUM CO., LTD.

The ordinary general meeting of Spies Petroleum Co., Ltd., was held, on Thursday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., presiding.

Mr. H. G. Trew, F.C.I.S., having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said the profit was considerably larger than last year, being £34,000 more, which, if exchange had been normal, would have enabled them to pay a substantial final dividend, but in the interests of the shareholders it was clearly impossible to contemplate bringing money from Russia under the present conditions, involving, as this would have done, a loss of some 32½ per cent. Under these circumstances the directors anxiously considered whether a dividend could be paid in any



other form, as they recognised the hardships of depriving shareholders, especially at such a time as this of immediate returns on their investment. They contemplated making a distribution in scrip, but the Treasury refused sanction. They also considered the declaration of a dividend with a postponement of payment, but this was found not to be feasible as the rate of dividend would necessarily have depended upon some basis of exchange which, however, under present conditions, it was impossible to settle upon. Under all the circumstances the board was forced to adopt what seemed the only possible course, namely, to carry the balance forward. They would watch the course of exchange, and as soon as possible make a distribution. There could be little doubt that the opening of the Dardanelles, which it was to be hoped would not be long deferred, would favourably affect the course of exchange, as it would make possible large exports of grain and other produce from South Russia. It may be doubtful, however, whether exchange will revert to its old level for a considerable time. With regard to the work done during the year, the production was very nearly 40 per cent. larger than in 1913, due principally to the fountain on plot 130, which was described in the circular issued in December. The money realised by the sale of oil exceeded by nearly a million roubles the return of the previous year, though the average price was about one kopeck per pood less. After dealing with the different plots, the chairman said that as regarded the prospects of the current year, the production of the first five months was given in the report, but he could now give the figures for the first six months. The gross production was 7,253,955 poods, against 6,844,625 for the first six months of 1914. There had, in addition, been available for delivery this year the stock brought forward from last year of 1,759,033 poods. The deliveries for the first six months of 1915 have realised Rs. 2,444,989.81, against Rs. 1,819,782.49 for the same period of last year, the average price having been 33.45 copecks per pood, as against 35.28 copecks per pood during the same period in 1914. Although from what he had said previously they would see that the prospects of future production were good, they could not expect that the total production of 1915 would be as large as that of last year, which was so much increased in the second half of the year by the fountain production of plot 130. Though the work on the South Baskakoff plots which at present hold out the best hope of a fountain is proceeding well, it is hardly likely that progress will be so rapid as to permit of any of the wells being brought into production for some months. The price of crude, which had fallen from 48 copecks to 24 copecks during the last half of 1914, owing, it was believed in Russia, mainly to manipulation of the market, began to recover towards the end of the year, and had since steadily improved, and was now 48½ copecks, and so had exceeded the high level it attained during the strike at Baku in July, 1914.

The report was adopted.

### BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of the British North Borneo Co. was held on Thursday at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Harington Forbes) having read the notice calling the meeting,

The Chairman said that the conditions under which they met were very different from those of a year ago. The shadow of the terrible war now being waged had descended upon North Borneo, and its progress and prosperity had been checked. He said checked, for although they had not made the advance they anticipated, still they had not gone back, and this testified a great deal to the sound foundations on which the finances of the territory rested. Year by year they had been taught to expect a large increase in their revenue, and for the last six years the annual increase had averaged £17,890. In 1913 the increase over the preceding year was nearly £34,000, and they felt confident that 1914 would furnish a surplus largely exceeding any which had been earned before. This forecast would no doubt have been justified if it had not been for this war, which was devastating the world and threatening the East with convulsion. On the outbreak of hostilities communication was cut off between Borneo, Singapore, and Hong Kong, because the service was mainly performed by a German company. Fortunately, the Government of the territory was in the hands of a wise and firm administrator, who dealt promptly and effectually with the dangerous situation created. Nevertheless, their revenue began to fall, especially that from Customs and railways, and export and imports were less in value by £212,503. There was reason to fear there would be no surplus at all. Considering these adverse circumstances they ought to be well satisfied that the territory yielded almost the same revenue for 1914 as it did in 1913, that was to say, £34,000 more than in 1912. They could not have any more convincing evidence of the staying power of the territory. He himself visited North Borneo, and found that under Mr. Parr's wise administration things had in a great measure righted themselves as regarded communication and a partial revival of trade. But there were other troubles; there was a severe drought which injured agriculture, and their rubber and tobacco industries suffered. The tobacco crop had promised well, and favourable results had been confidently expected, but these hopes had not been realised. The absence of German buyers, and to some extent English also, restricted competition, and very low prices ruled. In Darvel Bay the finest crop for seven years had been grown,

but owing to low prices the company would be fortunate if they escaped another loss from the sale even of this crop. The adverse conditions necessitated the abandonment of the Telok Bukan Estate, and a large reduction of labour force on other estates. They could only trust that the companies engaged in this industry might successfully withstand the financial strain. The coal company had a bad year, or, at least, the last four months of the year were bad, and it was difficult to dispose of the stock of coal, owing to the scarcity of freight and the falling off in the bunkering business. They had made advances to the company, and hoped that the changes which were being made would enable the mine to become self-supporting at an early date.

When all these adverse conditions were considered he thought the shareholders would agree that they had done well to maintain their revenue, and were justified in anticipating the future with confidence. Moreover, the history of the year was not entirely one of stagnation and retrogression. There had been considerable progress under various heads of the administration. Development had progressed, and all the great work in their programme, including the relaying of 40 out of 57 miles of railway, and the building of the Papar Bridge—a great engineering feat—had been completed. Jesselton had chiefly benefited, the development work there having absorbed a considerable portion of the money provided by the last debenture issue. He had been much struck by the improved appearance of Jesselton, which had been transformed to a thriving and prosperous and commercial port. The nett proceeds of the second debenture issues of 1912 and 1914 were £868,725, of which £839,247 had been expended. With regard to rubber, they would be glad to know that Borneo rubber was of the best quality, and invariably commanded the highest prices in the market. On this industry much of the future prosperity of the country depended, and he was confident as to the issue. The exports of copra and coconuts showed a gratifying increase. The cutch industry also showed lively signs of revival. Excise had also increased. Land settlement was progressing, and the revenue from that source increasing. One of the chief sources of prosperity was in the forests. There was sure to be a great demand for timber after the war. Important progress had also been made on road construction. The search for oil was also being vigorously conducted. Dealing with the financial position, he said the accounts showed receipts in excess of expenditure by £106,119. They were paying a dividend of 2½ per cent. He hoped it would not be long before this was paid. Their investments at the end of September amounted to £517,657, and with the advances to companies the total was £1,025,414. The total of investments in and advances to subsidiary companies amounted on December 31 to £661,083, and they had agreed to make further advances of £91,893, in addition to guaranteed interest, to a further amount of £17,375.

Mr. Edward Dent seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The usual formal business was then transacted, and the proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

### INDIA 4 PER CENT. TERMINABLE LOAN OF 1915-16 FOR 450 LAKHS OF RUPEES.

The Government of India have issued, on the 28th July, a Notification inviting applications at par for the above Loan. The Loan will be repaid at par on 30th November 1923, but the right is reserved to redeem it on or after 30th November 1920 on three months' notice to be given in the Gazette of India. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 31st May and 30th November. The Loan will be in the form of Promissory Notes.

Applications in hundreds of Rupees, accompanied by a deposit of not less than 5 per cent., will be received from 2nd August to 3 p.m. on 17th August by the Controller of Currency at Calcutta, the Accountant-General or other Chief Officer of Accounts in each Province and by the Bank of Bengal, Bank of Bombay and Bank of Madras at their head offices and branches. An applicant not in India must name an agent resident in India to whom an allotment certificate may be issued.

When an allotment is less than Rs. 3,000, the amount must be paid in full on 8th September. In other cases the instalments will be payable as follows:—

- On 26th August, about (but not less than) 20 per cent.;
- On 8th September and 30th September, about (but not less than) 25 per cent. on each date;
- On 30th October the balance.

From 2nd August to 30th October applications for the Loan will also be received, irrespective of the limit of 450 lakhs, at all Post Offices in India authorised to transact Savings Bank business. The amount so applied for by any one applicant must not exceed Rs. 5,000; and each application must be for at least Rs. 100 or a multiple thereof. Payment in full must be made with any application at a Post Office.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Financial Secretary, India Office, Whitehall, S.W.

India Office,  
28th July, 1915.



*Head Office*—54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

**£9,000,000.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:—

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:—

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Drawing and Deposit Accounts opened at any of the Branches, according to the usual custom of Bankers.

Payments may be made through any Branch of the Bank to the credit of Customers' Accounts at any other Branch.

Orders for the Purchase or Sale of Stocks, Shares, &c., executed through London Brokers.

Dividends, Pensions, and Annuities received for Customers of the Bank.

The Bank undertakes all classes of Foreign Business, including the collection of Foreign Bills, and the remittance of moneys abroad.

Circular Notes, Circular Letters of Credit, and Fixed Letters of Credit issued payable in the principal Cities and Towns of the world.

The Bank undertakes the office of Executor and Trustee on terms, particulars of which may be obtained at Head Office and Branches.

## AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have compared the above Balance Sheet with the balances on the books at the Head Office, and with the detailed Returns from the Branches. We have verified the Cash at the Lombard Street Office and at the Bank of England, and the Investments of the Bank, as well as those held against cash at call and short notice, and having obtained all the information and explanations we have required we are of opinion that the above Balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books and Returns of the Company. The Investments are taken at Stock Exchange minimum prices where available, except Consols and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent War Loan (1925-28), which are taken at conversion values. Other Investments are taken at estimated market values.

London, July 19th, 1915.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., }  
KEMP, SONS, SENDELL & CO., } Auditors.

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## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

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Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

## Passing Events.

In the week ended July 31 Customs dues brought in £763,000, Excise £475,000, death duties £492,000, and the Post Office £500,000, making, with two or three smaller items, a revenue of £2,551,001. In addition, £95,000,000 was received on the War Loan and £5,674,000 was obtained by Ways and Means borrowings, so that the total income was £103,225,001, or nearly £100,000,000 more than a year ago. At the same time expenditure proper amounted to £32,991,068, of which £32,776,000 was for Supply Services, an increase of £30,052,900. Including £7,669,000 for temporary advances repaid (Treasury bills) and allowing for the reduction of £2,944,000 in Treasury bills (nett assets) the entire outgo was £37,716,068. Consequently, the Exchequer balances were increased by no less than £65,508,933 to £143,931,291.

At the fourth try the Prussians have taken Warsaw, the capital of Russian Poland, and naturally the whole German Empire has flared out in a delirium of rejoicing. It is indeed a great feat of war, the most successful piece of military strategy the savage foe has as yet accomplished. Sadly do we own it, and confess that Lord Kitchener was far more right than all we humanitarian optimists when he said at the outset that the war would be a long one, would last at least three years. But is the Prussian triumph so complete, then? Sentimentally it is; in actual results it is not. All during the past three or four weeks, as we noted the great sweep of the German millions of armed men pressing on North, South and West of Warsaw, the anxiety has been lest the enveloping movement should be successful in putting any large part of the Russian armies in Poland *hors de combat*. At moments the acutest fear was lest the Grand Duke Nicholas should risk the loss of important portions of his army by delaying his retreat too long. This fear would seem to have been unnecessary pessimism, judging by the information in Friday morning's papers. Danger there still is, from both North and South, and Riga is probably by this time a German town, in sentiment as in speech, but if the machinery removable from the factories of Warsaw has been already conveyed to Moscow it is not likely that anything of value to the enemy has been left in a usable condition either in that fine city, with its 750,000 inhabitants, or in the surrounding

forts, in attempting to defend which the Russians wisely risked few lives. And the German tale of prisoners proves that the Russian armies have escaped the snare almost intact. That itself is a magnificent feat of war. How splendidly these insufficiently equipped armies of the Tsar have fought, with what dash and persistence, often against overwhelming odds, always against artillery in weight and power immeasurably superior to their own! The story of this war of giants in Poland is already one of the most soul-moving and heart-warming in all this war of hell, and because it is so, we remain confident as ever in our belief that the German empires are on their way to perdition. This Polish triumph has gained them nothing substantial, can gain them nothing while Russia's forces are intact, will not even secure to them the possession of the territories now overrun or about to be overrun sufficiently long to allow the Kaiser to send his hosts, as vaunted to his sister, West to the Franco-British front, there to repeat the ruinously costly Polish triumph. That he and his Junkers will try to fulfil the boast is only too probable, and doubtless we are now prepared. When the lava flood of Teutons does burst upon us the nation may perhaps begin to comprehend why its citizen army has been drilled and conserved to be ready for just such a day of supreme menace. But if the Grand Duke Nicholas has proved able to withdraw his armies uninjured in material as they unquestionably are in morale, it should prove extremely difficult to reduce by much the numbers of the Germans now chasing them and wasting their men in furious attempts to envelop them. Once more the Junker time-table will have gone wrong. All last winter preparations must have been going on in Germany and Austria for this invasion of Poland which has brought about the occupation of Warsaw, and the Russians have balked the invader of his prey for at least a month, more likely for ten weeks beyond the time reckoned on. If they can play will-o'-the-wisp to the chasing Huns for yet another two months—harassing them, destroying everything of value that might lie in their path, cutting their lines of communication, and always keeping them on the move—winter will be again upon us, and the Hunnish harvest of victory still ungathered whether East or West. While, therefore, flags fly and trumpets blare and people get drunk with pride and beer all over the doomed empires,



we look for renewed efforts on the Kaiser's part to divide the Allies and coax a peace out of Russia at least. And it will be ashes in the mouth in that effort even as amid his far-blared victory in Poland.

Last Monday's *Standard* contained a translation by its special correspondent in Paris of a letter found on the field and published by *France de Demain*. It was written in May last to his dear Otto, presumably by a civilian, not improbably by a professor, in Berlin, and that it was found on the battlefield seems to point to the fact that said Otto has not lived to behold fulfilment of the "prophecies" it contains. "It affords an interesting study of German mentality," says the *Standard's* correspondent, "and contains several grains of truth amongst its reflections which it would do no harm to the Allies to digest." We cannot find many of these "grains," and those found are so steeped in German dye as to be of no digestible value. But the letter is suggestive and throws an amusing light on the motives and lusts that continue to impel the German peoples to acquiesce in the destruction not merely of their empires, but of all their able-bodied males, who now work like head-hunters to fulfil the writer's prophecy, and the entire letter is full of the true Teutonic flavour of unconscious humour:—"Against the Russians we shall continue to pile up victories which will not take us to Petrograd. But the Cossacks are now far enough away from Berlin for it to be difficult to persuade them again to make for it. As for the Italians, when we have pulled their ears enough, our ex-allies will be glad to pocket a little slice of the Trentino, which the good Austrians will end by giving up to them, with a grumble! The real danger for us has always been, and will always be, from the West, but we shall be saved by the gigantic laziness of England and the nervous exhaustion of France. Did I not tell you and Hedwig a thousand times after I came back from London in 1912 that this nation thinks of nothing but short hours, big pay, football, and orange marmalade? After ten months of war she covers a front of thirty-six miles, and has no munitions for her troops. But the quality of plum puddings in the commissariat defies imagination. To take a British trench is the prelude to a general indigestion for our men. As for the French, I confess that they have proved our estimate of them wrong. They still have resources, and many more men than their papers admit. They are able to work out pretty little actions here and there, but they are not cut out for the strong organised action that alone could give them the victory. By now they are beginning to grow impatient, and we feel that there is amongst them a growing discouragement and bad temper against themselves and their allies. They are getting on towards the period of ministerial crises and of internal discussions. We have only to hold on for a few weeks more, or at most months. When they are faced with the threat of a winter campaign, the French will kick. At that moment a piece of bread and a few kind words, and we shall be friends! And in twenty years it will be France, who, whether she likes it or not, will assist us definitely to eliminate Russia from Europe and England from the empire of the ocean. There you have my prophecy. I am, however, quite ready to allow that I am not infallible, and I am perfectly ready to admit that if John Bull and Jacques Bonhomme were capable of an effort like the German one, we should be done for. But they are not. Therefore, keep up your courage and stick it out to the end. 'Deutschland über Alles!'" This, let us repeat, was written in May last, and by a German who ranks himself among the "intellectuals."

Some of the tame yet wild pressmen of Germany continue to do their best to keep up Teutonic hate to the white heat, and by cable one such is reported as writing thus: "Our enemies must be smashed until their ring breaks and the coalition bursts. Peace conditions must be mild here and hard there, making impossible a repetition of the present encircling policy of our enemies. There is only one remedy, our thumb

upon their eye and our knees upon their breast." *Mutatis mutandis*, this expresses with fair exactitude the purpose of the Allies, only we shall make a difference in the treatment of Saxon and Bavarian, Austrian and Magyar, when the day comes to close the ring around their dominions and rivet it. The Germans, however, continue to hug delusions, and seem to have been disappointed by the splendidly heroic unanimity of the Russian Duma, or so cabled gossip says. It seems that the Berlin quidnuncs nourished the idea that Russia's recoil before superior numbers, and before an artillery elaborated for a generation to a perfection and a magnitude that must represent a good portion of Germany's realised wealth, would cause divisions amongst the Russian peoples. Probably the Russian Baltic provinces have been invaded under sway of this idea, but the Duma has demonstrated that all fantasies of the kind are exhibitions of Teutonic dementia. Russia's races and political parties displayed a unanimity of sentiment, a loyalty to the Russian ideal and a settled determination to make an end for ever of the curse of Prussian militarism or die in the attempt worthy of our respectful admiration. We might almost expect that the dense stupidity, vanity fed, of the Kaiser's tools and dupes would be penetrated by this remarkable fact. Instead of wrangling, instead of showing jealousy, Pole of Russia, Russian of Jew, or Lett of German, or Lett, Esthonian, and Finn of all Slavonic parties together, the entire Duma exhibited perfect harmony and united in a resolution as fully charged with loyalty to the noblest of ideals as the one acclaimed in all parts of the British Empire on Wednesday. How great the change is that the war has already wrought in the Russian nation can be partly measured even by people here when they know that Mr. Bourtzeff has been pardoned. He began life as a revolutionary of the most uncompromising, if also most honest type, was driven out of the country and forced even from England, because of his unconquerable hostility to all that was autocratic in his native land. And when he, the outcast, went back to Russia at the beginning of the war he was again arrested at the instance of his bureaucrat foes, and sent to Siberia. Now he has been pardoned by the Tsar, for he is as loyal as any man in all the empire, and will be remembered in after days with gratitude by the whole nation as the man who did more in his exile to burst up the infamous system of crime-fomentation elaborated by the Teuton-guided German police than any hundred other Russians together. Surely one of the strongest foundations for the optimism we entertain—which this journal has always entertained—is to be found in such proofs as these of the unification of a great people in its resolve to do or die for liberty, in the harmonious resolve of all the Allies now fighting against the Teuton aggressor not to close this war, diabolically schemed and wantonly thrust upon them, until mankind has been liberated.

There are few grains of comfort for the stockholders of the South Metropolitan Gas Co. in the report for the past half-year. Notwithstanding the increase to 2s. 10d. per 1,000 cubic feet in the price charged for gas, and the consequent reduction of dividend under the sliding scale to £4 8s. per cent. per annum, the results of the six months' working show an increase in the amount to be carried forward of only £3,589. A year ago the dividend was £5 9s. 4d. per cent., but the profits fell short of the amount required by £37,920. No war clouds were then visible, and the directors had good enough reason to hope that the position would improve without having recourse to raising the price of gas to consumers. But the war has hit the gas companies very severely through the increased cost of coal and freight, as well as by decreased consumption, owing to lighting restrictions. The decrease in consumption amounts to 3.73 per cent., whereas in the corresponding half-year there was an increase of 2.29 per cent., and there is no immediate prospect of any improvement in this respect. It is, however, the extraordinary prices charged for coal and its freightage to



London that is the chief obstacle to the company's prosperity. These are in some cases treble what has been paid in recent years, and the report very fairly says:—"It is significant that the Government are at last applying to coal suppliers the same principles which have been in operation for 40 years with regard to gas suppliers, viz., Parliamentary regulation of the prices to be charged. The freight question can be solved by the purchase of steamers, and this course has now been adopted." Fortunately, residuals show an appreciable improvement, mainly owing to the increased value of fuel and the activity of the chemical industry, with the result that the revenue from this source increased £43,530 to £323,315. Revenue from sale of gas was £66,680 higher at £800,705, the price having been raised 2d. at Lady Day and 8d. at midsummer as compared with last year. Coal, however, cost £155,990 more, but savings were effected in distribution and one or two other items, so that the balance of nett revenue comes out £16,170 to the good at £189,140. But the amount brought forward was £63,470 less, and the balance available for dividend is £56,250 down at £146,249. Temporary loans have been increased by £160,000, and the directors are offering £100,000 stock to the company's employees and gas consumers to provide for the extending requirements of the business, particularly the purchase of steamers, we may assume. The co-partnership scheme, it is said, continues to work smoothly and well, and war conditions will not last for ever.

War or no war in South Africa, business seems to have been good last year for the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd., which by its control of the Rand Mines Power Supply Co., Ltd., is now lord of all electric it surveys in the Transvaal mining region. Its profit for its calendar year 1914 was £87,870 better than for 1913 at £555,694. Actually the revenue from power and lighting supply, rents, interest, &c., was £101,428 up at £551,620, but £10,881 less at £21,954 was received as interest and registration fees, so that the gross income of £573,574 was only £90,547 better, and this was cut down to the nett gain above noted by an increase of £2,677 in the expenses of administration in Johannesburg, London, and Salisbury. For 1913 nett profit had also been £21,444 up, so that for two years there has been a gain of about £109,000, and the board is able to pay the preference dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the 10 months ended April 30, 1914, whereas a year ago it paid only six months' preference interest. This is in addition to the 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, distributed for the first half of 1913, and there is £106,447 left to carry forward, although £40,000 more was required to meet these preference dividends. Altogether, however, the directors had £96,282 more at £660,893 to put away, because the balance of £105,198 brought forward was £8,412 better. It, however, took £30,922 more at £234,843 to meet debenture interest for the year, and the allowance for depreciation, income-tax, &c., was larger by £24,112 at £159,603, so that the whole of the increase in available profits except the £1,248 added to the carry-forward has been paid away. Items of news in the report are not numerous, but it will be of interest to know that large additions have been made to the plant of the company and of the Rand Mines Power Supply Co. during the year, so that the two have now an ample reserve of air and electrical plant installed at their several stations. Shareholders will also be glad to learn that the Court of Appeal reduced the amount of damages payable to the Consolidated Langlaagte Mines, Ltd., by £10,000 to £19,000. Probably in its origin this Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd., owed more to the late Doctor E. Rathenau than to any other single individual. He was the founder and builder up of the great Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft of Berlin and, being a bold and sagacious man of business, obtained for that company most of the orders for material and appliances required by the Victoria Falls Co. Up to the outbreak of war he was

one of its directors, but he then disappeared, and has since died. Where stands the Allgemeine Co. to-day in reference to this British undertaking? Were all the debentures originally taken by it in payment for work done sold to the British public, or are they still in mass amongst the assets of the Allgemeine Co., or in the hands of its bankers, the Deutsche Bank? We shall probably remain ignorant on this and other points until after the war, but judging by the balance-sheet exhibit, the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd., should now be able to stand alone and to take care of all its obligations. The mortgage debt, by the way, was increased by £650,000 in 1914, against which, however, £106,080 of redeemed bonds has to be set, so that the total debt of the company was at December 31 last £4,543,920, in addition to which there is £2,000,000 of cumulative 6 per cent. preference capital and £1,000,000 of ordinary capital all "fully paid" and in £1 shares. The total amount of new money put into the undertaking last year was very nearly £560,000 nett. It is very strong in cash and money deposited and lent, the aggregate being £111,131 up at £801,633. Preliminary expenses, still figuring in the balance-sheet for £44,411, were written down £2,400 last year.

Arthur Guinness, Son and Co., Ltd., the world's greatest brewers, have changed their method of distributing profits to shareholders—the report does not say why. But it may be that a decline in nett profits is looked for in years to come owing to the serious increase in taxation. Whether that be so or not, instead of paying the ordinary stockholders 14 per cent. in two half-yearly dividends of 7 per cent. each, they this time get two 5 per cent. dividends, or 10 per cent. in all, but their total return is made up to the customary 14 per cent. by a "bonus" of 4 per cent., and all are free of income-tax as before. There is assuredly nothing in the record for the year ended June 30 last to prompt any change of this kind, for the nett profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, is £231,173 higher at £1,511,679, and as the balance of £194,233 brought forward was also higher by £155,578, the board had a clear revenue to handle £386,751 bigger at £1,705,912. Out of this £300,000 has been placed to the reserve, or £10,000 more than last year, raising it to £1,960,000. Also £250,000 has been taken specially to write down further the value of the company's investments, besides the £35,000, or the same amount as last year, assigned to depreciation. After doing this and paying all the dividends and income-tax, the directors are able to carry forward £12,216 more than was brought in at £206,449. Gross profit on brewing rose £1,428,696 to £4,179,021, but excise and license duties swept away £1,206,902 more at £2,639,462. No other category of expenditure showed any material change, but the nett profit of £1,460,449 was £222,200 better, and when the balance brought down, as already mentioned, together with the dividends received from investments have been added, the final total was as stated above. Few movements are shown in the balance-sheet, but the debts due to creditors, including £161,934 owing to depositors, are up £205,361 to £962,597, and the value of the properties, machinery, plant, &c., including expenditure on new works, rose last year by £233,881 to £6,641,139 before deducting depreciation. After that, however, the increase is only £193,727, and the total lowered to £5,860,281. Book debts have increased £89,567 to £424,399, and stocks are £395,681 higher at £2,464,327. Cash, too, is more by £188,166 at £353,889, but the value of investments is lowered by the amount this time taken from the year's profits to write them down, and the total is accordingly now £1,245,927.

Eleven months of war covered in the annual report of Whitbread and Co., Ltd., to July 6 last do not seem to have adversely affected the fortunes of this great brewery. Nett profits indeed have risen £21,300 to £147,860, and this allows of the dividend on the ordi-



nary shares being raised from  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 2 per cent., while the carry-forward at £53,650 is £7,230 higher. Moreover, during the year the company has been able to redeem £25,000 of its debenture stock. Details of the profit and loss account are not furnished, but some idea of the increase in the trade may be gathered from the fact that the amount paid to the Government for beer duty and licence duties has risen no less than £266,895 to £625,545, and this can be only partly accounted for by the higher war taxes. Even then the amount of beer duty owing shows an increase of £129,000 at £164,875. Freehold and leasehold properties are £38,300 lower, but cash and investments have advanced £142,200 to £287,566, and the stock of beer is up £41,850 at £154,534. On the whole, a very creditable showing, which proves that "the Trade" is by no means on its last legs yet.

Why, we wonder, did the board of that great brewery of the Midlands, Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd., hide its payments to directors this time? In the report for its financial year ended June 30, 1914, it was openly stated that interest on loans and deposits took £33,030 and that the directors received £7,900, making a total of £40,930. For the year ended at June 30 last we get these two charges, distinct in character, put in one sum of £38,430, which is £2,500 less than the total for the preceding year, and we should have been delighted to be able to credit the directors with this saving. They seem to be a most exemplary body of men, and tell us with what feelings of pride they are able to report the presence with his Majesty's forces of Mr. Arthur Mitchell, deputy-chairman, and Mr. H. S. Staveley-Hill, one of the directors of the company, together with 547 of its employees. The directors have felt it their duty to encourage enlisting notwithstanding the great inconvenience and expense necessarily entailed by a heavy withdrawal from the number of eligible men in their service. And they have done it by telling those who went that they should not suffer monetary loss during the war, and that their positions should be kept open. That is most commendable behaviour and worthy of all imitation, the more so because adverse influence undoubtedly affected the business of the year. Mention, for instance, is made of the heavy additional beer duty, which has greatly reduced the output. Exact comparison in results with the previous year cannot be made, because this time the figures include 12 months' trade of Cheshire's Brewery as against only nine months in the preceding year. The plant of Cheshire's Brewery, by the way, has been disposed of, and all the brewing is now conducted at Cape Hill. Without attempting to make allowance for any lop-sidedness in dates, just taking the figures as they stand, the profits show a decrease of £8,207 at £246,964, but the balance of £172,567 brought forward was £13,594 better, and the company is able to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 15 per cent. for the year, while again contributing £2,000 to the superannuation fund. This time, however, only £55,000 is added to the reserve against £75,000 a year ago, but the smaller addition raises the total to £900,000, and there is still £190,809, or £22,242 more than a year ago, left to carry forward. Moreover, during the year mortgages were reduced by £39,120, and the balance at the credit of the mortgage redemption fund now stands at £45,553, while the outstanding mortgages are reduced to £74,290. Also the outstanding balance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debentures, viz., £47,100, was redeemed at par on March 31 last, so that the company has now outstanding only £613,400 of "A" mortgage bonds bearing 4 per cent. interest, and it is in other respects quite unusually strong. The value of the property, 90 acres of freehold land with all the buildings and appurtenances of a brewery, has been reduced by £24,847 during the year, and now stands at £2,579,049. Its cash has risen £93,026 to £222,603.

That all colliery-owners have not been making enormous fortunes out of war prices is evident from the report of Henry Briggs, Son and Co., Ltd., for the

year to June 30, which shows that the nett profits amounted to £80,960 or £9,425 less than for the previous 12 months. The directors consider this result satisfactory in view of the difficulties brought about by the war, the fall in price at the beginning of the year and the reduction in output caused by the absence of over 1,100 men on active service. This shortage of output left the company without the usual margin beyond what was necessary to cover contracts, so it was unable to take advantage of the higher prices ruling recently, but old contracts are now practically completed. Final dividends of £2 5s. on the "A" shares and £1 10s. on the "B" shares, making £3 and £2 respectively for the year, are paid, the same as last time. As this represents a return of 20 per cent. on both classes, the shareholders have not much to grumble at. The reserve gets £10,000 instead of £20,000, but, on the other hand, £10,000 is set aside for depreciation of investments, and the carry-forward is reduced by £4,615 to £38,289. Sundry creditors are up £10,990, stock and plant are £14,745 higher, and sundry debtors owe £19,810 more, but cash in hand is down £10,270. The company is evidently strong and well managed.

Shareholders in Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., will be very apt to take a depressing view of its position as disclosed in the report covering 1914. In spite of the fact that for the first six months of the year the trading was satisfactory it ended with a reduction of £4,693 in the profit, making it £176,976, and this reduction is all the more unpleasant looking because it compares with an increase of £24,634 for the year preceding. Adding the balance brought forward, which was £8,006 better at £37,207, there was quite enough revenue in hand to have enabled the board to give some amount of dividend to the ordinary shareholders, who have still a risk of £850,000 in the company's fortunes. For 1913 this stock got 6 per cent., but it is not to get anything for the past year. The preference dividend is paid and £18,000 more at £68,000 has been carried to the depreciation reserve, but the balance of £73,412 left after assigning these sums is all carried forward, and very wisely so. It is £36,204 more than the balance brought in, but all the extra money may be needed to help the board in piloting the concern through the difficulties of the present year. These are not at all disguised by the directors. After war broke out they first reduced the output, and were able to keep nearly all the mills in Western Australia running until April of the present year. Then most of them had to be closed, and as the absorption of tonnage for war purposes rendered it very difficult to get either vessels to carry it or to obtain freights at other than impossible figures the export trade had to be stopped. A large number of men have thus been thrown out of employment, men the directors were loth to dispense with, and the only thing they could do to mitigate the disaster was to charge no rent against these men while out of work. Many of them, we hope, will be able to serve their country in the Army or supply services, and in this way take a burden off both company and State. It should be added that the reduction of the company's debenture debt continues, because that is a comfortable incident. The total amount of stock issued was £562,231, and for "all practical purposes" the amount now outstanding is only £236,100.

A good many clients have bought securities of the Philadelphia Co. on our recommendation, and that fact sharpens our eyes in examining the report. It has just come over for the year ended March 31 last, and is, on the whole, satisfactory. Revenue from all sources fell off, but only by \$369,000 to a total of \$7,289,000, and this loss was not made good by any appreciable reduction in working expenses, so that the nett earnings of \$3,882,000 show a reduction of \$351,000. Outside income, however, from the subsidiaries give \$158,000 more at \$2,313,000, so that the entire clear revenue of \$6,194,000 is only \$193,000 worse, but the deficiency is again augmented by about \$125,000 through an in-



crease in the interest and other charges, consequently the nett income before deducting fixed charges, improvements, betterments, extensions, &c., shows a reduction of \$319,000 at \$5,884,000. Fixed charges are up \$86,000 to \$1,941,000, and the charges for improvements, betterments, and extensions, including \$194,000 for depreciation of property and \$75,000 debited as discount, taxes, and expenses in connection with the sale of securities, aggregate \$1,107,000, an increase of about \$276,000, consequently the final clear revenue of \$2,837,000 is \$680,000 down. Then we come to what at first sight appears to be legerdmain finance, and we thought it that until the explanation given by President J. H. Reed in his covering report enabled us to trace the operation. It concerns the surplus. A year ago the surplus of the Philadelphia Co. amounted to \$5,482,000. It has been increased in the interval by the surplus of the Monongahela Natural Gas Co., which has been absorbed by the Philadelphia Co., and therefore amounted at the end of the year to \$8,222,000, or \$2,375,360 more than on April 1, 1914, as two other small surpluses were added, as well as the large one of the Monongahela Co. Then \$15,744,000 more is added to this total, representing increases in the book value of securities and of the "physical" property, all which were revalued, the addition to the book value of property alone being put at \$12,556,000. That would look like inflation finance were it not that the whole amount is immediately written off in other directions, so that after paying the dividends on the preferred and common stocks, the latter at the same rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. as was paid a year ago, the surplus is brought back to \$8,537,000, or \$2,987,000 more than it was a year ago. Consequently there is no real inflation, only a rearrangement, and although we do not grasp exactly why this has been ordered, there is nothing in the incident to diminish in the smallest degree the confidence otherwise inspired by the company's management and present financial position. It looks quite a strong company, and holds a controlling interest in if not the entire ownership of the share capital of 31 subsidiaries, viz., nine natural gas, two oil, two electric light and power, four artificial gas, and 14 street railway companies. Its total share capital is \$47,248,000, and its funded debt \$21,637,000, exclusive of about \$14,200,000 of short-term 5 per cent. gold debentures. The latest issue of this latter form of debt was the two-year convertible 5 per cent. gold notes dated May 1, 1911, and extended to May 1 of the current year. Of these \$700,000 was redeemed last fiscal year, leaving only \$700,000 to be paid off. Also \$500,000 of the serial collateral 6 per cent. gold notes dated August 1, 1913, have been redeemed, and against these reductions we have an increase of only \$467,000 in the first mortgage and collateral trust 5 per cent. 50-year gold bonds outstanding. There is only one uncertain point, and that is the contingent liability which the Philadelphia Co. has come under for bonds issued by or on behalf of sundry subsidiaries. The total of these amounts to \$4,725,000, exclusive of the liability of the company as endorser of short-term notes issued from time to time by the same affiliated companies. Most of these subsidiaries, however, appear to be in a fairly good position, although their finances are difficult to unravel by outsiders. Some of them have separate bond issues, but not as a rule to any onerous or troublesome extent. The Duquesne Light Co., for example, had \$2,480,000 three-year 5 per cent. convertible gold notes outstanding on February 1 last, but after paying all current charges and setting \$313,000 aside to depreciation reserve it had a profit and loss balance of \$571,000 at March 31 last. Besides what might be called fixed liabilities of this description there are outstanding debentures which must not be lost sight of in guessing at future probabilities as regards the securities of the parent company. The Pittsburg Railway Co., for example, has a funded debt of \$22,128,000, exclusive of what is owing on behalf of its affiliated companies, so that we have, as it were, a vista of intermixed finance difficult to understand, but yet probably simple enough to those who are inside.

It is not, perhaps, surprising that the report of the Manila Railway Co. (1906), Ltd.—the English company which has £780,585 invested in the Manila Railroad Co. of New Jersey—should disclose a little setback for the year 1914, but the decline in nett receipts from the company's holdings in the said Manila Railroad Co. was only £33,866. Altogether, including the £49 received from transfer fees, the company's total income was £33,906 lower at £207,115, and as London expenses, interest and income-tax took £2,091 more at £24,430, the free balance of £182,685 shows a decline of £35,997. The balance brought forward was, however, £18,902 better, and after paying a 1 per cent. dividend on the £2,000,000 of non-cumulative preference stock on July 1, 1914, and meeting the accrued interest on the "A" and "B" debenture stocks of the company, which took £12,640 more at £192,420, there is a nett balance of £94,205 left, which it is proposed to carry forward, no further dividends being paid on the preference stock. At the end of 1914 the Manila Railroad Co. of New Jersey had a surplus of £9,112, or £6,302 less than that at the end of the preceding year, which has also been carried forward. Once more the report of the English company speaks hopefully of its claims against the Spanish Government which continue to be prosecuted, and some of which have made such progress as should lead to the recovery of the money. Meantime no further expenses will be paid to the company's representatives in Madrid until money has been received on account of these claims. A good deal of information is given in the appended report of the American Manila Railroad Co., which shows that while earnings went down, expenses went up. Altogether the nett income from the Northern and Southern lines, and from miscellaneous sources, showed a reduction of 684,520 pesos, or, say, £68,450, after meeting rents and funded debt interests, the loss for the year having been £11,690. Money continues to be spent on the property, and the authorised capital in 4 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds of the Southern lines was increased last year by £698,000 to £2,115,000, taking the peso roughly at 2s. It will continue to be a struggle, and probably the preferred stock will see no more dividends for some years to come, but we hope that business will improve sufficiently to enable the English company to meet all its fixed obligations without difficulty, and by and by progress should be resumed.

It would not have been unreasonable for people to hazard a guess that Farrow's Bank, Ltd., might suffer with other and bigger banks in its general business as a consequence of the outbreak of war. In reality, it gained according to the report and balance-sheet for the year ended June 30 last just published. Profits at £45,810 were £8,334 better, but the total includes £8,104 brought forward, which was itself £1,439 larger than the year before. Still the nett gains of the year were up £6,895, and the directors have increased the assignment to the reserve by £7,500 to £15,000, making it £52,500 separately invested in securities written down to the official minimum prices of June 30. A dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less tax, is again paid, and £2,208 more at £10,312 is left to carry forward. These figures are reflected in the balance-sheet changes; or, at any rate, the balance-sheet gives warrant by disclosing increased means for the profit statement, since liabilities on current account are up £35,111 to £433,052, and on deposits, &c., up £177,417 to £1,016,221. That is to say, the bank has £212,528 more to handle than it had at the end of June, 1914, and its total liabilities to the public now amount to £1,449,273. Its advances to customers, loans, bills discounted, &c., are accordingly £286,119 higher at £1,146,676. Investments, however, show a reduction of £60,476 at £490,263, and its cash is £10,530 lower, but still amounts to £112,083. On the whole, however, the display is satisfactory, and may be accounted for to some extent by the liberality with which the Government is supporting the families and dependents of men who have joined the Army or Navy



to fight for their country's liberties. There is more money about, and in certain directions it breeds increased enterprise or induces more saving. At any rate, the balance-sheet of Farrow's Bank, Ltd., has now reached an aggregate of £1,880,889, or £231,277 more than it stood at 12 months before, and, as far as may be judged, the business is throughout of a straightforward description. It is mentioned by the directors that no less than 25 per cent. of the staff has joined the Army, and the depletion has been loyally borne with by those who remain, on whom extra work has been thrown. Perhaps they may also get extra reward by-and-by.

In view of present conditions, and the uncertainties of the future, no profit and loss account is included this time in the interim report of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., for the first half of 1915, but we are told that profits were exceptionally good. This result was due to better margins consequent on a liberal supply of raw material, and also to the fact that the company bought largely at the end of last year, and the beginning of this, when prices of oil seeds, particularly cotton seed, were at very low levels. Contrary to their custom, the directors, taking into consideration the present crisis, have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares. They desire, however, to warn shareholders that funds to pay for the new mill and machinery for treating palm kernels, ground nuts, &c., will have to be provided out of profits, as the issue of further capital to meet this expenditure is practically impossible. A sum of £50,000 has been invested in the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and encouragement has been given to employees to subscribe by affording them facilities in respect of deferred payments.

Germany was such a large consumer of nitrates for agricultural purposes that the war has naturally upset the nitrate industry very seriously, and most of the oficinas have had to shut down. The Angela and the Santa Catalina companies have taken advantage of the stoppage to put their works in order, and in view of the better outlook for the nitrate market their directors hope to arrange for restarting at an early date. They have also had stock taken of their properties, and the results will be very gratifying to the shareholders. It is now estimated that the Angela has 6,000,000 quintals, representing a life of nearly 20 years, while the Santa Catalina has 4,700,000 quintals, giving a life of 15 years. These figures are appreciably in excess of estimates previously made, and with improvements of the works conducing to more economical working, the prospects appear to be fairly bright. Other nitrate companies might with advantage follow suit; some of them have always been too niggardly with the information furnished to shareholders and the public.

In his capacity as Custodian of enemy property for England and Wales, Mr. C. J. Stewart, Public Trustee, has issued a notice which bankers, traders, and all concerned should take care to obey. Particulars will be found in an advertisement on another page, but we may mention here that dividends and interest payable in respect of all classes of securities held for enemies are now payable to the Public Trustee in his capacity as Custodian. Whether the money is payable to individuals or to companies makes no difference, therefore the people who are in a position to receive such moneys ought at once to get the necessary documents from the Public Trustee's office to enable them to fill in a clear statement of the facts. Bankers who keep foreign-owned moneys on current account or on deposit must also put them under the charge of the Custodian, and those who have not already disclosed property under Section 3 (1) of the old Act should apply for Registration Order "B." The term "enemy," it is explained, means any person or body of persons of whatever nationality residing or carrying on business in the enemy country, but does not include persons of enemy nationality not thus distinguishable.

We are glad to learn that the Italian State Railways have opened an office in London. That should be one of the good results already beginning to spring from the community between Italy and ourselves of risks and interests arising through this war, between all the Powers in the great confederation now fighting to guarantee human liberty. In connection with the opening a pamphlet has been issued containing many illustrations drawn from all parts of Italy, mostly architectural, but also rural, and all of great beauty. Italy should more than ever be the holiday resort of English, French, and Russian tourists when they again go outside their own country, and we hope that the attractions set forth in this illustrated pamphlet, together with the particulars given regarding the railway facilities and routes, will be as widely availed of as possible this autumn, and in future years. Sometimes there may be an economy in spending which sterilises thrift.

In spite of the fact that the market dealers have been confidently expecting a revival in the demand for copper, the statistics just published do not encourage that hope. They show a further increase on the visible supply, the figures at the end of July being 40,236 tons as compared with 38,041 tons at the end of the previous month. Supplies coming forward during the month fell from 32,136 tons to 28,529 tons, but the deliveries also decreased from 28,185 tons to 26,334. Consequently the price of standard copper declined during July from £81½ to £71½, and though there has recently been some recovery, the bulls of copper have lately been restricting their commitments. Still, at the present level copper yields a good profit to the producers, and a much higher price would be neither in the interests of the country nor the industry, which in recent months has shown a tendency to expand rather rapidly.

### After One Year of War.

So many excellent words were spoken on Wednesday at what may be called anniversary political celebrations and religious services held then to mark the beginning of the second year of the most disastrous and yet for the Allies fighting for liberty most purifying and ennobling war humanity has ever been tried by, that we have great difficulty in finding anything special to quote. Above all other speeches, however, that of Mr. Balfour at the London Opera House on Wednesday evening stood out as a vindication of our attitude and vindication of the work we have done. As First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Balfour naturally laid stress upon the work of our fleet, and it is well this should be insisted upon always, because of the distressing pessimism which our reactionary Press, joined to the fleet's stoical silence and the unfamiliarity of the people with military events, has spread through our middle and upper classes. People cannot seemingly be made to grasp the fact that it is by the absolute supremacy of the British Fleet that the ultimate destruction of the Teutonic Empires will be made certain, no matter what the fate of the armies pitted against them on land might be. That effort has only to continue and increase its present dominance, its unremitting vigilance, and Germany must succumb. Our fleet compels Germany to fight now like a trapped wild beast. Readers should try and lay hold of that cardinal fact, for it made the victory of the Allies now fighting as one man against the Teuton certain within the very first month of its commencement. Hemmed in as they are, the Teutonic Empires cannot but succumb, and with every increase in the pressure from the sea, every tightening of the grip, their destruction becomes more certain. Do they begin to know it? Not yet we hope.

"But on land we are not doing well," says the pessimist, echoing a degenerate and far from patriotic Press. Not that we should altogether and at all times blame that Press. It is right sometimes, and has once or twice done good, perhaps without too earnestly



intending it. In all our fulminations against the Harmsworth syndicate, for example, we should never forget that it is to Lord Northcliffe and his military correspondent that the nation primarily owes its awakening energy in the work of providing its armies with enough munitions. But in all that relates to the morale of the people the attitude of this type of journal has almost throughout been noxious. It depresses, it takes the mean view of events, is captious, spitefully vindictive, and always caddish in belittling what is done; eager always to conjure up visions of what might have been done had we foreseen this and that; is, above all, now spending the whole of its maleficent energies in hounding on the Government to plunge into conscription, and doing that at a time when this country has got together by the voluntary enthusiasm of its citizens, high and low, the largest army we ever had, and the finest.

But that army is "doing nothing," according to these malignants, is only struggling futilely over a front of some 35 miles in Flanders, just repelling German attacks, and not always that. What says Mr. Balfour to such complaints continually dinned into our ears, and as continually proclaiming lack of knowledge, of anything like comprehension of the military problem, above all, lack of sympathy with the nation's aims and aspirations? He contrasts a year ago with now, and in doing so emphasises the preparedness of the enemy. "There has never been ability more painstaking," he said, and yet "there has been no miscalculation in the war our enemies have not made, except as to the value of munitions and great guns. Were they right in their diplomacy? Were they right in their calculation of the force that would be opposed to them? Were they right in their calculations of the results of their first month's struggle?" To all these questions Mr. Balfour's enthusiastic audience answered "No," and rightly answered. The very fact that all German calculations and forecasts have failed, except in the one matter of artillery, is itself a convincing proof that we have not altogether fallen short of our duty even on land. And, as Mr. Balfour also said, "we have not yet shot our bolt." Our great new army is straining on the leash even as we write.

People altogether forget the three millions of men Lord Kitchener has been training and preparing for warfare. That mighty army is soon to make its appearance in the field, and will do its duty there, just as the little army we sent to France a year ago, without hitch or interference, has done. But why is this army of ours hanging back? query the disgruntled. Surely a sufficient explanation of its apparent dilatoriness was given by Dr. Addison, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, in his speech in Shoreditch on Wednesday evening. He said he knew the number of shells turned out each day by Germany and Austria, and "when he got the information it fairly took away his breath." The figure was gigantic, "but we and our Allies could beat the enemy even at that game." He also gave the cheering information that the Navy had barred out from Germany some astonishing supplies, and we shall doubtless hear more of that by-and-by. But until we have laid in an overwhelming stock of shot and shell and guns it would be waste of men to put our Army to the proof. It rests with the workers to give it its tools. The sooner they do the sooner the triumph.

Meantime our delay—a delay, let us again insist, that emphatically demonstrates our endeavour to live at peace with Germany—has put a strain of inconceivable severity upon Russia. When, a week ago, we dealt with the military situation in Poland, we had in mind the probability that before we wrote again, nay, possibly before the Bank Holiday had ended, Warsaw would be in German hands. They hold it now—empty—having been delayed for more than a week, in spite of the most furious onslaughts by overwhelming numbers, and supported by such an artillery fire on selected positions as no army has ever before had to endure. Mr. Stanley Washburn, the *Times* special correspondent with the Russian Army, who has been travel-

ling behind the Russian lines all over the field, told us on Wednesday something about these overwhelming musters of German guns. The only advantage the Germans possess, he says, is in guns and shells. In a recent advance towards the Petrograd railway from Warsaw "the enemy concentrated 150 guns at a single point, sweeping away trenches and defenders, and causing a retirement which permitted them to approach within a few miles of Wiskow. The Russians counter-attacked before the enemy big guns came up in support and threw the Germans back about seven miles." So it goes on; and yet, even with all these appliances of murder, handled with a skill and expenditure of energy unparalleled, the German armies make but slow progress, have been kept out of Warsaw, out of nearly the whole Polish quadrilateral, until everything valuable has been cleared out of it and out of the surrounding country by the Russians. "What shall I say of Russia?" exclaimed Mr. Balfour in that magnificent speech of his. "I know no spectacle more moving to a generous spirit than that presented by this contest between men and munitions now going on in the East of Europe. Was there ever heroism greater than that which has been shown by the Russian soldier, power of resistance more splendid, power of attack more brilliant? Shall we look forward with anything but absolute and supreme confidence to the time when the artificial military inequalities between Russia and her Western neighbour are smoothed away, when the Russian soldier will meet the German soldier on equal terms as regards armaments? Do we not know that when that day of retribution comes, all that Russia has suffered and is suffering now will be repaid by her final and overwhelming triumph?" (Cheers.) Bravo and Amen to that.

On this effort to drive the Russians back and seize Warsaw, to occupy with a view to annexation or to peace bargaining the German-speaking Russian Baltic Provinces, the Kaiser and his Junkers are heartlessly wasting every day tens of thousands of their fellow-citizens, and instead of conquering anything are only succeeding in enflaming the zeal and clinching unity with which all civilised Europe is banded in self-defence and to effect their destruction. That, surely, ought to hearten us and make even our pessimists at home assume an air less lugubrious. Germany has alienated every country on earth that prides itself merely on decency of behaviour towards other nations. The financiers of Berlin cannot even be sure of tying Bulgaria by their loans to the car of the would-be conquering Kaiser; and as for Greece, it may soon discard its Royalties bag and baggage rather than remain longer beneath the arrogant sway of the Hohenzollern. One of the most consoling aspects of the entire struggle lies in the manner in which its prolongation draws the four Powers together in a unity of purpose, in a whole-hearted determination to "see the thing through" and secure for mankind an enduring peace. Such harmony gives good promise for the advance of democracies everywhere to a larger share in the birth-right of the free; and even the financial difficulties, embarrassments, privations which the united Powers may be increasingly threatened by should have their good results in drawing them on towards a fiscal harmony and co-ordination of effort that will do more to seal the doom of militarism and emancipate industry and commerce everywhere than any single step which the most enlightened of individual nations could take.

Although Sir Robert Borden, the Prime Minister of Canada, alone spoke in support of the resolution moved by Mr. Balfour, it was echoed from every part of the British Empire, and expressed in fitting language the unalterable, steadfast determination of us all to carry this war to a proper end. Its terms are:—"That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war this meeting of the people of London records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and the sacred cause of all the Allies." And again we say Amen.



In seconding this resolution, Sir Robert Borden made a speech of fine temper and chastened eloquence, pointing out that the troops sent to France and the Dardanelles by Australia, New Zealand, and Canada had proved that the traditions of the British race were not forgotten beyond the seas. He also reminded his audience that a splendid force had been raised in South Africa, and that nothing could be more deserved than the praise betowed on the soldiers there. India, too, alike with our Allies, all sections of the British Empire have risen to the height of their duty in this awful conflict, and all have acted in the spirit of that message from Canada which Sir Robert Borden read out at the close of his eloquent little speech and with which we end this article:—

"He had a message," he said, "from the people of Canada, which ran thus: 'For those who have fallen in this struggle we shall not cease to mourn; for the cause to which they have consecrated their lives we shall not cease to strive. We are supremely confident that that cause will assuredly triumph, and for that great purpose we are inspired with an inflexible determination to do our part.' Steady and true to each other, earnest in effort, untiring to the end, hand-in-hand, France, Russia, Italy, and all the great Empire of the British stand shoulder to shoulder to fight the fight out."

### Allies, Stand Fast and Fight On! Victory is Sure!

It is inevitable that the nation should have some searchings of heart at the anniversary of the declaration of war. Assuredly we have all had to surrender many misconceptions and some illusions during the strife year now gone. These, so far as this journal is concerned, were founded on what has turned out to be a mistaken belief that the peoples composing the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires were mentally constituted as other men are. We thought it probable that when the programme on which the two empires commenced their war of aggression failed in execution they would bethink themselves in time and try to draw back before their ruin was accomplished. Commercial interests and interlinkings of capital we thought likely to assert their power, and also—within the two aggressor empires—racial differences, dynastic rivalries, and, finally, hunger. Our belief was far from well founded. It did not accord with the facts. The Germanic peoples are not mentally constituted as other nations are. They worship mere physical force, and their idea of liberty is indistinguishable from slavery; their conception of progress is an increase in class domination over the drilled, soulless multitude. They have been educated to think themselves a chosen race, and have become as fanatic as any Jew in the belief that they are the chosen of God, licensed by their deity to seize all they covet and destroy all who stand in their way. Their Kaiser, Wilhelm II., has continually put forward this conception of the right of the strongest; the race believed itself to possess a right of the sword to assume the hegemony of the entire world, dominating it in things moral and material as no other race ever had done. So thoroughly has this devilish conception of Germanic "right" been beaten into the minds of the people that the Kaiser, after a year of foiled ambitions, remains able to telegraph these words to his sister, the Queen of the Hellenes, without any sense of shame: "My destructive sword has crushed the Russians. They will need six months to recover. In a short while I will announce new victories won by my brave soldiers, who have shown themselves invincible in battle against nearly the whole world. The war drama is now coming to its close." Yet even this "strike-an-attitude" mortal concedes that in six months the Russians can recover. He thinks, though, that within this time his "destructive sword" will have annihilated all his other foes.

In like terms this spokesman and representative of the Germanic races and their depredatory ideals has composed a manifesto to his people in which he boasts

of victories won and counted upon, bombastically announces a speedy, complete triumph for his robber armies. Through Dutch newspapers we learn that this braggart exhalation of insolent pride has been coldly received; so that even the Germans would seem to have begun to realise that it was not true to say "Before God and history my conscience is clear. I did not will the war. After preparations during a whole decade, the coalition Powers, for whom Germany was becoming too great, believed that the moment had come to humiliate the empire which had loyally stood by its Austro-Hungarian ally in a just cause, or to crush it by overwhelmingly encircling forces. As I stated a year ago, no lust for conquest drove us into war." There is much more to the same effect, the exudation of a mind rotten with pride, and all of it absolute falsehood, lies in plain English; yet we do not for a moment suppose that the Kaiser is conscious of his lying. The despicable, insane posturer is too self-adoring for that, and probably too ignorant likewise, untrammelled, therefore, in his liberty to ascribe to those he has attacked to destroy crimes that are his own, the crimes of the savages whose mouthpiece and tool he is. It was on his side that ten, aye twenty, thirty years' elaborate preparations for this attempted conquest of the world have been carried on. That it is so, the failure so far of the Allies to beat Germany down is the best proof. Had even France and the United Kingdom been half as well prepared for war as Germany, that war would have been ended by now, and much of Germany in the hands of the invader. If the three great Powers who united a year ago to repel German aggression had been half as ready as Germany has proved to be, the war could not have lasted six months. The whole Teutonic race has been disciplined to war from its youth up, and in the war it prepared and intrigued for will consume its substance, destroy its vitality, we hope for ever.

But is there any reason for us to be depressed because all our early calculations about speedy victory have been falsified, because at the end of a year of strenuous fighting the Germans have not been dislodged from their trench fortresses in Flanders or Northern France, and have even reoccupied most of the territory that Russia had grasped in the earlier period of the fighting? There is no reason whatever. Looking at the preparations made to destroy us, at the long meditated and carefully elaborated plans of the Germans to annex Belgium and crush and dismember France, at our serene, unsuspecting unreadiness, and above all, at the inhuman brutality of the methods adopted, elaborated and extended by the Germans in fighting, the marvel is that we stand so well as we do to-day. The position, in fact, while demanding great sacrifices from us all, sacrifices of a higher order and on a nobler plane than the nation as a conscious unit has yet made, is such as should give us all confidence in a victory not speedy but complete. There has been no shadow of divergence in the views of France, Russia, and the United Kingdom in regard to the conduct of this war; there is no divergence now. All the efforts of German corrupt Press ingenuity to sow dissension between us have been absolute failures. The three Powers that began the defence of liberty against the military and autocratic slave-Powers of Central Europe are more solidly one in purpose to-day than they were a year ago, and with them they now have Italy as a powerful fourth in the brotherhood. This fact alone makes certain the ultimate triumph of the Allies. We have but to hold on determinedly, persistently, to bring the Germanic Powers to the ground, to destroy them for ever as foes to freedom; and from the point of view of this paramount necessity it is surely well that the war should have continued so long, should promise to continue for another year or longer. A war of the old style—or of the Franco-Prussian style, to go no further back—might have settled nothing, could easily have ended in a sort of a peace that would have left Germany uncrippled, or crippled only so far as to keep back for perhaps another generation any fresh attempt at the theft called annexation, at world-



domination; but by resolutely continuing the war to the doom-laden end we ensure such a destruction of German forces, moral and material, as will end the danger of Teutonic domination probably for ever. Already the two criminal empires must have lost probably six to seven millions of men, of whom probably one-third are either dead or maimed and useless for life. If the war goes on another year this number is more likely than not to be quadrupled, because the area of fighting extends and its intensity increases.

For months past we have been watching the magnificent struggle of the Russians against the largest hordes of trained men that were ever assembled to effect the conquest of any nation. How many Austro-German troops there are between Mitau and the Rumanian frontier we do not know; estimates vary and facts are scarce. The probability, however, is that there are at least 4,500,000 to 5,000,000 fighting pawns along these lines, and for the last two months the slaughter going on among them has been unexampled. It will continue to go on, because the Russians are not beaten. On the contrary, were they equipped as their foes are, they would be now driving the Germans back across the frontier of Silesia, and probably on their way to occupy Budapest with all the plains of Hungary beyond it. This fighting, however, is only one wing of the great battle. The Austrians are now being slaughtered on an enormous scale by the Italians in the South, and the day cannot be far off when the forward movement of British and Austrian armies will raise the tale of slaughter in the West. Russia, it is said, calls for this movement on our part—though we doubt the story were it only because we can see what our fleet is doing, and above all what we are doing with the help of France at Gallipoli—and everything points to an early assumption of the aggressive by us especially, and also by the great French reserves behind the sorely tried fighting lines in Northern France. Therefore the destruction of German fighting pawns will go on at an accelerated speed, probably from the middle of this month up to near the end of the year. From one point of view this is a most depressing prospect, from another it is the best thing that could happen to a world oppressed by foes to whom mercy, common humanity, every natural human feeling is obnoxious when it stands between them and the lust by which their souls are consumed. For the world's ultimate peace it is well that this slaughter should be ordered and should continue, for the spirit still exhibited is such as to deprive other nations of all hope of being left at peace should any strength remain to the Germans. All our study must be how to wipe them off the face of the earth at a speed tenfold greater than that at which they are able to slay us.

Look at that outburst of Count Reventlow, to which Mr. Tuohy, of the *New York World*, has secured an admirable answer from Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the

Admiralty. Could there be a more signal example of callous ruffianism than is contained in the essay that Junker advocate of unscrupulous inhumanity, especially in naval warfare, contributed to the same newspaper? Although the German fleet has had an ignominious record during the whole year, this perverted creature boasts of its prowess. "The glory which the German sea fighters have won for themselves on the ocean constitutes a lasting success and gain which cannot be lost." He is proud of the *Lusitania* crime, proud of every dastardly piece of cold-blooded piracy perpetrated by German submarines, the only instrument of warfare the empire is capable of maintaining to any degree in the open ocean. To this farrago Mr. Balfour makes a most lucid and satisfactory answer. "If anyone desires to know," he says, "whether the British Fleet has during the last year proved itself worthy of its traditions there is a very simple method of arriving at the truth:—There are seven, and only seven, functions which a fleet can perform:—

- "It may drive the enemy's commerce off the sea.
- "It may protect its own commerce.
- "It may render the enemy's fleet impotent.
- "It may make the transfer of enemy troops across the sea impossible, whether for attack or defence.
- "It may transport its own troops where it will.
- "It may secure their supplies, and (in fitting circumstances) it may assist their operations.

"All these functions have so far been successfully performed by the British Fleet. No German merchant ship is to be found on the ocean. Allied commerce is more secure from attack, legitimate and illegitimate, than it was after Trafalgar. The German High Sea Fleet has not as yet ventured beyond the security of its protected waters. No invasion has been attempted of these islands. British troops, in numbers unparalleled in history, have moved to and fro across the seas, and have been effectively supported on shore. The greatest of military Powers has seen its colonies wrested from it one by one, and has not been able to land a man or a gun in their defence. Of a fleet which has done this we may not only say that it has done much, but that no fleet has ever done more. And we citizens of the British Empire can only hope that the second year of the war will show no falling off in its success, as it will assuredly show no relaxation of its efforts."

So much for the vapourings of a baffled, stay-at-home brigand. Does not such a statement encourage us to press forward on land and emulate there what our fleet has done on the ocean, in perfect confidence that our efforts will be crowned with success proportionate to the earnestness, the unity, the self-sacrificing enthusiasm with which they are made? There are, indeed, many things to encourage us in looking forward, to stimulate us in an emulative endeavour to show to our Allies that we can be as unselfish, as self-sacrificing as they are. Too much time and space has been occupied by unworthy bickerings, and unquestion-

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ably there has been "slackness" or bungling in quarters where there should have been none, but the very fact that we are now face to face with a second year of strenuous war should exercise a powerful influence in rousing the nation to put aside all cavilling, and to unite in a solid, unselfish endeavour to accomplish the task before it, even with the altruistic abandon of a participant in the first Crusade. The time is coming when not alone the lives of our youth may have to be risked to the full in winning this battle, but when giving will have to take the place of lending amongst the rich if the war is to be successfully financed. Already, indeed, in this respect Canada, South Africa, and the Australasian States are setting us examples which we here are well able to follow, and will follow, we feel sure.

And we must not forget that the enemy must weaken from now onward, and weaken all the faster the more determinedly he is pressed. His power of aggression has reached its maximum. Were the Russian armies to-day munitioned half as well as those of their enemies there would be no question of a surrender of Warsaw, a capture of Riga, or of the surrendering of any considerable body of Russian troops at any point. As it is, overwhelming masses of human machines, well furnished with every possible death-dealing instrument, no matter how abominable or revolting, is—at enormous cost in men, who are cheap, and in beasts of burden and shot and shell—which are dear—driving the Russians back, and, as has been long foreshadowed in these columns, impelling them to abandon Warsaw and all the line of the Vistula. But gigantic efforts of this kind cannot be kept up by the enemy, and there is one consolation even in the Russian retreat, judiciously regulated as it is being and will be by the Grand Duke Nicholas and his generals. No Russian army is being sacrificed or contained. Therefore, Germany dare not send back any large portion of her millions to the West to fall upon the Anglo-French armies. Had the Russian army, or any large portion of it, been caught like the French army in Metz, less than half the number of German troops now engaged in the attempt to drive it within the shelter of its own frontier fortresses would have sufficed to contain it, and the rest could have been sent West, no matter at what cost, to try issues with the French and British in one last despairing effort to snatch such a victory as might have enabled the Kaiser to claim a "save-my-face" peace. Russia is, therefore, again doing us incalculable service in so manœuvring her forces as to remove that danger. This should give us all the more encouragement to hasten forward with our main attacks, which are doubtless kept back solely in order that we may now be so equipped with guns and shot and shell as to be able to go on without a day's pause once the punishment has begun. Much of the German display of force in outbursts is not improbably mere façade now in the West, and we must make life daily more hard in all ways for those of the hosts left unslain.

Financially the position of both the Hohenzollern and Habsburg Empires must be desperate. That Germany has held out so long without disclosing her financial ruin to the world is probably in part accounted for by the fact that so much of the people's substance has been utilised in past years to provide weapons of destruction carefully heaped together with a view to just this war. In a recent letter, the Petrograd correspondent of the *Morning Post* stated that enormous stores of ammunition have been gathering together at Magdeburg and other places for ten years back, and the consumption of these stores proportionately lightens the immediate pressure on the Imperial treasury. Nevertheless, it is true that at the present time well-nigh the entire working population of the two empires, male and female, so far as manufactures are concerned, is engaged in wasting what is left of the nation's wealth. The output of guns, shot and shell, powder, poisonous gases, flame-emitting compounds, and such like represents waste and nothing but waste. With every day that passes all the combatants are becoming poorer by reason of a like

waste. We are all busy with industries of destruction, but the Germanic Empires, by reason of their enormous hosts, are financially bleeding to death at the highest speed by far, and whether a new loan can be issued in Berlin or not matters very little. The entire fabric of German industrialism and of German overseas commerce is already in ruins, and from no place on earth can the wrecked empires draw help. German newspaper reptiles—the word is Bismarck's—still entertain a besotted people with engaging pictures of German traders at once re-occupying their old place in the world's commerce when the war ends, with legends of German ocean steamers trading to all the ends of the earth, all as if nothing had happened. It is the dreaming of knaves or madmen. Long ago, before six months of war had elapsed, Germany had morally ostracised herself, and as her crimes went on increasing and infamies accumulated against the German name detestation also increased, so that, as we have often said, there will be no room for German shipping in any great port when the world is over, not for many a long year. Her trade and her colonies have alike disappeared, and still the Kaiser shouts and strikes attitudes, and bawls, "I and my pet God and patience are the victors." Poor transitory mortal!

The Germans have boasted that in all they require they are sufficient unto themselves, and they will be allowed to prove the value of that boast. Financially their empire is rapidly approaching impotence, nay, the two empires are, and although nearly all information with regard to the condition of the people as to food is now suppressed, we believe that increasing numbers of them are suffering many privations, will have great difficulty in surmounting the want of another winter. All these things should encourage us to be up and doing, resolute to make the punishment of the criminals complete. For punished they assuredly must be, and there must be no talk of negotiating with Kaisers, chancellors, and beings of that sort. Mankind has had enough of them.

### Critical Index to New Investments.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY  $4\frac{1}{2}$  PER CENT. TEN-YEAR REDEEMABLE PREFERENCE STOCK.

At a special meeting of the London and North-Western Railway Co., held on Thursday at Euston Station, the Hon. C. N. Lawrence, deputy-chairman, presiding in the unavoidable absence of Sir Gilbert Claughton, the chairman, resolutions having for effect the authorisation of an issue of £1,500,000 of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. preference stock of the company, ranking *pari passu* with the existing 1902 preference stock, were passed, the Treasury's sanction having already been given. It was explained by Mr. Lawrence that the new issue would have to be redeemed on June 30, 1925, at par, and that it was impossible to issue stock just now in the old fashion. Everybody will understand that, and investors will, we should imagine, regard the price of 96 at which this stock is offered as most tempting. Its rate of interest alone would tempt the prudent, for until the other day there were very few Home Railway preference stocks of the first rank purchasable at a figure yielding to the holder such a large return. And the fact that this stock offered at 96 will be redeemable at par in 10 years and that a full half-year's interest will be given to it on January 1 must sensibly increase the attraction. On application the usual 5 per cent. has to be paid, but the balance of £91 is not due until the 26th inst. Altogether, therefore, the gain in yield will be equal to full  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., that is to say, this stock is really a 5 per cent. trustee security. Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., the bankers to the London and North-Western Railway Co., will receive applications, and preference in allotment will be given to holders of the perpetual debenture, consolidated guaranteed, consolidated preference, preference of 1902, and consolidated ordinary stocks of the company.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened agencies at Sea Point, Cape Town, and at Morgenson, near Standerton, Transvaal.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down..	July 30	4,432	+ 23	112,720	+ 10,553
Grand Canal..	" 30	1,202	+ 21	4,620	+ 405
Great Northern..	" 30	25,845	+ 1,335	683,565	+ 22,115
Gt. Southern and Western..	" 30	37,242	+ 1,111	964,806	+ 88,616
Midland Great Western..	" 30	10,983	+ 2,822	372,968	+ 6,616

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira..	Apl. *	32,402	+ 9,662	—	—
Canadian Northern..	July 31	\$391,100	+ \$87,300	† \$1,206,100	+ \$388,200
Canadian Pacific..	" 31	\$2,476,000	+ \$705,000	† \$7,447,000	+ \$303,500
Egyptian Delta..	" 10	4,585	+ 1,294	39,230	+ 19,538
Gr. Trk. Main Line..	" 31	255,497	+ 15,048	4,542,695	+ 435,512
Gr. Trk. Western..	" 31	41,004	+ 1,935	845,096	+ 10,499
Detroit G. H. & M..	" 31	16,350	+ 1,799	298,376	+ 10,959
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 31	14,170	+ 5,956	45,484	+ 23,150
Mashonaland..	May *	36,180	+ 25,885	184,435	+ 127,088
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	5,795	+ 4,952	93,781	+ 43,983
New Cape Central..	July 10	1,428	+ 121	51,653	+ 1,213
Rhodesia..	May *	61	+ 6	59,218	+ 137,891
W. Pass & Yukon..	July 7	\$68,203	+ —	—	—

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † to days. † April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal..	July 3	1,28,000	+ 11,041	17,95,079	+ 44,596
Barsi Light..	" 10	15,300	+ 21,000	3,28,100	+ 1,32,000
Bengal & N.W..	" 10	3,54,510	+ 18,190	53,70,997	+ 8,27,306
Bengal Nagpur..	" 10	8,13,000	+ 86,000	1,16,17,000	+ 3,48,000
Bombay, Baroda..	" 31	8,66,000	+ 37,000	2,11,79,000	+ 5,97,000
Burma..	" 31	3,31,676	+ 94,473	54,90,712	+ 9,72,053
Delhi Umballa..	" 31	56,700	+ 5,372	11,68,362	+ 1,71,679
East Indian..	" 31	17,82,000	+ 2,04,000	3,75,54,000	+ 5,99,000
Gt. Indian Penin..	" 31	12,62,700	+ 209,200	2,80,31,669	+ 10,55,671
Lucknow-Bareilly..	" 31	41,798	+ 6,873	5,59,515	+ 49,338
Madras and S..	" 10	8,70,000	+ 6,419	1,36,71,499	+ 1,407
Mahratta..	" 31	1,02,161	+ 493	15,85,526	+ 1,41,605
Nizam's Guarantee'd	" 31	—	—	—	—
Rohilkund and	" 31	—	—	—	—
Kumaon..	" 31	37,984	+ 2,449	5,20,439	+ 5,677
South Indian..	" 10	5,66,416	+ 16,768	82,86,615	+ 4,43,491
Southern Punjab..	Mar. 8	6,89,429	+ 1,15,571	37,46,996	+ 6,23,212

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio..	July 21	822,000	+ 85,000	2,229,000	+ 210,000
Chicago G.W..	" 21	286,000	+ 2,000	803,000	+ 24,000
Colorado & South'n..	" 7	227,000	+ 5,000	227,000	+ 5,000
Denver & Rio Gran..	" 14	438,000	+ 31,000	888,000	+ 17,000
Inter. of Mexico..	Aug. 7	42,400	+ 138,900	225,500	+ 683,000
Louisville & Nashv..	July 24	998,000	+ 121,000	2,924,000	+ 276,000
Mexican..	Nov. 21	103,600	+ 102,900	3,852,700	+ 106,900
Do..	Oct. *	262,500	+ 126,300	1,149,000	+ 524,100
Do..	"	905,600	+ 84,200	3,405,200	+ 7,200
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M..	July 7	513,000	+ 51,000	513,000	+ 51,000
Missouri Kansas..	" 31	875,086	+ 77,923	2,520,920	+ 95,781
Missouri Pacific..	" 21	1,041,000	+ 163,000	3,082,000	+ 329,000
National of Mexico..	Aug. 7	628,408	+ 395,370	17,894,408	+ 6,798,370
Do..	do. *	74,000	+ 197,000	2,287,000	+ 18,840,000
Southern..	July 21	1,141,000	+ 145,000	3,392,000	+ 423,000

† to days. † 1914. \* Nett. † Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1. † Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atholston T. & S. Fé	May	2,842,000	+ 285,000	11	33,101,000	+ 3,561,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	565,000	+ 64,000	12	6,630,000	+ 1,953,000
Baltimore & Ohio..	June	3,203,000	+ 1,710,000	12	27,891,000	+ 3,130,000
Canadian Northern..	June	335,500	+ 128,000	12	4,825,700	+ 1,523,000
Canadian Pacific..	June	2,078,000	+ 657,000	12	33,575,000	+ 8,851,000
Chesapeake & Ohio..	May	1,215,000	+ 208,000	11	10,843,000	+ 542,000
Chicago & N.W..	"	1,562,000	+ 552,000	11	20,393,000	+ 791,000
Chicago Burl. & Q..	"	1,040,000	+ 431,000	11	28,499,000	+ 205,000
Chicago G.W..	"	208,000	+ 15,000	11	3,092,000	+ 51,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	1,694,000	+ 130,000	11	21,894,000	+ 2,466,000
Colorado & Southern	"	804,000	+ 348,000	11	12,985,000	+ 902,000
Cuba..	"	169,000	+ 45,000	11	3,113,000	+ 749,000
Do..	"	504,677	+ 78,876	11	4,749,143	+ 16,656
Do..	"	260,649	+ 111,093	11	1,688,244	+ 143,315
Delaware & Hud..	"	613,000	+ 13,000	5	2,864,000	+ 492,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	593,000	+ 91,000	11	5,864,000	+ 233,000
Erie..	June	1,545,000	+ 27,000	6	6,334,000	+ 577,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line..	"	£275,100	+ £15,900	6	£1,031,750	+ £22,350
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£26,700	+ £21,900	6	£19,700	+ £2,400
Detroit G. H. & M..	"	£6,300	+ £10,100	6	£20,100	+ £23,150
Gr. Northern..	May	1,050,000	+ 162,000	11	27,687,000	+ 1,414,000
Illinois Central..	"	621,000	+ 153,000	11	10,398,000	+ 479,000
Kansas City Southn.	June	139,000	+ 197,000	12	2,983,000	+ 509,000
Lehigh Valley..	May	1,240,000	+ 108,000	11	9,999,000	+ 780,000
Louisville & Nashv..	"	829,000	+ 227,000	11	9,218,000	+ 2,274,000
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M..	"	337,000	+ 63,000	11	7,559,000	+ 104,000
Miss. K. & Texas..	"	593,259	+ 50,205	11	1,742,556	+ 1,187,462
Missouri Pacific..	"	778,000	+ 118,000	11	11,662,000	+ 1,027,000
New York Cent. & H.	"	3,716,000	+ 1,463,000	11	13,477,000	+ 4,053,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	"	1,738,000	+ 478,000	11	15,850,000	+ 2,525,000
New York Ont. & W.	"	176,000	+ 21,000	11	1,957,000	+ 1,000
Norfolk & Western	"	1,367,000	+ 202,000	11	11,670,000	+ 90,000
Northern Pacific..	"	1,341,600	+ 41,000	11	19,446,000	+ 58,100
Pennsylvania East	"	—	—	—	—	—
and West Lines..	"	6,766,000	+ 777,000	5	20,292,000	+ 1,050,000
Reading..	"	556,091	+ 114	11	6,119,201	+ 57,204
St. Louis & San F..	Apl.	915,000	+ 591,000	10	10,273,000	+ 1,045,000
Seaboard Air Line..	May	473,000	+ 73,000	11	4,890,000	+ 1,516,000
Southern..	June	1,139,000	+ 366,000	12	13,400,000	+ 2,917,000
Southern Pacific..	May	2,653,000	+ 141,000	11	32,091,000	+ 2,573,000
Union Pacific..	"	1,827,000	+ 227,000	11	27,354,000	+ 1,711,000
Wabash..	"	295,000	+ 17,000	11	5,692,000	+ 320,000

† Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July 31	Pa. 8,300	+ Ps. 2,700	Ps. 399,200	+ Ps. 17,250	
Antofagasta (Chili)	Aug. 1	30,970	+ 3,930	686,445	+ 4,626	
Arauco ..	June *	5,250	+ 712	41,875	+ 10,379	
Argentine N.E. ..	July 31	6,760	+ 2,110	26,944	+ 3,069	
Bilbao R. and Canta	" *	3,655	+ 70	26,573	+ 5,921	
Bolivar ..	" *	8,250	+ 1,648	86,169	+ 25,698	
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	+ M239,757	M12,681,000	+ M777,340	
Brazil Gt. Southern	Feb. *	M18,28,250	+ M6,250	M55,750	+ M10,250	
B. Ayres & Pacific	July 31	90,000	+ 15,000	354,000	+ 13,000	
Do. Gt. South'n	Aug. 1	76,000	+ 7,000	353,908	+ 22,933	
Do. Western ..	" 1	46,000	+ 4,000	193,000	+ 4,000	
Central Argentine ..	July 31	112,400	+ 2,400	536,000	+ 29,000	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 31	9,659	+ 258	46,352	+ 4,397	
Do. East'n Ex.	" 31	3,105	+ 280	15,061	+ 2,407	
Do. North'n Ex.	" 31	1,887	+ 34	8,452	+ 803	
Do. West'n Ex.	" 31	1,205	+ 31	6,095	+ 505	
Colombian National	Apl. *	9,700	+ 500	37,900	+ 1,733	
Cordoba Central ..	July 31	40,400	+ 65	167,950	+ 7,335	
Costa Rica ..	Feb. 27	7,608	+ 5,050	224,179	+ 85,033	
Cuban Central ..	July 31	6,679	+ 91	34,087	+ 3,336	
Dorada Extension ..	June *	8,400	+ 1,400	44,500	+ 4,100	
Entre Rios ..	July 31	9,300	+ 1,200	39,200	+ 2,000	
Gt. South. of Spain	" 24	Ps. 60,859	+ Ps. 14,856	Ps. 703,548	+ Ps. 395,669	
Gt. West. of Brazil.	" 31	5,900	+ 2,900	308,500	+ 103,900	
Havana Central ..	" 31	5,051	+ 395	22,648	+ 1,551	
Inter. of C. Amer. ...	June *	17,261	+ 3,025	128,878	+ 51,112	
La Guaira and Car.	July *	6,750	+ 2,250	49,000	+ 19,500	
Leopoldina ..	" 31	31,444	+ 3,292	865,565	+ 118,999	
Manila ..	" 31	3,352	+ 566	176,273	+ 34,668	
Midland Uruguay ..	June *	10,532	+ 580	113,751	+ 14,636	
Mogiana ..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	+ M125,225	M6,570,000	+ M 517,804	
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	22,300	+ 333	232,228	+ 66,325	
Nitrate ..	July 31	20,345	+ 10,917	175,086	+ 248,017	
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	+ 12,627	8,634	+ 12,627	
Paraguay Central ..	July 31	\$431,000	+ \$175,000	\$1,660,000	+ \$160,000	
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	+ M59,123	M7,350,000	+ M 339,662	
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	July *	\$724,838	+ \$262,661	\$724,838	+ \$262,221	
Puerto Cab. & V'len	May *	3,737	+ 513	19,858	+ 1,392	
Salvador ..	July 31	\$18,000	+ \$2,750	135,394	+ 10,294	
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 25	39,230	+ 2,508	1,600,000	+ 1,600,000	
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	+ M132,722	M5,440,000	+ M 94,558	
Taitai ..	June *	10,500	+ 14, 20	132,886	+ 176,687	
United of Havana ..	July 31	24,216	+ 5,319	106,531	+ 15,718	
United of Yucatan ..	Feb 6	\$64,400	+ \$6,200	\$403,000	+ \$54,300	
Uruguay Northern	June *	1,936	+ 132	18,266	+ 7,862	
West'n of Havana ..	July 31	5,436	+ 1,633	23,357	+ 3,968	
Zafra and Huelva ..	June *	7,061	+ 6,058	43,248	+ 42,578	

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. † Nett. † 15 days.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bath Electric ..	July 30	10,179	+ 169	280,902	+ 21,154
Bristol Elec. Fed. ..	July 30	6,073	— 118	182,059	+ 5,305
Dublin United ..	July 29	1,199	— 109	25,288	— 1,957
Gearless Motor Bus ..	" 31	738	— 861	15,815	— 8,746
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 29	1,919	+ 294	50,977	+ 1,451
Isle of Thanet ..	" 21	46,999	+ 3,452	671,098	— 40,222
Lancashire United. ..	"	—	—	—	—
London Cnty. Cncl. ..	"	—	—	—	—
London General ..	"	—	—	—	—
London United ..	"	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Elec. ..	"	—	—	—	—
Nat. Steam Car ..	July 31	2,623	+ 103	90,549	+ 8,293
Provincial ..	July 28	604	— 10	21,633	— 1,329
South Metropolitan ..	Aug 1	1,775	+ 263	48,201	+ 2,962
Sunderland District ..					
Tramways (M.E.T.) ..					
Yorks. (Wst. Rding.) ..					



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**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

Paragraphs, very likely inspired by the Press agencies of the Teuton, frequently go the round of the papers drawing attention to the marvellous fashion in which the gold of the Reichsbank keeps increasing in amount. To those who do not understand the machinery or realise the pressure put upon the population to surrender all the gold coin they possess, this may well seem wonderful. In spite of the display, however, Germany grows increasingly insolvent day by day, and if one contrasts the extent to which the Empire has been compelled to fall back upon financial legerdemain, upon paper secured by paper fivefold thick, notes also the extent to which all German overseas commerce has been destroyed, and all live foreign credits with it, it will be less wonderful still that the gold should accumulate and lie idle in the Imperial Bank, while debts get liquidated with a promise to pay. The more lavishly this promise is given, the more inadequate becomes the paraded stock of gold. It will not accomplish the payment of 5 per cent. of the State's war debts when accounts come to be settled.

Contrast this with the position of our market. It has borne—one may not say easily, but assuredly with serenity—a strain greater than any money market was ever before subjected to. Some thousand millions of money, of sound banking credit, has been demanded from it by the necessities of the war, including the compulsion laid upon our Government to sustain Britain's Allies. At the same time the commerce of the country, except as blocked by the Teutonic outburst of savagery, has followed its usual course and required its accustomed banking accommodation, which has been met, as well as the tremendous pressure caused by war-induced excessive imports. All demands, indeed, have been met and unprecedented amounts of capital lent to the Treasury, and yet we have never had money really dear, nor has there ever been any approach to scarcity of floating credit. All the usual work and all the unusual routine have proceeded smoothly, and the stock of coin and bullion in the issue department of the Bank is to-day quite £35,000,000 larger than it was a year ago. With all its boasted organisation, the Imperial Bank of Germany has not been able to increase its stock by an amount much greater than this, and practically the whole of its business outside the Empire has been destroyed, inducing congestion in credit. Will pessimists please take note of this fact and restrain their wailings? Not only is the Bank of England stock up £35,000,000, but another £28,500,000 has been accumulated against the Treasury note circulation, and the

joint-stock banks have continued hitherto to pay out gold or notes indifferently, although now that the Government has asked them to husband the gold coin and pay in notes, the millions in metal they still possess may flow towards the Bank of England.

It would be quite useless to attempt any analysis of the Bank return with a view to discover the why and wherefore of the changes therein. Immense amounts have been paid up on the new War Loan, as much as £50,000,000 on Tuesday last it was guessed, but the trace of them is not visible in the return made up to Wednesday night. It shows, for example, a decline of £30,578,000 in the public or Government deposits, and, at the same time, a shrinkage of £11,319,000 in the Other, or banking and private deposits. Loan money received would seem to have been utilised to the extent of £36,930,000 in redeeming pledged miscellaneous securities and £6,284,000 in Government securities, but what these transactions imply it is useless to guess, and we should be no better off did we find out. The most important fact revealed by the comparison of this week's figures with last is the increase in the reserve, which is £1,361,000 higher at £47,186,000. That is £37,219,000 more than the reserve at the like date a year ago, the first shown after the disarray and, one might say, suppressed panic caused by the outbreak of hostilities. That the Government is paying off various forms of floating debt is no doubt the case; it may also be redeeming portions of the floating debts of its Allies, but there is no need for us to know anything about that just now. By-and-by a most interesting story of skill in finance is sure to be unfolded to the world. The public little suspects with what care and unremitting vigilance the business of our Money market is day by day conducted.

All the week rates for money in the open market have been wonderfully easy, account taken of the tremendous pressure put upon banks by the call which became payable last Tuesday on the new War Loan. No real pinch ever occurred. At a price every worthy borrower could get all he wanted, and the tendency has been towards ease most of the week! That is to say,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. has been pretty well the maximum rate for seven-day advances, and occasionally notice money has been got at 4 per cent. To-day's rates are given in our table.

Discount rates have also been moderate, three months Treasury bills changing hands at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and three months Bank bills at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Although there has been a strong inquiry for maturities of all dates in "Treasures" between now and February, the quotation has never gone much above  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Fine trade bills have been discounted at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., or if the paper was of six months' usance, at the outside at 6 per cent. All quotations would be weaker but for the position of foreign exchanges.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended August 4 £2,045,909 in £1 notes and £630,422 10s. in 10s. notes were issued. In the same period £1,040,179 in £1 and £293,432 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. An entry appears on both sides of the return of £340,000 currency notes certificates issued and cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £1,342,720, leaving a total of £46,729,640 10s. outstanding, made up of £35,428,989 in £1 and £11,300,651 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £307,474 12s. 11d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £7,437,287 10s. 5d. at the Bank of England, while £1,204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £310,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

**SILVER.**

In the Silver market no particular change has occurred. Owing, perhaps, as Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. point out, to the absence of rain in parts of India, the demand for the metal in Bombay has been sluggish, but still both the Indian bazaars and China have been taking a little, and now that better news has come with regard to the monsoon rains, it is pro-



Proportion between bullion and circulation 36 per cent. against 35½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £252,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £41,796,600, decrease £625,280, and at the branches to £42,821,680, decrease £362,840.



## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	Aug. 1, 1914
Loans	£504,232,000	£512,200,000	£510,910,000	£411,338,000
Reserve held in own Vaults	83,164,000	88,262,000	86,640,000	
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	26,412,000	25,678,000	25,482,000	88,888,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	7,112,000	6,111,000	7,010,000	
Nett Demand Deposits	£508,420,000	£504,818,000	£502,086,000	
Nett Time Deposits	28,058,000	27,040,000	26,718,000	387,164,000
Circulation	7,562,000	7,578,000	7,592,000	8,316,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	35,730,000	33,520,000	32,418,000	1,720,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 16% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	Aug. 1, 1914
Loans	£117,502,000	£119,036,000	£119,068,000	£114,162,400
Specie	9,536,000	9,742,000	9,740,000	8,706,400
Deposits	120,994,000	122,898,000	122,736,000	113,523,200
Legal Tenders	1,738,000	1,870,000	1,948,000	1,850,400

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 31, 1915	July 14, 1915	July 6, 1915	July 28, 1914
Notes in reserve	£7,328,900	£8,943,500	£7,443,100	£9,022,300
Cash in reserve	157,899,100	157,886,100	157,946,000	160,204,200
Gold in reserve abroad	9,568,000	9,996,700	10,565,400	11,604,200
Circulation note issue	387,000,000	384,500,000	377,000,000	195,000,000
Treasury deposits	21,347,000	22,633,500	24,787,100	55,075,800

\* First return received since that for period ended July 14, 1915.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 31, 1915	July 23, 1915	July 15, 1915	July 7, 1915
Total Coin & Bullion	£122,260,550	£122,129,650	£122,001,800	£121,790,550
Treasury Notes	12,859,700	14,307,200	14,138,100	9,165,050
Bills discounted	239,229,500	227,580,050	232,720,650	244,020,500
Advances	882,000	685,000	670,600	730,900
Note circulation	276,908,200	265,739,100	270,612,300	280,180,750
Public deposits	82,580,200	85,977,600	86,819,950	86,878,150

Clearing House returns during July £252,034,605 against £235,431,975 in June.

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	July 10, 1915	July 25, 1914
Gold	£31,011,972	£30,789,793	£30,557,485	£14,195,140
Silver	212,993	165,427	150,264	685,667
Bills discounted, &c.	14,585,103	14,942,867	15,087,649	15,818,423
Note circulation	41,807,234	42,066,355	42,029,695	25,869,773
Deposits	3,901,340	3,503,705	3,094,775	394,768

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	July 10, 1915	July 25, 1914
Gold	£6,299,000	£6,298,000	£6,297,000	£5,878,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	4,491,900	4,721,000	4,496,000	6,420,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,665,000	2,695,000	2,703,000	1,556,000
Discounts and Loans	7,453,000	8,212,000	7,906,000	5,136,000
Notes in circulation	14,575,000	14,947,000	15,340,000	11,456,000
Deposits at notice	5,184,000	5,873,000	4,614,000	3,783,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 24, 1915	July 7, 1915	June 30, 1915	July 15, 1914
Gold	£3,603,000	£3,598,000	£3,531,000	£2,916,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,126,000	3,216,000	3,211,000	1,811,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	637,000	637,000	638,000	495,000
Discounts & Loans	4,234,000	4,348,000	4,327,000	4,552,000
Notes in Circulation	8,325,000	8,115,000	8,162,000	6,777,000
Deposits at notice	1,270,000	1,114,000	1,137,000	591,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 23, 1915	July 15, 1915	July 10, 1915	July 23, 1914
Gold and silver	£11,834,172	£11,868,628	£11,784,252	£7,960,432
Bills	5,830,794	5,606,560	5,681,960	3,751,108
Note circulation	15,926,400	16,105,600	16,399,156	10,716,790
Current and deposit accounts	4,033,780	3,847,568	3,316,936	2,262,215

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915	July 10, 1915
Gold	£27,925,355	£27,899,251	£27,809,124	£27,632,001
Silver	29,775,711	29,738,354	29,644,053	29,563,048
Foreign Bills	4,950,786	4,988,787	4,901,033	4,894,179
Discounts and Short Bills	26,914,881	26,627,113	27,074,248	27,073,539
Treasury Account, &c.	30,976,708	31,202,386	31,480,278	32,803,961
Notes in Circulation	8,035,928	79,901,136	79,846,351	60,378,150
Current Accounts, Deposit	26,549,191	26,801,467	27,171,434	27,926,474
Dividends, Interests, &c.	2,250,968	2,300,012	2,298,297	2,153,229
Government Securities	3,697,119	2,833,084	2,662,441	2,726,319

No statement as to the condition of the Bank of Spain was received for the corresponding week last year.

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 29, 1915.		August 5, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	12.2	12.3	12.1	12.2
Do.	Cable transfers	11.75	11.83	11.74	11.77
Italy	Three months' bills	30.60	30.75	30.60	30.80
Do.	Cable transfers	30.20	30.35	2.60	29.80
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	37	36	36	35
New York	Cable transfers	4.76	4.77	4.76	4.77
Do.	Cheques & mail transfers	4.76	4.77	4.76	4.77
Paris	Three months' bills	27.35	27.4	27.35	27.35
Do.	Cable transfers	26.95	27.05	26.95	26.95
Petrograd	Cable transfers	14	150	140	150
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	18.15	18.35	18.25	18.45
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills	40	40	40	40
Do.	Cable transfers	25.00	25.20	24.87	24.97
Switzerland	Three months' bills	25.90	26.05	25.70	25.90
Do.	Cable transfers	25.50	25.65	25.30	25.50

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs	27.00	26.90	Antwerp	sight	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.12	29.75
Amsterdam	sight	11.80	11.75	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Batavia	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	13d.	12d.
Hamburg	chqs	—	—	Buenos Ayres	90 dys	48d.	45d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/32d.	1/32d.
Petrograd	3 mths	147	147	Bombay	T.T.	1/32d.	1/32d.
New York	sight	4.77	4.76	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/9d.	1/9d.
Lisbon	sight	36	35	Shanghai	T.T.	2/2d.	2/2d.
Madrid	sight	25.10	24.85	Singapore	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/6d.	2/6d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	2 1/2	2 1/2
Six months	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nine months	3 1/2	3 1/2
Twelve months	3 1/2	3 1/2

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5-5 1/2	4 1/2
Three months	5-5 1/2	4 1/2-4 3/4
Four months	5 1/2	4 1/2-4 3/4
Six months	5 1/2-5 1/4	4 1/2-5
Three months fire inland bills	5 1/2-5 1/4	5 1/2-5 1/4
Four months	5 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/4
Six months	5 1/2-6	5 1/2-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
" short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	3	3
Bi'l brokers' deposit rate (call)	3 1/2	3 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	4 1/2	4-4 1/2
" for call loans	3 1/2-4 1/2	3-3 1/2

## The Week's Stock Markets.

There is nothing to say about Stock Markets this week that would be in the least degree fresh or interesting. To us the wonder always is to see them maintain so brave a front amid what looks like adversity. Under the surface things slaughterish are far from being so bad as they seem, but to the great mass of people, especially people possessed of what is called "a stake in the country" in the shape of remunerative business or invested capital, events look black enough to suffuse their minds with a pessimism most damaging to activity in the investment or any other part of the Stock Exchange. Yet markets keep up, and now and again prices show firmness or spurt upwards, although the amount of business done in a week averages now probably less than what was often done in an hour in the days before the war. The weakest market lately has been for Home Railway stocks, although there has been no effort visible to throw property away. Some of the weakness no doubt comes from the example set by North-Western ordinary, which is flat on the new issue of preference stock, and some from the effort still going on to release capital in order to put it into the war debt. A certain amount of selling, too, in this and other markets tends to arise from the necessities of holders, of whom not a few are having to fall back more or less—mostly less we hope—on their capital in order to live until the hell cyclone of war is spent and over. Increasingly numerous dealings in the new War Loan have taken place, and also a certain number of transactions in Consols for conversion purposes next month. Outside the Government market the incidents have



been few, and are noted below. Speaking generally, American securities have been steady and others lifeless. Even in the Rubber share market there is almost nothing moving, in spite of the fact that the position in regard to raw material and also the returns now coming in from the plantations is encouraging. Some

Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds	98½	98½
69½ India 3%.....	69½	69½	— " 4½, 1922-7..	94½	94½
80½ " 3½%.....	80½	80½	95 New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
— War Loan.....	93½	92½	92 Queensland 4% ..	92	92
— " 4½ (15 pd.) ..	—	1½ dis	— " 4½ new	96½	96½
92 Canada 4% 1910-60	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	96½	96½
— " 4½ 1922-5 ..	96½	96½	— " 4½, 1922-5 ..	96½	96½
92 N.S.W. 4%.....	95	95	— Victoria 4½, 1920-5	96½	97
66 Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes ....	69	69
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½ (rst) ....	86½	86½
— " New Funding ..	69½	69½	83 " (2d) ..	83½	83½
— Chinese 1896 .....	94	94	— Russia 4% ..	73	73
— " 1913 .....	82	82	— " 4½ % .....	78	78
— Egypt Unified 4% ..	85	85	— " 5% ..	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	52½	52½	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	23½	23
Caledonian defd. ....	9	8½	Do. new pf. ....	100½	98½
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	Metropolitan .....	24½	24½
Gt. Central pf. ....	14½	14½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	100	98½
Do. dfd. ....	6½	7	Met. District .....	13½	13½
Gt. Eastern .....	57½	57½	Midland dfd. ....	61	58½
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	39	39	Nth. British dfd. ....	16½	15½
Gt. Western .....	102½	101½	Nth.-Eastern .....	102½	105½
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	71½	69½	Nth.-Western .....	107½	105½
— Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	23	23	— " ..	23	23
Canada Pacific .....	150½	151½	Chesapeake .....	41½	43½
Do. 6% Notes .....	108½	105½	Erie .....	27½	28½
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	9½	9½	— Milwaukee .....	87½	85
Grand Trunk ord. ....	8½	8½	N. Y. Central .....	92	93½
Do. 3rd pf. ....	21½	21	Southern .....	14½	14½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes	97	96	Southern Pacific .....	90	91½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. ....	95½	91½	Union Pacific .....	134½	134½
Atchafon .....	106½	105½	U. S. Steel .....	68½	74½
Baltimore .....	85	83½	— " ..	—	—
Antofagasta dfd. ....	112½	112	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	76	75½
Do. 6% Notes .....	99½	99½	Do. 5% Notes .....	97½	98
Brazil C. mmen. ....	6	6	Do. 6% " ..	111½	101½
B. A. & Pacific .....	43	43½	Leopoldina .....	30½	30½
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	75	73½	Mexican ord. ....	14½	14½
B. A. Western .....	82½	80	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	163	162
— United of Havana .....	68½	68½	— " ..	—	—
Bank of Australasia .....	111½	111	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	8½	8½	London County & West. ....	15½	15
Do. "B" .....	11	10½	London Joint Stock .....	20	20
Capital & Counties .....	21½	21	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	25½	25
Chartered of India .....	51	51	Do. (£12 pd) ..	28½	28
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	74	74	Parr's .....	28½	28½
Lloyds .....	24	24	Standard of S.A. ....	10	10
London & Provincial .....	168	168	Union & Smiths .....	23½	22½
London & S.W. ....	128	12	— " ..	—	—
Apollinaris ord. ....	36	36	Forestral Land .....	33/6	33/6
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	2/2	3/6	Furness, Withy .....	30/	29/6
Associated Cement .....	2½	2½	Hudson's Bay .....	5½	5½
Birmingham Small Arms	55/6	58	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22/6	22/6
Borax dfd. ....	24/	22/	Do. dfd. "A" ..	38/	38/
Bovril .....	20/6	20/	Kynoch .....	29/	26/6
Brazil Tractor .....	49	49	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/9	20/9
British Amer. Tobacco ..	66/	67/	Lyons, J. ....	43½	43½
Brown (John) & Co. ....	25/	25/	Marconi .....	1½	2½
Brunner, Mond .....	33	32	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	22/6	22/6
Cammell-Laird .....	4½	4½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	32	31½
Castner-Kellner .....	58/6	61/	National Steam Car. ....	11/3	11/3
Coats .....	5	4½	Nobel Dynamite .....	163	162
Cunard .....	2½	2½	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2
Dennis Bros. ....	26/	26/	P. & O. dfd. ....	262½	262½
Dorman, Long .....	20/	20/6	Royal Mail .....	73	73
Eastmans .....	7/	7/	South Durham Steel .....	26/9	27/
English Sewing Cotton ..	31/	30½	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	74½	74½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24/9	24/9	Vickers .....	33/	32/9
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	5/9	5/6	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½
Baku (10s.) .....	3/	3/	North Caucasian .....	27/	27/3
Burmah .....	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons. ....	14/	14/
Lobitos .....	26/	28/	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	41½	43½
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3/6	3/6	Shell .....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline .....	4/	4/	Spies (10/-) .....	14/9	14/7½
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian .....	1½	1½
Anglo-Malay .....	8/9	8/9	Linggi .....	13/10½	13/9
Batu Caves .....	12½	12½	London Asiatic .....	6/	6/
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/6½	Malacca .....	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/6	2/6	Malayalam .....	21/3	21/6
Damansara .....	2½	2½	M. rimau .....	41½	41
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	11/9	11/
Highlands .....	1½	2½	United Serdang .....	9/	8/9
Johore Rubber Lands ..	12/6	12/9	Vallambrosa .....	12/3	12/6
Abbotiakoon .....	7/9	7/9	De Beers dfd. ....	9½	9½
Brakpan .....	2½	3	East Rand .....	1½	1½
Broken Hill Prop. ....	44/	44/	Gt. Boulder .....	14/6	14/6
Cam & Motor .....	13/	13/	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Central Mining .....	6½	6½	Modder "B" .....	53½	52½
Chartered .....	10/	10/	Do. Deep .....	4½	4½
City Deep .....	3½	3½	New Modder .....	14½	14½
Cons. Gold Fields .....	1½	1½	Rand Mines .....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto .....	55½	55½
Crown Mines .....	4½	4½	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½

of the new companies are showing double the output of a year ago, and the general promise is for an excellent crop.

Interest has been almost entirely centred in the new War Loan, in which dealings have been fairly active, but the market at times has been woefully befogged as to the proper prices to quote. Business started in the scrip ex-conversion rights on Tuesday, and 213 bargains were put through in this class as well as 111 transactions in the stock "cum rights." At first the price was given out 97¼ "ex" and 97½ "cum" rights, but

little stock changed hands on these terms, and the market presently found its level at 98½ and 98¾ respectively. That in turn proved rather too high, and there has been a reaction to 98½ and 98¼, at which prices the market has remained fairly firm with a steady flow of small business. A considerable number of "conversion" bargains have also been put through on the basis of selling Consols at 65 and buying War Loan at prices ranging from 99 to 100. It sounds rather complicated, but brokers quickly mastered the intricacies of such transactions, although they have had plenty of trouble in explaining the details to their clients. The old (3½ per cent.) War Loan, which was recently the most active stock in the list, has retired into comparative obscurity, but it has maintained its price fairly well round about 93½. Colonial loans have been scarcely mentioned, and they have only just held their own. Foreign stocks were rather depressed by the Russian evacuation of Warsaw, but they have recovered a little, and there has been some support for Argentine, Brazilian, and Japanese issues.

In the Home Railway market the most noteworthy incident has been the offer of £1,500,000 in 4½ per cent. 10-year preference stock at 96 by the London and North-Western Co. A similar issue by the North-Eastern Co. is quoted at 98½, but quite naturally the North-Western has to offer more attractive terms in order to insure success after so much free capital has been absorbed by the War Loan. The dividend list is now practically complete, and, on the whole, the distributions are just what might have been expected. Prices are now "full" of dividend, and there has been a moderate amount of investment business, but an entire lack of enthusiasm. American Railroads have shown some strength, and there has been a fair inquiry for such things as Atchisons, Pennsylvanias, and Unions, but speculative investors are running more after Industrials such as Steel Trusts, which soared in great style on talk of an early resumption of dividends. Canadian Pacific were firm on the belief that no change will be made in the dividend, due in a few days, this quarter. If a "cut" should be necessary action is not likely to be taken till November, when the first instalment for the current fiscal year will be announced. The Grand Trunk June statement showed that a gross decrease of £37,100 had been turned into a nett increase of £47,900—quite a fine performance, but not enough to stimulate support. Argentine Rails have attracted little enough attention. Some of the traffics were good; others poor or indifferent, and prices just moved a fraction either way in sympathy with the mood of the moment.

The tendency among Bank shares has been weak, and the few shares dealt in as a rule have lost ½ to 1, the only prominent exception being Lloyds, which gained a fraction. Breweries were neglected except for a few transactions in American and South African issues, but the tone was good. Insurance shares were steady with little doing, and there was not much interest in most of the other leading Commercial groups. Such support as was forthcoming was mainly confined to a few specialties, like Canadian Car and Foundry, Brazilian Tractions, and Marconis, all of which had a fair amount of almost too enthusiastic support, although profit-taking knocked the best prices back a bit. Iron and Steel shares came in for some attention, and Shipping issues had their supporters. The directors of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. deny the report that it is to be absorbed by another large steamship line. On the whole, business was far from brisk, and in many cases quotations do not represent actual dealing prices. Nitrates moved irregularly, but several Textile shares improved on the assumption that the companies must be doing well when there is so much Government business about for all kinds of supplies both to our own and the Allies' troops.

Nothing of much interest has occurred in the Oil market. Dealings have been on a small scale, and except for an occasional flutter in one or two shares at a time, prices have been left pretty much where they were. Lobitos were taken in hand, and some support was forthcoming for the Shell group, but Egyptians were inclined to ease off. North Caucasians and Spies were firm. Rubber shares were scarcely mentioned during the greater part of the week, and the excellent outputs did not attract buyers to any appreciable extent. Of course, there was a certain amount of business in a few of the leading shares, but there has been little movement in prices, and investors are beginning to be a trifle uneasy about the future of the commodity. The best estates have reduced costs almost to a minimum, and if the price of the raw material falls profits must follow suit, as there is not much further margin to work on.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A firm tone prevailed in this market, and a good demand continued, while white kinds are still scarce. Of British refined, Tate's cubes No. 1, sold, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Cane kinds met a ready sale at firmer prices. Crystallised St. Lucia, sold, 25s. 6d., and Trinidad at 25s. 3d. to 26s. 1½d. White Java outports sold to a good extent at 27s. to 27s. 3d., as to quality, while out of supply on the London market. Argentine Molida done, 26s. 6d., and American granulated at 29s.

**COFFEE.**—Spot market inactive owing to official prohibitions. Futures very quiet.

**COCOA.**—Market very slow in consequence of exports being prohibited.

**TEA.**—Inactive, pending resumption of public sales next week.



**SPICE.**—Pepper inactive, while values showed no material alteration. Black Singapore fair, on spot, 53d.; fair Tellicherry, 53d.; fair Lampong, 53d.; white Singapore, fair, on spot, 9d.; Muntok, 9d.; and Penang, 8d. To arrive, black Singapore, August-September shipment, sellers, 53d.; white ditto, 8d.; Muntok, 9d.; and Penang, 8d., c.f. and i. Cloves ruled dull. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 68d.; and August-September delivery, 63d.

**RICE.**—Cleaned on spot and afloat met a good demand, prices being firm. Bran firm. Rangoon, ex ship, August-October, sold, 125s., London. Rangoon beans, September-October, done, £18, c.f. and i.

**JUTE.**—Market dull. Native first marks, July, sellers, £21 15s.; new crop, August, £23 10s.; and September, £22 15s. Substitute M., D/E, August, sold, £23 10s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila parcels opened dearer, but became quieter. New graded, fair, August-September and September-October shipment sold, £38; medium, ditto, £34 to £33 15s.; coarse, £29 15s. to £29 10s.; and coarse brown, £27 15s., c.f. and i. New Zealand quiet, but firmer.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot market quiet, but steady. Fair T.N. orange sold, 60s. to 61s. Futures in quiet request. August delivery sold, 60s.; and December, sellers, 63s. 6d.

**GAMBIER.**—Dull. Good marks, August-September shipment sellers, 32s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.**—Generally quiet, but rates steady. Standard plantation: crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 53d.; August, at 2s. 53d. to 2s. 58d.; September, 2s. 5d.; October, 2s. 44d.; October-December, 2s. 48d.; January-June, sellers, 2s. 38d. Smoked sheet, on spot, done 2s. 5d.; August, sellers, 2s. 5d.; October-December sold, 2s. 44d. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 2s. 5d.; July-September, 2s. 5d. Soft fine, spot, sellers, 2s. 28d.; August-September, 2s. 24d. Ball, spot and forward, 1s. 10d., sellers. Scrappy, spot and forward, 1s. 9d.

**COPRA.**—Steady, but quiet. To London, Ceylon, July-August and August-September, buyers, £24. Malabar, August-September, buyers, £24 10s. F.M.S., Singapore, July-August and August-September, sellers, £23 10s.; South Sea, ditto, buyers, £22 5s. To Marseilles, F.M. Straits, ditto, buyers, £23; Cebu, ditto, sellers, £23 7s. 6d.; Manila, August-September, quoted £22 17s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**TALLOW.**—No public sales held. Privately the market ruled quiet. Australian mutton: fair to fine, 34s. 6d. to 37s.; and beef, 33s. 6d. to 37s. 3d.

**OILS.**—Linseed quiet. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 5s.; barrels, £26; Hull (naked), spot, £23 15s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £38 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £30 c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £28 15s.; refined pale, spot (pipes), £31; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Coconut, Ceylon, spot, £42. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, June-July, £21 10s., c.f. and i. Turpentine easier. American spirits, on spot, 33s. 9d. Petroleum: American, 9d.; water-white, 10d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet. Calcutta, spot, 54s. 3d.; afloat, 54s. 3d.; August-September, 54s. 9d.; La Plata, July-August, 51s.; August-September, 51s. 3d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, July-August (3 per cent.), 56s.; Toria (3 per cent.), July-August, 50s. 6d. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, August, £9 17s. 6d. Resin: common strained, spot, 11s. 9d. Palm oil, Lagos, £31.

**CORN (Mark Lane).**—At the renewal of business—such as it is at present—last Wednesday sellers in some few directions have shown rather less maintenance, but there has been no desire to press offerings. Wheat (English): Picked samples of whites quoted at 60s. 6d., and reds of similar quality 60s. per qr. (504 lbs.), delivered. Of foreign grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 58s. 9d.; No. 2 ditto, 57s. 9d.; and No. 3, 56s. 9d., all ex ship. Indian, in similar position, 54s. 9d. to 55s. Plate, 56s., landed. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s. to 46s. 6d.; Canadian export patents, 44s. to 45s., both landed. Grinding barley: Karachi, ex ship, to arrive, 37s. Plate, 37s. 6d. Japanese, 38s., quay terms. Maize: sound Plate (new), 31s. 6d. to 31s. 9d., ex ship, and 32s. 6d., ex quay; old, in latter position, 32s. 3d. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 27s. to 30s., landed, as to quality. American, white clipped, No. 2, 33s., ex quay.

**METALS.**—Copper: Offers in the speculative market were well absorbed since the renewal of business last Tuesday, the tendency being in an upward direction, while a good deal of buying orders took place on the part of consumers. American advices continue favourable. By the middle of the week standard, cash delivery, settled down at £73 2s. 6d., and three months £74 7s. 6d., values of these dates at Thursday's session being finally fixed at £74 2s. 6d. and £75 7s. 6d. respectively. Electrolytic, £87 to £88. Stocks in England and France, July 31, amounted to 34,626 tons, against 32,416 tons same time during the previous month. Tin: A good general demand, and reserved sellers, led to dealings at a higher range last Tuesday, standard cash fluctuating at £156 10s., and three months to £158, but selling desire followed until Thursday, the market being irregular, while values of these dates related to £154 and £155 10s. respectively. July statistics show an increase of 14 tons in the total visible supplies. American deliveries, 5,567 tons. Straits shipments amounted to 5,606 tons, namely, to London, 2,316; America, 2,505; and Continent, 785 tons. Lead rather easier. Foreign, August to October, £23 10s. to £23 15s. Spelter lower. American, g.o.b., August, £90; October, £80. Iron firmer.

**COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).**—The market has presented a very quiet appearance throughout the past week, and owing to the holiday season of the year, buyers and sellers have not been in the mood to enter into transactions of importance. The general demand in the market continues poor, and it is quite

evident there is too much uncertainty as to the future course of events for a healthy trade to be done. Rather more interest is now being taken in the progress of the new American crop. Rather unfavourable advices have been received from some districts, and prices to some extent have hardened. There is no probability, however, of scarcity of supplies during the next twelve months. In piece goods for abroad shippers have restricted their purchases to small lots. Demand for India continues disappointing, and in both shirtings and lighter fabrics business has been generally slow. Offers have been about for China in bleaching cloths and fancies, but on the whole trade appears to be on a rather narrower basis than during the last few weeks. Some houses which trade with South America are busier, and a rather increasing demand is now being experienced for the River Plate. The prospects in the

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 6, 1913.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 1/10, 98% polarisation			Australian		
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Scoured Merino	3 1/2 2 6	1 3/4 2 6
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 1/2 2 3	1 0 2 3
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Greasy Merino	0 8 1 7 1/2	0 8 1 7 1/2
Lyle's granulated	27 6 28 0	27 6 28 0	Greasy Crossbred	0 1 8 1 0	0 1 8 1 0
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 7 2 7	1 7 2 7
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 1 6 0	0 1 6 0
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 5 2	0 2 5 2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	<b>India-rubber</b> p.l.b.		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West India	23 6 28 6	24 0 28 6	Crepe	0 2 5 1/2	0 2 5 1/2
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 81 lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	Steamers, best	1 2 2 1/2	1 2 2 1/2
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	English Pig	25 0 0	24 5 0
Orange	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	Foreign soft, Sept.	24 0 0	23 5 0
Broken	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	18 10 0	18 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1 1 1/2	0 11 1 1 1/2	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.	s. s. s. s.	s. s. s. s.	English Ingots	£ 163 1/2	£ 153 1/2
duty 1d. per lb.			Do. bars	£ 164 1/2	£ 153 1/2
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0 84 0	79 0 84 0	Standard cash	£ 158 12 6	£ 151 15 0
Grenada	75 0 82 0	75 0 82 0	Tin Plates, per box	18 9 10	18 7 10
West Africa	75s.	75s.	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 90 0	72 0 90 0	English, Tough	£ 97 1/2	£ 86 1/2
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0 95 0	92 0 95 0	per ton	£ 97 1/2	£ 86 1/2
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			Best Seleced	£ 85 1/2	£ 83 1/2
duty 14d. per lb.			Sheets	£ 104	£ 102
East India	66 0 100 0	66 0 100 0	Standard	£ 71 7 6	£ 71 15 0
Jamaica	49 0 118 0	49 0 118 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Costa Rica	60 0 86 0	60 0 86 0	Native firsts for sh'pmt.	Sept. £23 0 0	£23 0 0
<b>Provisions</b> —			<b>Oils</b> —		
Butter, per cwt.			Linseed, per ton	£ 252 1/2	£ 252 1/2
Australian finest	138 1/2 140 1/2	138 1/2 140 1/2	Rape, ref. English	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Irish Creameries	142 1/2 150 1/2	150 1/2 156 1/2	cases		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Brown English	£ 38 1/2	£ 38 1/2
Russian finest	128 1/2 132 1/2	130 1/2 134 1/2	naked	£ 36 1/2	£ 36 1/2
Normandy baskets	120 1/2 142 1/2	120 1/2 146 1/2	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 28 15 0	£ 28 15 0
Danish finest	162 1/2 165 1/2	170 1/2 174 1/2	Ditto, refined	£ 31 1/2	£ 31 1/2
Brittany rolls			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	83 1/2	gd.
doz. lb.	13 6 16 0	14 0 16 6	Water White	92 1/2	10d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	90 0 97 0	95 0 101 0	Calcutta—per 41c		
Continental	84 0 97 0	91 0 99 0	lbs. Aug-Sep.	2 15 0	2 14 3
Canadian	76 0 88 0	78 0 86 0	Rape, Guzerat		
American	65 0 74 0	65 0 74 0	July-Aug.	2 16 0	2 16 0
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	106 0 116 0	106 0 120 0	Cleveland Cash	3 6 6	3 6 2
Canadian	72 0 82 0	72 0 80 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
American	54 0 80 0	48 0 72 0	3/8, 4 1/2 per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	72 0 82 0	78 0 82 0	per lb. bond	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Canadian	74 0 76 0	74 0 76 0	Virginia leaf	0 5 1/2 1 6	0 5 1/2 1 6
Gouda	74 0 80 0	74 0 80 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
English Cheddar	86 0 98 0	82 0 96 0	Latakia	0 4 1/2 1 0	0 4 1/2 1 0
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
New Zealand	76 0 82 0	76 0 78 0	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 7 1/2 lb	2 0	2 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130 1/2 150	130 1/2 150
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak	280 1/2 600 1/2	280 1/2 600 1/2
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Dutch	13 6 15 6	14 0 16 6	Town household		
Russian	10 6 11 0	10 6 11 0	official	45 1/2	45 1/2
Danish	13 0 15 3	13 0 15 6	American, 1st patents	45 1/2 upds.	45 1/2 upds.

home trade are fairly healthy, but some manufacturers complain that delivery instructions are not coming in quite so freely as a little time ago. The conditions prevailing in most manufacturing towns show very little change, and employment is very irregular. American yarns for home consumption have hardened in price, but it has been very difficult for spinners to secure higher rates. A comparatively small trade has been done, especially in the finer numbers. Demand continues checked in shipping yarns, but a little improvement is now taking place in the way of securing licences to export to Continental countries. Egyptian yarns have attracted very little attention, and the prices ruling give no satisfaction whatever.

## FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—A good trade resulted in all kinds of white sugars, and the market ruled firm, unaltered. Cane sales aroused good sup-



port, and recent prices were firmly maintained. Crystallised Demerara sold 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d., Trinidad 25s. 9d. to 26s. 6d., and St. Lucia 25s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Spot good ruled dull. Terminal market idle. September quoted 35s. 9d., December 35s. 9d.

JUTE.—Market slow all round. Native first marks old crop for shipment offer at £22; new, August £23 10s., and September £23.

HEMP.—Manila grades dull. New graded fair September-November sellers 28, medium £34, coarse £29 10s., and brown £27 10s.

SHELLAC.—In slow demand. August sold 60s. 6d. to 60s.

INDIA-RUBBER.—Market quiet, steady. Plantation spot crêpe was dealt in at 2s. 5½d., 2s. 5½d.; August, sellers, 2s. 5½d.; September 2s. 5d.; and October-December, sold, 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para spot and also forward 2s. 4½d. value. Standard ribbed plantation smoked sheet sold 2s. 5d.

OILS.—Turpentine spot 34s.

METALS.—Tin further declined. Standard middle of August sold £152, and three months at £155 down to £153 5s., closing £151 15s. cash and £153 5s. three months. Settlement price £151 10s. Copper lower. Standard cash, sold, £73 to £72, and three months £74. 74 5s., and £73 2s. 6d., closing £71 15s. and £73 2s. 6d. respectively. Settlement price £71 15s. Electros lower at £86 to £87. English tough £86 to £87. Best selected £83 10s. to £84 10s. Strong sheets £102. Lead easier. English £24 5s.; foreign prompt, August and October, sold, £23 5s. and sellers. Spelter relaxed sharply. G.O.B. officially quoted £80 to £70. Iron easier. Cleveland cash 66s. 2d., one month 66s. 7d., three months 67s. 6d. Tin plates I.C. cokes 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d., basis f.o.b. Wales. Quicksilver £18 10s.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Bank of New South Wales.—Interim quarterly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 27.

Bristol and South Wales Railway Wagon.—Interim of 3s. per share, being at the usual rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 14.

Caledonian Trust.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 6 per cent.

Changkat Rubber and Tin.—Interim of 15 per cent. on the preferred, of 5 per cent. on the deferred, both less tax. The 15 per cent. declared on the preferred ordinary shares included the 10 per cent. preferential dividend for the year. No interim dividends were paid last year.

Courtaulds.—Interim of 6½ per cent. (actual) on account of 1915, payable Aug. 12, against 5 per cent. (actual).

Crocker, Sons and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on ordinary, for half-year ended June 30, payable 20th inst. For the whole of 1914 a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the ordinary.

General Hydraulic Power.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, on account of 1915, payable Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

Great North of Scotland Rly.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 on the preferred converted at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum and on the deferred at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds.—Final on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, together with a bonus of 1s. per share, free of tax, same as a year ago.

Holborn and Frascati.—Interim on the preference at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1, less tax. In view of the importance of keeping the financial position of the company as strong as possible the directors have decided for the present to defer the declaration of any interim dividend on the ordinary. A year ago the interim dividend was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

John Watson.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 5 per cent.

Jugra Land and Rubber Estates.—10 per cent., free tax, with £4.315 forward, against 4 per cent.

Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, against 4 per cent.

Lanarkshire Steel.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on both classes of preference shares, same as last year.

Metropolitan Electric.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 13, against 4 per cent. a year ago.

North Broken Hill.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 18.

North British Rly.—Full of 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary, same as a year ago.

North London Rly.—Interim of 2 per cent. for half-year, same as a year ago.

Rochdale Canal.—On the consolidated ordinary of 7s. 6d. per share, less tax, same as last year.

Scottish Western Investment.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 10 per cent.

Spencer, Turner and Boldero.—Interim for six months ended July 15 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, payable Aug. 19, same as a year ago.

United Alkali.—7s. per share on the preference for past half-year, together with 3s. per share arrears in respect of 1914.

Westminster Electric Supply.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Sept. 1, against 10 per cent. a year ago.

## JULY MINING OUTPUTS.

Abosso.—9,257 tons produced £13,996. Unreduced gold slimes valued at approximately £2,000 are on hand, representing the cyanide slimes untreated during June and July owing to shortage of sulphuric acid.

Balaghât.—3,136 tons, 1,173 ozs.; 8,021 tons tailings, 276 ozs.; total, 1,449 ozs., equal to 1,300 ozs. fine gold.

Barramia.—160 tons, 310 ozs.

Burma Corporation.—Bawdwin Mines: Lead production 1,342 tons.

Champion Reef.—17,710 tons, 9,936 ozs.; sand and slimes, 2,113 ozs.; total, 12,049 ozs., equal to 11,017 ozs. fine gold.

City and Suburban.—28,750 tons, 12,035 ozs.; profit, £20,625.

Consolidated of N.Z.—Wealth of Nations: 2,374 tons for £3,898; profit, £1,564. Progress: 3,500 tons for £4,456; working, £3,215; profit, £1,241. Blackwater: 5,077 tons for £9,793; profit, £4,961.

Cordoba Copper.—Production, 135 tons copper bars; value, £9,150.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—500 tons, 442 ozs.

Hampden Cloncurry.—6,128 tons ore, producing 841 tons copper containing 225 ozs. gold and 6,215 ozs. silver. This includes 219 tons of copper from customs ore.

Mount Boppy.—Clean up from 7,208 tons, 1,336 ozs.; cyanide 1,405 tons, 420 ozs.; slimes 4,538 tons, 1,397 ozs.; concentrates 32 tons, 156 ozs. (fine); total, 3,329 ozs.; value, £10,250.

Mysore.—25,576 tons, 14,158 ozs.; sands 2,092 ozs.; slimes 2,303 ozs.; total, 18,553 ozs.; equivalent to fine gold 16,943 ozs.

New Heriot.—13,400 tons, 5,531 ozs.; profit, £9,006.

Ooregum.—12,820 tons, 6,514 ozs.; sand and slimes 1,438 ozs.; total, 7,952 ozs., equal to 7,172 ozs. fine gold.

Pahang Consolidated.—14,500 tons ore produced 210 tons black tin and 14½ tons alluvial.

Philippine Dredges.—Produced 747 ozs. gold. Fourth dredge nearly ready.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce £39,000; yield per ton, 47s. 3d.

Sheba.—6,750 tons, 2,240 ozs. fine; profit, £1,100.

Siamese Tin.—Total output, 99 tons 1 cwt.

Tolima.—Value, £3,400 (fine silver at 24d. per oz.); loss, £250.

Taquah.—Gold produced value of £17,674 (June, £17,592).

Tronoh.—135 tons tin ore; value, £11,750; mine expenditure, £9,700. Official note.—The dredge has not been working since July 2 owing to an accident to the winch gear. The manager anticipates that it will start work again on the 6th inst. A slip of ground has occurred in the south mine, which has also affected the output.

Tronoh South.—27 tons tin ore; value, £2,600.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—12,044 tons; profit, £771.

Worcester Exploration.—5,950 tons, 940 ozs.; profit, £360.

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### American Business Notes.

An interesting series of letters which passed between our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. W. H. Page, the United States Ambassador in London, between July 16 and 31 was published on Wednesday, and excites reflections. So far as Mr. Page complained about the treatment of the steamship *Neches* there is no need for us to say anything. His Government was within its rights, and although it had no real ground of complaint, as Sir Edward Grey made plain with great courtesy and also firmness, we should regard the episode as of no particular importance one way or another. It is, however, quite otherwise with the claim of the United States of the right to what is practically unrestricted passage for ships carrying cargo from enemy ports to foreign countries, *i.e.*, practically from German ports to ports in the States. The contention was put forward by the Washington Government that "the sovereignty of neutral nations in time of war suffers no diminution except in so far as the practice and consent of civilised nations have limited it by the recognition of certain now clearly determined rights," and the British Government was coolly asked to allow American trade of Germany to go on much as before. That is the purport of this extraordinary demand. Sir Edward Grey had no difficulty whatever in demonstrating its unwarranted character, and his reference to the action of the Washington Government itself when the Civil War began was perfectly unanswerable, and really puts President Wilson's Cabinet out of court. Within two months of the declaration of secession by the Confederate States, President Lincoln declared a blockade of all Southern ports, and carried that blockade out with such effect as to bring our cotton factory population in Lancashire to starvation and infinite misery. Can it be that such communications as President Wilson has favoured us with lie at the root of the delicacy with which both the Liberal and the Coalition Governments have handled the cotton contraband question? And if it be, shall we now see more vigorous and effective efforts taken to stop the supplies of the raw material for explosives to Germany? "The purport of the measures we are taking," says Sir Edward Grey, in his long despatch of July 23, "is to intercept commerce on its way from and to the enemy country. There are many cases in which proof that the goods were enemy property would afford strong evidence that they were of enemy origin or enemy destination, and it is only in such cases that we are detaining them. Where proof of enemy ownership would afford no evidence of such origin or destination we are not in practice detaining the goods." Is not that somewhat lax or at least over-considerate behaviour when we are engaged in a life-and-death conflict, on the issue of which depends not only the continuance of the British Empire, but the existence of the home population as a free people? The war is far too serious to be fought with gloves on of any sort except the "mailed fist," and even at the risk of offending President Wilson's Government or the German-American people in the United States, we shall have to make up our minds to take stern and effective measures to hem in the enemy thoroughly, and with unflinching ruthlessness.

Washington is said to be disappointed with the British Notes, especially with the letters of Sir Edward Grey dealing with the *Neches* affair. That relates to a steamship of American origin which was sailing from Rotterdam to a port of the United States carrying a general cargo, and was detained and brought to London by the British ships. The cargo was discharged there, although the property of American citizens. "You have no right to act in this manner," said Mr. Page, in obedience to the orders of his Government. It instructed him to insist upon the "rights" of American owners to bring their goods out of Holland in due course in neutral ships even though such goods may have come originally from the territory of a country at war with Great Britain. That is a claim of the utmost unfriendliness, far more unfriendly in spirit

and language than anything that President Wilson has ventured to say to his friends in Berlin. And the demand cannot possibly be granted, in spite of the insistent request that "goods taken from the steamship *Neches* which are the property of American citizens shall be expeditiously released to be forwarded to their destination." Language of this kind is unseemly and disappointing to a degree, is tinctured, we should imagine, by pro-German influences, and penned with a view to political exigencies at home; but whatever the motive our Government cannot possibly recede, and even at the risk of offending the United States, will have to hold fast to its rights as established by international law and custom, and as against the United States of North America by its own example, a high-handed example if you will, but still one adhered to without flinching throughout the Civil War by President Lincoln.

As regards the cotton position and discontent with Britain in the Southern States, recently the Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* quoted Mr. Richard Edmonds, editor of the *Manufacturers' Record*, of Baltimore, and a recognised authority on the subject. This gentleman wrote to the *New York Herald* protesting against the harm done by those politicians who for reasons "the public now generally understand" assert that the low price of cotton is the result of the British order in council. Nothing of the sort, says this authority; it is due to the fact that the crop this year will be nearly 2,500,000 bales larger than last year. With this enormous increase placed alongside the reduced consumption both at home and abroad the fall in price was natural, indeed inevitable. He goes on to contend that the agitation is doing the South incredible harm, and represents an effort to rouse antagonism to Great Britain and hamper the President. The South is in no danger of being ruined, he further explains, and demands that the agitation should cease. That communication throws a flood of light upon what has been going on in the South. With their usual impish cunning, Germans and German sympathisers in America have used the quite natural and inevitable embarrassments of the cotton trade to blacken Great Britain's character and to excite animosity against a nation perfectly innocent of doing the American Republic any harm or wishing to do it any. But we must defend our lives, and must make it plain that we shall henceforth listen to no remonstrances of the kind Mr. Page has been instructed to treat us to and submit to no dictation whether based on political exigencies within the Republic or not. Where damage is done that we can repair we may be prepared to pay, in spite of the unpleasant savour of the *Alabama* claims extortion, but we cannot allow even our kinsmen of the North American Republic to be the arbiters of our fate.

It was stated in the beginning of the week by the Washington correspondent of the *Times* that the International Mercantile Marine Co. is about to be reorganised. This, as we must always remind readers, is the official name of the old "Morgan Shipping Combine," one of the most ambitious and, we are sorry to have to add, one of the most unscrupulously dishonest shipping trusts ever formed. It is loaded down with a capital of £35,118,000, which is to be cut down to £17,874,000, or very nearly by one-half, and it will still be too high, even allowing for the fact that the company possesses in the "White Star" line one of the finest and most profitable mercantile fleets in existence. It is proposed that a new company shall be formed to buy the ships of the over-capitalised International Mercantile Marine, which must be in a perfectly hopeless position in the present state of trade. Holders of the existing company's 4½ per cent. bond will be given 50 per cent. of the nominal value of what they now possess in new 5 per cent. convertible bonds and the other 50 per cent. in new 6 per cent. non-cumulative preferred stock. Holders of the existing 5 per cent. bonds will also get 50 per cent. in the new 5 per cent. and only 20 per cent. of the new 6 per cent. preferred stock and 30 per cent. in the new



common stock. Apparently the old common stock is to be subjected to a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. assessment, which, however, will yield only £508,000, or perhaps something between one-fifth and one-tenth of the money actually needed to put the fleet in a first-class condition. Preferred stockholders in the derelict company will receive  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their present holdings in new convertible bonds and 20 per cent. in new common stock, and the common stockholders will get  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in these new 5 per cent. bond and 5 per cent. in new common stock. Thus the whole series of paper securities is to be scaled down, and even so the capital will be too heavy to give much hope of dividend for even the preferred stockholders. When the swap is completed the new company will be burdened with £7,907,000 of new 5 per cent. convertible bonds, £6,293,000 of new 6 per cent. non-cumulative preferred stock, and £3,674,000 of new common stock. In the existing company the preferred stock amounts to £10,350,000 and the common to £9,986,000. Presumably the bonds of some of the constituent companies amounting to about £1,200,000 will be left where they are.

It will be seen from our tables of banking statistics that the loan average of the New York banks for the week ended July 31 showed an aggregate of £514,232,000, which was £1,966,000 more than the week before. Deposit liabilities of the current account and "time" character were likewise higher, the one by £3,602,000 and the other by £1,020,000, or together by £4,622,000. For all that, the surplus reserve increased by £2,210,000 to £35,730,000 on the week's comparison. The market, therefore, continues strong, although there is nothing either in its position or prosperity to support the fantastic prophecy of Mr. H. G. Wells printed in Monday's *Daily Chronicle*. Really, it is amazing how some writers can foist off as wisdom any sort of ignorant balderdash on the public with perfect impunity once they have become "popular." Amid a flood of rather smoothly-written, if shallow and uninstructed commonplace, meant for "optimism," we come bang upon this sort of stuff, written, we presume, to please the Yankee:—"I will assume that, whatever happens, the United States will remain morally above"—why "morally" above?—"the possibility of participation in the struggle. One thing follows upon these assumptions almost inevitably. The United States will take the financial sceptre out of the hands of London, and become the country of rich men, the usurer country, to which all other countries will be in debt. An exhausted Germany will face the peace with no gold and enormously depreciated paper currency; France and Great Britain will be in a scarcely better position. For the necessary capital for peace recuperation, just as much as for war supplies, they must look to America. England will cease to be the 'fat' land of the world; that doubtful privilege of fatness will pass across the Atlantic." After a prophetic vision of this kind, it is mere Grub Street twaddle to be told that we are fighting this war largely on our savings, on our social "fat." Well, well, to be sure!

### Insurance News.

Striking progress was made by the European Accident Insurance Co. during the year 1914, and at the meeting last week the directors were in the pleasant position of being able to declare a first dividend. Established as recently as 1911, and with a paid-up capital of only £146,192, the premium income for 1914 amounted to £151,611, or nearly double the total for 1913, when £80,136 was earned. After deduction of reinsurance the nett premiums were £65,827, an increase of £35,811. Depreciation in investments having been provided for, and provision made for unearned premiums and unsettled claims, the nett profit was £10,404, against £1,707, and with the addition of £124 brought in, the available total was £10,528. A dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, requires £6,000, and the directors propose forming a reserve fund to the amount of £2,400. The statutory distribution to the

directors represents £880, and £1,247 is carried forward.

In reply to inquiries as to whether it was one of the conditions of the Government aircraft insurance policy that it should be subject to average on a basis dependent on the proportion the amount of the policy bore to that of the fire insurance policy on the same premises, the President of the Board of Trade has intimated that where property is insured for not less than the sum insured in the fire policy the aircraft policy is not subject to average unless the fire policy itself is subject to average. As a general rule ordinary house property is not insured against fire subject to average, and the ordinary householder will therefore, if he insures against aircraft risks for the full value of his fire policy, be able to recover up to that value. If he chooses to insure for less than the fire value a proportion only of the loss will be recoverable. This condition is printed on all policies issued under the Government scheme. An official of one of the leading fire insurance companies estimates that one property owner in every thousand has so far taken out a policy, but the demand for policies goes on steadily. Certain small owners appear to consider even the nominal 2s. rate on private houses as too much, but they entirely lose sight of the fact that the rate is a flat one, covering all similar property throughout the country, and that a large volume of premiums must be collected to provide against contingencies that may or may not occur. Damage might be caused to a single building that would take a great many small premiums to make good.

Fire losses in Canada and the United States in June amounted to £2,179,000. The figures for the corresponding month last year were £5,870,000, but this total included the Salem losses of £2,600,000, and after allowing for this the June total this year shows a saving of well over a million sterling to underwriters. For the first half of the current year the losses amount to £18,480,000—a decrease of no less than £8,120,000 when compared with the first half of 1914, and a decrease of £5,260,000 in comparison with the corresponding half of 1913. Given a moderately favourable experience for the current half-year, underwriters appear to stand a fair chance of recouping themselves after a series of unsatisfactory years. In Massachusetts the authorities have taken the lesson of the Salem conflagration to heart, and are determined to profit by it, large sums having been spent on improvements in the water supply.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Considering the large increases in the output of plantation rubber the price of the commodity remains wonderfully steady, standard grades ranging from 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d., or only a farthing lower than last week. Most of the July returns for the Eastern plantation companies are now available, and in the great majority of cases they show substantial advances on last year's figures. The lead is taken by United Serdang, which for 11 months reports an increase of no less than 616,000 lbs. Langen for a corresponding period has an increase of 129,000 lbs., Lumut for 10 months has gained 130,000 lbs., Sialang for six months is up 163,000 lbs., and United Sumatra for seven months shows an improvement of 110,000 lbs. These are the best results, but nearly all the leading companies have more or less important gains to their credit. Of course, the deficiency in supplies of wild rubber has to be taken into account, but even so the price would be more seriously affected if it were not for the exceptionally heavy demands created by the war, and prudent directors will begin to make provision for the lean period that must lie ahead.

It is satisfactory to find from the comprehensive report issued by the Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., of Delaware, that while the disturbed condition of the country has naturally caused great loss owing to the interruption of business, the direct losses were entirely incident to war conditions, and were not the result of



malice or desire on the part of any of the warring parties to injure the properties. In fact, the directors claim that the company and its subsidiaries—the Mexican Petroleum Co. of California and the Huasteca Petroleum Co.—“are known in Mexico as the friends of the people and the supporters of no faction,” which we presume is a sly dig at the attitude of the Standard Oil group. Under the circumstances the profit of \$2,763,055 for the year 1914 may be regarded as a very creditable achievement. This is \$1,512,000 less than for the previous year, but on that occasion \$907,000 was included as profit from the sale of Petroleum Transport Co.'s stock, and the comparison is therefore more favourable than it looks at first sight. The surplus now stands at \$8,372,700, while the reserves have been increased by \$423,870 to \$1,419,480, and the bonded debt has been reduced by \$1,015,000 to \$4,681,700. Cost of properties has risen \$1,248,870 to \$59,195,280, while cash in hand of trustees is \$40,950 higher at \$284,848, and the free cash has increased \$498,760 to \$665,825. Dues and taxes paid to the Mexican Government under protest are up \$301,320, but accounts receivable are down \$366,460, and bills payable are \$157,060 lower. On the whole, the position appears to be fairly encouraging, and the company should do well whenever the distressed country grows sick of periodical revolutions and settles down to the peaceful development of its wonderful resources.

Nothing very cheerful is recorded in the report of the Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd., for the year to March 31 last. The gross income was £26,951, of which £15,831, or £10,480 less, came from the Russian company and £10,760, or £3,180 less, from interest and dividends. After meeting the debenture service and other charges, there is a balance of £15,018, which it is proposed to carry forward, while a year ago the directors were able to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent., leaving a surplus of £2,840. The liability of the Russian company to the Government for the 1910-11 royalties, amounting to £41,388, has now been liquidated, the final payment having been made from funds temporarily borrowed in Russia, but if necessary the English company will advance the amount to pay off this debt, which constitutes the last of the liabilities of the Russian company to be dealt with under the reconstruction scheme of 1912. Production of crude oil fell from 4,921,600 poods to 3,384,300 poods, and the average price realised was only 35.73 kopeks per pood, against 40.48 kopeks. It may be recalled that there was a strike at Baku in June and July last year, and this not only stopped production while it lasted, but it reduced the output subsequently owing to the wells being damaged and flooded. The effect of this was seen in a drop in the weekly average production from 89,320 to 65,590 poods, but the average has lately improved to 74,000 poods, exclusive of the intermittent fountain production from Well No. 11, which has amounted to 221,500 poods. This well has been carried to a depth of 3,108 ft., and at one time it produced nearly 100 tons in four hours, but unfortunately it got choked with sand, and much trouble has been encountered in clearing it. Many of the best balers and drillers, it is said, have been mobilised for service in the Russian army. The directors have not felt justified in proceeding with two new wells pending a settlement of the question of royalties, a reduction in which was recommended by a Government Commission more than five years ago. Certainly 40 per cent. seems an excessive share for the Government to annex.

BRITISH BORNEO PARA RUBBER CO., LTD.—Owing to lack of rain the output for the year ended April 30 fell short of the estimate by about 14,500 lbs. It was, however, 21,783 lbs. larger than in the previous year at 196,458 lbs., and as a further reduction of 4½d. was effected in the “all-in” cost, bringing it down to 1s. 2½d., profits, including £333 brought in, were £3,625 up at £8,785 despite the decrease of 1½d. to 2s. 2½d. in the nett price. The dividend is therefore increased from 9 per cent. to 15.275 per cent., and £612 more at £1,452 is carried forward. Payment of this dividend brings up the total return to ordinary shareholders to £28,000, and consequently, according to the articles of association, the 2,000 shares that have

hitherto been deferred shares will become ordinary shares and rank as such. Debenture stock to the extent of £2,000 is to be repaid, reducing the amount outstanding to £12,000.

DHAMAI TEA CO., LTD.—The crop for 1914 fell short of the estimate by 32,754 lbs. at 791,246 lbs. owing to an early close at Dhamai, which spoiled the promise of a “record” harvest, and also to the fact that although the crop from Kapnapahar was the highest so far it suffered towards the end of the year from want of rain. Very high prices, however, were obtained towards the end of the season, the average being .85d. up at 8.94d., so that the available total, including much the same at £1,648 brought in, showed an increase of £3,826 at £10,226. Out of this £1,500 against nothing is written off for depreciation of investments, the transfer to insurance fund is doubled at £2,000, and £1,111 more at £1,601 is set aside to development fund, leaving £1,862 to be carried forward after repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. on the deferred shares. Cash, less a loan of £2,400 due to the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., is £1,727 down at £45, and investments have been reduced by £1,500 to £11,599, but tea unrealised at the end of the year is £7,394 higher at £18,671. Prospects are quite good, and the crop to date for 1915 is ahead of the previous year, the unusually dry weather in the early months of the current year having been followed by abundant rain.

## The Week in Mines.

The past week has witnessed no material change in the condition of the mining markets. Business has been very quiet in all departments, but apart from Indian shares, which have shown a weak tendency, the tone has been quite steady. In the South African department Modder Deeps have been prominently firm, and Copper shares have developed fresh strength on bullish American advices regarding the domestic demand for the metal. The position of the mining industry generally, however, gives encouragement to shareholders, and in some cases prices are higher than at the outbreak of war. Gold production in the principal fields shows an increase on last year, especially in South Africa, and the high prices now ruling for base metals mean good profits to those companies which are able to dispose of their products freely.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The outstanding event in the South African market has been the strength of Modder Deeps, which were bought on the news that the directors had decided to increase the capacity of the reduction works from 30,000 tons to 40,000 tons per month, at an estimated cost of £23,000, most of which will not be payable till next year. The shares quickly rose ¼ to 4½, but then reacted on a few realisations to 4¼. Brakpans have been in continued request, and have changed hands at over 3. Gedulds have also been in demand, and have risen 1s. 6d. to 29s. 6d., and Daggafontein Golds have been fairly active, and show a rise of about 1s. at 7s. 6d. City Deeps have been supported at 3 5-32, and Central Minings have recovered ¼ to 6½. Gold Fields were bought at 1 9-32, but Randfonteins have been on offer at 11s. 3d. New Modders, after touching 14½, relapsed to 14¼, and Modder Leases have been in demand at about 22s. In the Rhodesian section, Mashonaland Agencys rose 6d. in spite of reconstruction, but Tanganyikas have been dull at 1 1-8, though some support was forthcoming later at 24s. Chartered have remained at about 10s. Among diamond shares De Beers deferred fell ½ to 9½, and Premier deferred ¼ to 4, but Jagersfonteins have been rather firmer at 1 7-8. West African shares have been very uninteresting, but Abbontiakoons have been dealt in at 7s. 9d.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

This week has witnessed the disappearance of the principal gambling counter from the American copper share market, namely, Amalgamated. Dealings now take place in Anacondas, in lieu thereof, but the new shares have not come on the market yet. In connection with the Committee's notice permitting dealings in the “rights” of Amalgamated shareholders to obtain Anaconda shares, but prohibiting dealing in the Anaconda shares resulting from the rights, the Committee now states that applications for certificates of good delivery in respect of the Anacondas given in exchange for Amalgamateds should be made to the sub-committee. Anacondas have been in good demand on American account and have risen ¾ to 7¾, while Utah



has rallied from 13½ to 14½. Rio Tintos, however, have been dull at 55, a fall of ½ on the week, and Morgans have declined 1½ to 2½.

Broken Hill shares have been quietly steady, except Norths, which have fallen to 1½, and Zinc Corporations, which are easier at 12s. 6d. The Russian group has been rather depressed, Kyshtims being sold down to 1½. Oroville shares have been in good demand at 15s., and the Cobalt descriptions have been supported. Indian shares have been on offer, notably Mysore, which are no better than 3½, Nundydroogs at 24s. 9d., a fall of 1s., and Ooregums at 25s.

### MINING NEWS.

**CENTRAL ZINC.**—This company, which is one of the few concerns producing spelter in this country, contemplates a considerable extension of its works. The company, however, is not in a strong financial position, and its parent company, the Sulphide Corporation, which supplies it with ore to treat from its mine at Broken Hill, has offered it exceptionally good terms in return for an option to take over the undertaking, lock, stock and barrel, any time up to March 31 next at the par value of the shares, with interest at 5 per cent. for the year. As the company has never paid a dividend out of its own profits, and in view of the fact that the present price of spelter will certainly not last very long, the terms seem very favourable to the Central Zinc shareholders. It is satisfactory to learn that the difficulty which has been experienced in this country in regard to the shortage of skilled labour for the English smelters is being met in the best manner possible—namely, by the employment of the many skilled Belgian refugees who before the war were at work in the big smelting plants on the Continent.

**FORUM RIVER (NIGERIA) TIN.**—The accounts for the year ended March 31 show a nett profit of £8,326, which compares with £133 in the preceding 12 months, making, with the sum brought in, £9,794. A dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, is recommended, against nil last year and 5 per cent. in the previous year, leaving £3,148 to be carried forward. The first pipeline was not in full commission until August 17, but the total output of dressed ore was 285 tons. On an average, the price realised was £113 14s. 5d., equivalent to £155 16s. 5d. metallic. Mine costs amounted to £48 19s. 7d., and the "all in" costs to £88 2s. 4d. per ton of dressed ore.

**ARIZONA COPPER.**—The profits for the half-year ended March 31 amounted to £218,512, as compared with £149,330 last year and £212,513 in the same period of 1912-13. This large increase was due to the higher prices realised for copper in the latter part of the period. An interim dividend of 1s. per share is again to be paid. The production for the six months was 8,774 tons, as compared with 9,469 tons, and the average price obtained was £55 5s. 8d. In the current half-year the prices realised have been considerably higher. The directors have decided to refine electrolytically a portion of the production to make it more suitable for manufacturers of war munitions.

**WEST AFRICAN MINES.**—The profit and loss account for the year ended December 31 shows a debit of £7,594, which, deducted from £12,337 brought forward, leaves a balance of £4,742. It is explained that the deficit was due to active prospecting work which produced disappointing results, and it has been decided to surrender certain of the exclusive prospecting licences. An arrangement has been made to work the mining leases under tribute. Last year the output of tin amounted to 124 tons, and from January to June a further 40 tons were won.

**WEARDALE LEAD.**—This company, which operates in Durham, reports favourable results for the year ended June 30. Profits amounted to £19,995, a decrease of only £336, in spite of the dislocation caused by the war. It is proposed to take £2,000 from dividend reserve, making the available balance £18,752. The dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., free of tax, and a bonus of 5 per cent. is also to be paid, as against 2½ per cent. last year. The sum of £4,800, or £2,400 less, is written off property account, and £2,000 is written off investments, leaving £2,160, as compared with £2,757, to be carried forward.

**MASHONALAND AGENCY.**—The accounts for the year 1914 show a profit of £15,197, as compared with £10,016 in 1913 and £5,503 in 1912, and the amount now standing to the credit of profit and loss is £33,476. None of this balance, however, is available owing to the heavy depreciation which has occurred in the investments. But as the company is now receiving a substantial and regular income from its investments and land the board proposes to carry out a reconstruction which will render income available for dividends, instead of being accumulated as a reserve to cover depreciation. It is proposed to reduce the capital from £400,000 to £200,000. A new company will be formed, and shareholders will receive one 10s. share for every £1 share now held. In addition shareholders will receive a cash distribution of 2½ per cent. on their present holdings.

**NEW RIEFTONTEIN ESTATE GOLD.**—It has just been announced that the directors have decided to close down the mine. Since the beginning of this year the operations of the company have resulted in a loss. It was hoped that the pay chute would improve below the big dyke, but it has not done so, and the mine is regarded as having been exhausted of profitable ore. The

original company was formed 23 years ago, and since its re-organisation in 1905 122½ per cent. has been paid in dividends, the last distribution being 2½ per cent. for 1914.

**ALASKAN GROUP MISHAPS.**—Last month rumours were in circulation of accidents having occurred at the Alaskan Treadwell group of mines, but they have proved to be exaggerated. The accidents both on the surface and underground are considered of minor importance. The hoisting engine had a breakage, but it was soon repaired, and hoisting was soon resumed. There was also a caving-in of ground, but the loss of ore will not be serious, and the workings are not endangered.

**DIAMOND EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.**—The *Amsterdam Telegraaf*, in reporting on the diamond industry, states that in the week ended July 24 the amount of polished diamonds exported to the United States was £36,058, as compared with £53,139 in the preceding week. In the corresponding week of last year the total value was £51,443. Although there was a decrease in the week under review, the trade has shown a marked improvement on the condition reported in the earlier stages of the war. Rough diamonds to the value of £836 were exported against £101 in the preceding week, and £2,810 in the same week of last year. The Press Bureau announces that the importation of unset diamonds by persons without a licence after August 4 is prohibited. A breach of this order will make the diamonds liable to confiscation. Applications for licences must be addressed to the Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, and envelopes must be marked "Diamonds, T.E. Dept." A further order has been promulgated prohibiting the export of rough diamonds suitable for industrial use, except under licence, which may be obtained from the War Trade Dept., 4, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.

### What Balance Sheets Tell.

#### GUERNSEY BANKING CO., LTD.

The results of the trading for the year ended June 30 were quite satisfactory, profits being £642 up at £11,084. Unfortunately the directors have had to appropriate £4,532 to make good the depreciation in general investments, so that nett profits were £3,891 less at £6,552. A dividend of 26s. per share is again paid, but only £202 is carried forward, against £475 brought in. A year ago £1,000 was applied in converting into sterling the second reserve amounting to £20,000, £1,500 was set aside for bad and doubtful debts, and £1,000 for pension fund. In order to make good the depreciation in the value of the Consols representing the reserve funds, it has been decided to purchase £5,000 of the new 4½ per cent. War Loan, and to charge cost of same to the second reserve, reducing it to £15,000. The aggregate of the investments is £9,154 higher at £126,365, rents and other bonds and shares having risen by £5,835, and other property by £3,006. Bank notes issued are £2,200 up at £39,731, and the amounts due to customers, &c., show an increase of £9,951 at £310,068, against which advances to customers, &c., come to £242,278.

#### YORK STREET FLAX SPINNING CO., LTD.

We are told in the report for the year ended June 30 that the outbreak of war considerably affected, at least temporarily, the course of the linen trade, but, for all that, the nett profits of this company, following a decrease of nearly £9,000, rose £6,428 to £63,226. Moreover, the balance of £26,813 was slightly larger, so that altogether there was £6,856 more at £90,039 to distribute, and in addition to maintaining the ordinary dividend at 8 per cent. and setting aside £10,000 as before to capital reserve, the directors transfer £5,000 to reserve against £2,000 to marine insurance reserve, and carry forward £806 more at £27,709. During the year £7,899 was spent on the York Road branch, while small sums were spent on various other properties, raising the total account by £8,624 to £751,632. Less the capital reserve, however, which now aggregates £450,000, the account is £1,376 down at £301,632. Cash at the bank is £27,601 up at £44,851, bills receivable show an increase of £4,989 at £28,668, debtors owe £8,062 more at £286,320, and stock is £7,069 larger at 643,953. Among the liabilities open accounts have risen by £26,925 to £91,676, and terminable loans by £15,378 to £91,649, but the total of these general liabilities, including £60,329 of bills payable, is only £243,839 compared with sundry assets amounting to £1,004,416, so that the company occupies a very favourable position. Moreover, in addition to the capital reserve, it has a reserve of £200,000 and a marine insurance fund of £5,000.

#### RYLANDS AND SONS, LTD.

This company did very well during its half-year ended June 30, and more than made up for the slump of £15,700 shown a year ago, profits being £18,026 larger at £99,975. The balance brought in was slightly smaller at £52,156, but the total of £152,131 available was still £16,718 better than in 1914. Nevertheless, the directors are content merely to maintain the dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., payment of which requires over £3,000 less than in the corresponding half-year of 1914, owing to the higher income-tax, so that they have £19,999 more at £84,944 to carry forward. In January last a large portion of the New High Street and the whole of the Bread Street block was purchased, thus accounting for the increase of £61,816 in freehold and leasehold land, plant, &c., making the total £724,401. Stock, investments, bills receivable, and cash, however, are £50,823 down at £3,249,735. Sundry liabilities also have been reduced by £5,724 to £967,730 and contingent liabilities on customers' bills discounted—not included in the balance-sheet total—by £47,594 to £96,490. The company holds reserves of £750,000, and is in a distinctly comfortable position.



**SOUTH SUBURBAN GAS CO.**

The increase in the price of gas necessitated by the exorbitant coal prices affected this company in two quite different ways. It largely increased the gross revenue, which was £23,084 up at £221,755, £15,875 of the increase being due to sales of gas, although the actual consumption was only .06 per cent. larger, and at the same time automatically reduced the dividend. Continuing with the revenue account, we find that price of coal, wages, &c., went up £18,073, while £2,605 was set aside for War Fund, bonus and allowances, so that, despite the reduction of £3,798 in the distribution of gas, expenses were £14,072 higher at £180,508. This left a nett revenue of £41,247, or £9,012 more, but the balance brought in only amounted to £189, against £7,429, so that the available total was less than £2,000 better at £41,436. The dividends on the ordinary and West Kent stocks are both reduced to £4 16s. 8d. per cent., the one by £1 3s. 4d. per cent. and the other by 4s. 7d. per cent., leaving £5,074, or £3,793 more, to be carried forward. The debit balance at capital account shows an increase of £3,969 at £11,204. Cash is £15,136 up at £20,178, stocks have risen by £2,325 to £62,626, and various sums due for private rental, &c., by £6,366 to £45,976. Among liabilities, the temporary loan shows a decrease of £40,000 at £25,000, but sundry creditors are £42,626 up at £64,988. We may also note that the receipts from residuals, £7,601 larger at £50,188, have been favourably affected by a great improvement in the demand for coke, and to a lesser degree in that for sulphate of ammonia.

**BRENTFORD GAS CO.**

For the past half-year the nett profit amounted to £67,493, an increase of £11,290, but the accounts include for the first time the figures of the Staines and Egham and the Sunbury Gas Cos., so that no exact comparison is possible. The directors state that both these concerns taken over are showing satisfactory results. With an increase of £5,050 in the amount brought forward, there is an available balance of £116,488, after providing £19,310 compensation to directors of the Staines and Sunbury companies, and this allows of a dividend at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the "A" stock and £5 10s. per cent. per annum on the "B" stock. The reorganisation of the capital and the acquisition of the two companies mentioned have added £1,164,656 to the capital account, which is now in credit to the extent of £13,143, against a debit last year of £57,680. Sale of gas produced £16,500 more, meter rents £7,090 more, and residuals £4,190 more, but expenses went up £16,496. An overdraft of £25,650 has been repaid.

**WILLIAM HANCOCK AND CO., LTD.**

After making full provision for depreciation of plant, bad debts, &c., profits for the year ended May 31 were £2,493 down at £45,836, and as a slightly smaller balance of £1,032 was brought in, the available total, at £46,868, showed a decrease of £2,864. The dividend on the deferred ordinary shares is therefore reduced from 8 per cent. to 6, and the transfer to reserve from £4,000 to £3,000, leaving £2,037 more at £3,169 to be carried forward. Brewery buildings and goodwill have risen by £2,011 to £262,911, licensed houses, &c., by £3,792 to £460,149, and plant, horses, &c., by £7,629 to £88,810, against a paid-up capital of £545,000 and a debenture debt of £200,000. Stock is £8,470 lower at £69,473, but debtors owe £2,240 more at £63,227, a decrease of £3,913 in debtors for rent having been more than offset by an increase of £6,072 in trade debtors. Cash is £3,355 up at £4,786, while trade creditors come to £5,981 less at £82,033, but the bank overdraft has been increased by £8,659 to £54,339.

**BRITISH NEW GUINEA DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.**

The year ended January 31 was to have marked the turning-point in this company's career, but these expectations were completely upset by the war. Shipping facilities from Papua to Europe were unobtainable, so that the greater part of the produce from the plantations was not realised, and was therefore not brought into revenue account. The value put upon it by the manager was £7,813, and the whole of this has been written off plantation expenditure. Work on the sisal hemp plantations was delayed by the impossibility of obtaining from Belgium the tramlines ordered a few weeks before the outbreak of war, but a supply has since been secured from Australia, and treatment is to be started this month. The growth and manufacture of tobacco are also being actively continued, and the directors speak very hopefully of the prospects of both these products. Receipts for the year amounted to £8,126, or £411 less than in the preceding 13 months, but the directors have this time charged only 25 per cent. of the expenditure to capital account as against 75 per cent. last time, and the nett profit is consequently £5,212 smaller at £299.

**ARGENTINE EASTERN LAND CO., LTD.**

The year 1914 was a most unprofitable one for this company, for, in addition to the accentuation of the commercial crisis in the Argentine by the outbreak of war, an extremely wet season was experienced in the districts worked by the company. Consequently profits on land sales only amounted to £1,830, as compared with £7,964 in 1914, while there was a corresponding decline in crop profits and in the revenue from the two estancias. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the nett revenue was £8,310 lower than in 1913, and only came to £524. The balance brought in was considerably larger at £1,086, but the available total was still £7,301 down at £1,610, the whole of which is carried forward. In the previous year a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, and £2,200 transferred to reserve in respect of outstanding instalments of land sold. Among the various properties the only change of any importance is an increase of £5,856 in the land, live stock, &c., of San Justo, making its

total value £57,118. Debtors owe £5,407 less at £12,006, and cash has been reduced by £1,670 to £38, but a remittance in transit forms a new entry for £2,000. Sundry creditors are £6,357 lower at £5,558, but the company has had to borrow £12,085 from its bankers. Since the close of the year a call of 2s. 6d. per share has been made on the capital, making 7s. 6d. paid. This call amounts to £6,250, out of which loans to the company have been reduced to £6,000 approximately. The directors are looking for a considerable improvement in average yearly results as soon as conditions in the Argentine become more normal by reason of the favourable position of the properties, and the fact that the estancias are well stocked with cattle.

**THIRD SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.**

After meeting all expenses and debenture interest, nett revenue for the year ended July 1 was £6,583 down at £32,434, but the dividend is maintained at 8½ per cent., leaving a surplus of £913 or £5,185 less. This is added to the amount brought in, making £15,234 to be carried forward. Owing to the abnormal conditions which prevail, the directors say that it is difficult to submit any reliable valuation of the company's investments, which now number 202, but they are entered in the balance-sheet for £941,451, or £18,161 less. On the other hand, the loan account has been reduced by £13,958 to £30,366, and the bank overdraft by £4,066 to £186.

**BALANCE SHEET FACTS.**

**ARDROSSAN HARBOUR CO.**—For the half-year ended May 31 this company received £27,268 under dues, labour, rents, &c., an increase of £7,203 on the corresponding six months, while expenses came to £18,374 or £4,407 more. After payment of debenture stock interest, the available balance is £6,240. Out of this the preference shares again get a dividend of 4½ per cent. per annum, and £2,865 is left to carry forward, or £2,709 more than in the half-year ended May 31, 1914.

**IMPERIAL COLONIAL FINANCE AND AGENCY CORPORATION, LTD.**—Nett profits for the 12 months ended July 1 showed a decrease of £1,308 at £9,633, and the divisible total, including £4,242 brought forward, was £1,363 smaller at £13,875. Out of this the dividend of 6 per cent. is paid as usual, but there is no bonus this time, compared with 1 per cent. a year ago, and a slightly smaller balance of £4,146 is carried out. Investments are £5,919 down at £216,906, against which the loan from bankers has been reduced by £5,302 to £34,507. As usual, a full list of the securities held, together with the cost of each investment, is given, but, as with other trust companies, no valuation has been attempted on this occasion.

**JOSHUA PERKINS AND SONS (1909), LTD.**—For the year ended June 30 this firm of railway and coach lace trimmings, &c., manufacturers, made a gross profit of £7,258, or £1,431 less than in the preceding 12 months. As, however, £1,230 more at £2,342 was brought in, the divisible balance, after providing £1,938 for repairs and renewals to plant and machinery, income-tax, directors' fees, management salaries, &c., was £249 larger at £7,662. Out of this the preference shares get their dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, while 1s. per share, tax free, or 6d. less, is paid on the ordinary shares. £537 as against £580 is written off plant, machinery, &c., and £1,000, against nothing, transferred to the reserve fund, leaving £189 more at £531 to carry forward. The changes in the balance-sheet are slight, and need not be detailed.

**NEW INVESTMENT CO., LTD.**—The nett revenue for the 12 months ended July 1 showed a decrease of £2,745 at £13,355, and the dividend on the ordinary stock is reduced from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent., less tax, while £315 less at £2,539 is written off certain securities, leaving the balance carried forward unchanged at £5,000. Profits on change of investments only amounted to £804, as against £1,829 a year ago, and, as usual, this sum has been applied in writing down securities. Investments, of which a full list is given, are £4,893 down at £290,747, but the directors are unable to make their customary valuation, owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable quotations.

**HOME RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.**

Name.	Mid-summer, 1915.	Mid-summer, 1914.	Mid-summer, 1913.	Mid-summer, 1912.	Mid-summer, 1911.
Barry .. ..	9½	10	10	7	6½
Chatham, 1st pref..	4	4½	4½	4½	4½
District, 2nd pref. ..	3	3	2½	nil	nil
Gt. Central, 1881 pref.	4	5	5	nil	5
Do. 1889 pref.	4	nil	4	nil	4
Great Eastern .. ..	½	½	½	1½	2½
Great Northern .. ..	3	3	3	3	3
Great Western .. ..	4	4½	4½	3½	4½
Hull and Barnsley..	1½	1½	3	1	2
Lancs. and Yorks...	3½	3	3½	3½	4½
Lon. and N.W. .. ..	5	5	6	5	6
Lon. and S.W. .. ..	4	4	4	3	4
London Brighton ..	1½	1½	1½	1	1½
London Electric ..	1	1	1	1	1
Metropolitan .. ..	1	1½	1½	1½	2
Midland .. ..	3	3	3½	2½	3½
North Eastern .. ..	5½	5½	5½	4½	5½
South Eastern .. ..	1	1	1	1½	1½
Taff Vale .. ..	3½	4	4	3	4
Underground .. ..	6	6	6	4	1½



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## WATNEY, COMBE, REID AND CO.

The ordinary general meeting of Watney, Combe, Reid and Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Mr. H. Cosmo O. Bonsor (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—When we had the pleasure of meeting you last year—although it was hardly a pleasure then—war had just been declared, and I felt that the figures of the past year were of little interest. The future was an absolutely unknown quantity; but to-day, at any rate, I can give you an account of the year's trading. I will, however, say at once that we view the immediate future with considerable anxiety. To begin with, a large part of our profits and the dividend which we are able to propose were earned in the first four months of the year. July was quite an exceptionally good month, and up to September 30 we showed weekly increases in our sales. From October 1 to November 21 we began to feel the effects of the war and to show small decreases in our sales. On September 30 our increase showed as much as 19,000 barrels, but on November 21 that had shrunk to 11,000 barrels. I mention November 21 because that was the day on which the increased taxation was put upon us, or, rather, upon the public. The 11,000 barrels that we had to the good then disappeared in one week. I think it is almost a matter of notoriety that at first the public resented the additional 1d. a pint which was the tax imposed on the standard barrel by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; they resented the tax, and went on to other drinks on which no taxation had been imposed. Consequently, on December 31, we found that we had a very heavy decrease and that the increase had disappeared; the decrease from November 21 to December 31 was equal to 34 per cent. compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. As the spring came on the public gradually returned to the national drink. I hope that was partly from patriotism and partly from the feeling that, after all, the national drink is a much more healthy and agreeable drink than some of the others with which they have been trying to accustom themselves. Gradually our trade has become better, but still at the end of the year we showed a decrease of 137,000 barrels, while the decrease from November 21 to June 30, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, had shrunk to 23 per cent. The public have never come back to stouts and strong ales, which show a decrease of 40 per cent. from November 21 to the end of the year, but they went to what I may call the standard gravity beer, sold at 6d. per quart, and that trade has been more in demand and has decreased the actual percentage to 23 per cent. I do not claim at all that these figures are representative of the brewing industry as a whole, because we have found that in various localities great differences have taken place. Some localities have hardly felt the adverse conditions of the war, while other localities have felt them very seriously. You see in our profit and loss account a figure which I had hoped had disappeared altogether—namely, bad debts. Between £7,000 and £8,000 this year have had to be written off as bad debts purely and simply from certain localities where adverse conditions and shorter hours prevailed. If you turn to the balance-sheet, you will find that we have been able to redeem £64,000 of first preference stock under our Act of Parliament and £143,000 of debenture stock. I think we have been extremely fortunate in being able to do that. As regards what the company has done in connection with the war, I may say at once that I believe we have very nearly established a record. We have done everything we can to assist the Government and our Allies. The Government have requisitioned 106 horses, eight of our motors, and 11 vans, and as much harness, collars, and sundries as they could possibly take. On active service we have two directors—Colonel Serocold, who is in command of a Territorial regiment at the front, and my son Malcolm, who is daily awaiting orders to go. One of our secretaries is also at the front. Sixty of our clerks have joined the colours and 459 of our men. We employ, in round figures, just under 1,000 men; consequently, that means that 46 per cent. of our employees have joined the colours, and I should imagine that that is practically a record in any business. We have allowed to their dependents £1,300. I stated at the commencement of my remarks that we view the present situation and immediate future with considerable anxiety, and I wish to tell you why. To begin with, we have to deal with a decrease in our sales of 23 per cent., and I see no reasonable hope that that percentage will in any way be diminished. I anticipate that it has come to stay. It is in the cost of materials that our greatest anxiety is felt. Barley is up on what it was a year ago at least 10s. per quarter, hops are dearer, and we get very bad accounts from the British hopfields; everything, in fact, that we use is dearer. Timber for our casks has gone to an exorbitant price; coal, as you are all aware, is considerably higher, and horse-keep is also very much dearer. Although we have been working with fewer horses than we had this time last year, yet the large increase in the price of oats and fodder has practically made the figure equal on delivery to what it was a year ago. Those are circumstances over which we have no control. We took into serious consideration, when we were examining our profit and loss account, whether we were justified in proposing the dividend we have recommended. We came to the conclusion, however, that what we had earned during the year, even although we were looking forward to bad times, should be divided among the shareholders,

and I hope you will agree with that view. I now have the honour to propose the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

Mr. Richard Combe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved:—"That a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making 3½ per cent., per annum for the year to June 30, 1915, be declared on the preferred ordinary stock."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Combe and carried unanimously.

## THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER

The seventy-ninth annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., was held at the head office of the bank, York Street, Manchester, on Friday, July 30, 1915.

The chair was occupied by G. C. Haworth, Esq. (chairman of the bank), who was supported by Sir Charles Behrens (deputy-chairman), J. R. Oliver, Esq., Michael Cababé, Esq., Allan H. Bright, Esq., Sir Joseph Verdin, Bart., D.L. (directors), and P. Forrester, Esq. (general manager). (Lord Rochdale arrived later.)

Mr. Peter Forrester having read the notice convening the meeting, and also the auditors' certificates attached to the last two balance-sheets,

The Chairman said: When last I had the honour of addressing you we met under conditions much more favourable than the present. Although there were clouds on the horizon, I do not think any of those who were present at our last meeting anticipated that within the short period of three days our country would be plunged into the greatest war in history. You will agree with me that the strength and vitality of our country have never been revealed so clearly as by the experiences of the past 12 months. We have confidence, however, not only in our military and naval resources, but also in the ability of the Empire to carry this war to a successful issue. The gross profits for the half-year just closed amounted to £103,512, which is considerably more than last half-year, and shows an increase of £11,614 on the corresponding half of 1914. It is true that the Bank rate being at the high level of 5 per cent. has enabled us to make such an improved report in our profits; on the other hand, our turnover has suffered as a result of the restriction of trade in various ways owing to the war. With many of our customers, however, the exigencies of the war have done much to increase their turnover in supplying the demand for the Army and Government requirements. Foreign trade has suffered severely through the war, exports being less than last year, while imports are much higher. The decrease in our exports cannot altogether be attributed to lack of demand, but has been largely caused by the scarcity of ocean-going steamers, together with the high rate of marine insurance. With all that, the turnover of our bank has steadily increased, and the rate of turnover is similar to what we experienced in the corresponding period of last year. As previously named, the gross profits are £103,512, and with the amount brought forward we have a total of £111,693. After deducting the working expenses of £45,328, there is a nett disposable balance of £66,365. This, as I mentioned before, is in excess of last half-year. I might add that the expenses are more than we have had in previous years, the increase being largely as a result of the special expenses arising out of the war, together with the new branch of our bank at Blackpool. The business done, however, at the latter place has more than justified our enterprise in that direction. Whilst referring to the branches let me again remind you that we are about to open an office in St. Helens, the present being a favourable opportunity for extending our operations to that town. The transfers to bank premises account and pension fund are the same as before. We have not made any transfer to the reserve fund this half. Our investments have been kept at a low figure, the values being reduced to market prices. The depreciations thus required have been taken out of our current profits. Turning to the balance-sheet, the important item of current deposit, and other accounts first attracts our attention—viz., £7,023,546. Comparisons with previous balance-sheets all record annual increases. On referring to 20 years ago you will find the deposits were then only one-third of the amount as at June last. Let me remind you that the deposits are usually higher at the end of December than they are at June. The next item—bills accepted by the bank, £418,077—does not call for special comment, nor does the succeeding item—viz., open credits, &c., £266,779. On turning to the other side of the balance-sheet—that is, our assets—you will observe that cash on hand stands at the satisfactory figure of £1,438,633. The item of investments stands at £1,205,182, but to this we have to add our subscription to the new War Loan, amounting to £1,200,000, making a total, with the old War Loan, approaching £2,000,000. This War Loan is very much the character of the whole of our investments, being British Government securities. Bills of exchange stand at £654,076. This would have been much larger had it not been for the war, but owing to the restrictions and difficulties in carrying on foreign trade, to which I have already referred, bills of exchange are somewhat scarce. The total assets, of a more liquid character, amount to £3,297,891, which is equal to the satisfactory percentage of 46.9 of our total liabilities to customers. Loans and advances to customers, £4,372,330. This figure is a little less than the last two half-years, although our deposits have so much increased. In closing these remarks I cannot very well do so without referring to those of our staff—equal to 25 per cent.—who have joined the colours and who are now at the front fighting for the protection of our hearths and homes. Let me assure you that we are dealing with them and their families in a liberal manner. You will regret to learn



that, unfortunately, two have been killed and three are wounded. I think you will agree that it is our duty to pay them a tribute of respect and admiration for their self-sacrificing devotion to their country's cause. But let us not forget those who have to the best of their ability served their country in other ways. Let us express to the staff, from the highest to the lowest, our sense of obligation to those who have stayed at home and undertaken the burdens thrown upon them by the departure of so many of their colleagues. They have faced this burden without a murmur, and have carried on the work of the bank with a hearty goodwill which is none the less patriotic, although not directly in the glare of the limelight.

Mr. Edwin Barlow seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

## FARROW'S BANK, LTD.

### THE WAR'S EFFECT ON BANKS.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE TREASURY.

Presiding at the eleventh annual general meeting of Farrow's Bank, Limited, Mr. Thomas Farrow, the chairman, commented upon the serious situation which had arisen in international affairs since the last meeting of shareholders. No one, he said, could have contemplated that at their last gathering they were on the eve of so stupendous a tragedy or at the commencement of a war the like of which had never been known in the history of the world. It was true that they had had some slight warning by the sudden rise of the Bank rate that England might be involved in a European cataclysm, but that we should have been committed to such an extent no one could have foreseen. That week in August last comprised laborious days and sleepless nights on the part of the directors in preserving the bank's interests. The situation was as grave as could have been imagined for the whole of the banks of the country, but thanks to the initiative, the foresight, the courage of the Government, and in particular of Mr. Lloyd George, the then Chancellor, measures were devised by which panic was averted and public confidence restored. The word "moratorium" had become to bankers as sacrosanct as that blessed word "Mesopotamia" to the old lady of legend and fable. The result of the measures which the Government initiated under the guidance of the leaders of finance and the bankers of the City were such that within a few days from the outbreak of war the banks themselves were able to proceed upon the even tenour of their way practically as if there had been no European crisis and as though the Emperor of Germany had not suddenly thrown the whole of the world's affairs into the melting-pot. It could not be too strongly emphasised that the imagination and the courage which Mr. Lloyd George and his successor in office had shown in rallying to the support of the banking institutions of the country had been of the highest importance, and he was glad to say that Farrow's Bank had been included with all the other joint-stock banks in the assistance which the Treasury had offered, and might still vouchsafe, to them. In the patriotic calls which had been made upon us as a nation, he was glad to record that the clients and customers of Farrow's Bank had done their part. They had responded wholeheartedly to both the War Loans which had been issued, and as a bank they had had the privilege of applying on behalf of their customers and themselves for an appreciable amount of stock. Obviously, the withdrawal of large sums for this purpose had tended to deplete the current account and deposit balances, but despite that result, the balance-sheet now submitted disclosed the fact that the bank had increased its figures all round in such a way as he was sure would command the satisfaction and approval of every shareholder. The bank's assets had reached the sum of £1,880,888 12s. 4d., a near approach to the much-coveted two millions; the current, deposit, thrift, and other accounts had reached the large total of £1,449,272 13s., and in that connection he observed that no less than £1,016,220 12s. 1d. of that sum was represented by deposits which were subject to varying terms of notice. The bank still adhered, and would continue to adhere, to its original policy of refusing to receive deposits at call. Stock, share, and other investments amounted to £490,263 8s. 2d., and the former had been written down to the official minimum prices, or prices quoted in the Official List or by brokers at June 30, 1915. Advances to customers, loans, bills discounted, and other accounts amounted to £1,146,676 4s. The nett profit for the year, including the balance of £8,104 6s. 4d., amounted to £45,810 7s. 6d. £15,000 had this year been added to the reserve fund, as against £7,500 last year and £5,000 in ordinary years. There was a carry-forward of £10,312 18s. 7d. undivided profit, which was larger than that of any previous year. These measures of prudence he believed would commend themselves to the shareholders. The dividend for the year was at the rate of 6 per cent., a reduction of 1 per cent. on previous years, another instance of the directors' desire to husband the resources and to conform to the excellent example offered them in this respect by the other joint-stock banks of the country.

The bank still had the distinction of occupying the premier position in the annual official table which showed the proportion of capital and reserve of all banks possessing a million pounds of share capital and upwards to their liabilities. The foreign department, regardless of the war, had done business which ran into big figures and which had practically doubled themselves during the year; notwithstanding the closing of the Stock Exchange, the stock and share department had made profits which did not compare at all unfavourably with those of previous years; the other departments of the bank, especially that of the

Women's Bank, had similarly shown results beyond all expectations under the abnormal conditions which prevailed.

Excellent progress had also to be recorded with regard to the branches in Scotland and Ireland, thanks largely to the advisory boards of those countries. No less than 25 per cent. of the bank's staff had joined his Majesty's forces under the provision which the bank had made and which had won the commendation of the War Office. He was glad, also, to record that the additional work which this depletion of the staff had entailed was being cheerfully borne by the men who had continued to serve at home.

The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted, and the usual vote of thanks accorded.

## FORUM RIVER (NIGERIA) TIN.

The third ordinary general meeting of Forum River (Nigeria) Tin Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. James Gardiner, the deputy-chairman, presided, stating that he took the chair because Mr. Harry Cotterell, the chairman of the company, was absent through indisposition.

The Secretary (Mr. Wm. H. Stentiford, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The various items on the credit side of the accounts speak for themselves, and the amounts written off the various assets require no comment from me, except possibly the item under the heading "prospecting," from which you will see that we have written off £585 6s. 2d. This represents amount expended on preparatory work necessary for the conduct of tin-winning operations during the year under review. You will be glad to notice that the whole of the balance of the preliminary expenses has been written off out of revenue, and that item will henceforward disappear from our balance-sheet. With regard to the stock of tin ore, the estimate which we have placed upon that which is not yet realised is, we are confident, a safe one, and I may mention here that upon the stock of ore, the value of which we had to estimate at March 31, 1914, we made a profit upon our estimated figures of about £250. We believe we are equally safe in the figure at which we have valued the present stock. Turning to the mining account, you will have noticed that our cost of production at the mine was £48 19s. 7d. per ton, this being a reduction of nearly £5 per ton upon the preceding year's figures, while the "all in" cost shows a reduction of nearly £12 per ton. Dealing with the work of the past year, the first pipe line was, you will remember, in course of transit at the date of our last general meeting. Its delivery and installation was expeditiously carried out, and it was working by the middle of August last. This pipe line is fed by the main East Ditch, which is three and a-half miles long. A second pipe line of about 2,300 ft. in length has now arrived on the property, and is in course of being installed. A jet elevator has been installed and a tin dredging house equipped with six tin dressers and two streaming boxes have been added during the year. The construction of a road to Jos has been commenced, as the Government's proposal for the construction of a main trunk road to feed the railway to Bukuru was abandoned on the outbreak of war. On the all-important question of labour we had no difficulty whatever up to August last. The construction of our camp was thoroughly and systematically carried out, and the Forum Camp was in high favour with the natives, but upon the outbreak of war the native labour left the property in a body, some of the natives having been commandeered for Government service and the remainder fled, either to look after their own farms or from fear of being commandeered by the Government. How serious a matter this was for us is sufficiently evidenced by the table of monthly outputs which we publish in our report. You will notice that for four months after the outbreak of war the amount of the output was only 15 tons per month. Although labour has been gradually attracted back to the property, there has practically ever since been some shortage, and at present there is no disguising the fact that we could do with considerably more labour than our manager has yet been able to secure. With due regard to the maintenance of output prospecting will be continued during the current year, and if the results attained from portions already prospected are maintained in the more extensive areas, we need have no fear as to the future profitable working of our properties. Every report that we have received upon our companies' properties, whether from our own engineers or from outsiders, all go to confirm the fact that the original opinion we formed of its value was not over-estimated, and, given a good supply of labour and a fair market price for tin, we believe we shall be able to come before you in successive years with reports equally satisfactory with that you have in your hands to-day.

Mr. W. S. Coutts seconded the adoption of the report and it was carried unanimously.

## APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Apollinaris and Johannis, Ltd., was held on Thursday, July 22, at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Westlake Lack) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Twelve months ago we had every reason to anticipate that the coming year would show good trade results. Our financial year began well, with large orders on hand, and our returns were most satisfactory quite up to the moment of the declaration of war in August last. As you are



aware, our business was world-wide, and there was hardly a town of any size throughout the civilised world where Apollinaris could not be obtained. At the declaration of war at a flash and without warning we were cut off from our source of supplies, and our export trade consequently came to a standstill. We had, fortunately, in accordance with our usual policy, been in the habit of holding large stocks in this country to meet the requirements of our home trade, and, as I have already stated, last summer the prospects were exceptionally good. Consequently, we had made provision for a large increase in the demand for Apollinaris in this country. These large stocks enabled us to carry on some business, and there still remains on hand in this country a reasonable amount at the service of our customers. No doubt shareholders are anxious about the safety of the spring, buildings, machinery, stocks, &c. We have but meagre information on any of these points, but, so far as we know, the spring and property are intact. At the commencement of the war the German Government, recognising the British interest in Apollinaris, placed official supervisors in control of the spring. I should just like to state again that the company has more than 4,500 British shareholders, who have invested over three millions of money in the enterprise, and who hold 97 per cent. of the total capital. The sale of Apenta forms only a small part of our entire trade. As the Apenta spring is situated in Hungary, our export business has come to a standstill. In this country, fortunately, we hold large stocks, which will enable us to supply the demand for some time to come. The Hungarian Government has treated the interests of the Apenta business with every consideration, and has even, so far as we know, permitted the British members of the staff at the spring to remain at their posts. We feel no uneasiness about the safety of our property in Hungary. The Owens European Bottle Co., Toledo, Ohio, has made a further return of part of the capital upon the shares held by the Apollinaris Co., amounting to £11,748 11s., of which we have received £7,363 8s. 8d. The balance concerns the account of the Rheinahr Bottle Works, which we are, of course, at present unable to settle. Means have been taken in every part of the world to maintain the company's business connections. At the same time, all expenditure has been reduced to the lowest figures consistent with efficiency, and everyone connected with the company is doing his best to further this object. Your directors have since the commencement of the war taken only half the fees to which they were entitled, and they do not propose to take more than that during the continuance of the war. More than a third of the staff has gone on active service; some have found other occupations, and the remainder of the staff has been re-organised in the interests of economy. As mentioned in the report, the debenture interest has been paid to date. With the war raging, and the consequent general disorganisation in our business, and the facts as stated by your auditors, the impossibility of paying a dividend must have been foreseen. A balance-sheet will be presented to you when possible, but that cannot be done until some months after the cessation of hostilities.

Mr. Francis J. Schilling (vice-chairman and managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## Answers to Correspondents.

\*. \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Martha.—Although the company is one of the best and most solid of its kind in the country, with a strong hold also in the United States, it may be some years before the loss of business caused by the war can be made good, and therefore if you can sell without any great loss it might perhaps be best to do so. If you would suffer much in capital, hold on.

E. A.—If you write to your broker, we think he can do something for you at a moderate cost.

C. P. B.—We cannot advise you to sell now. The earnings have fallen off, but the property has value, and its business should recover, though it will take time.

X. L. D.—Yes, it is quite good. A fine business and a strong financial position.

M. W. W.—The interest should be safe enough, and we think you might make a further small purchase.

North.—We fear nothing, but hold on. The end of this struggle does not seem to be in sight, but it must come to an end, and there should be a recovery.

P. U. R.—The shares look to us very high, and although the company is doing well, its financial position is not over strong. We think you should take advantage of the rise and sell.

Salvador Loan Funding Scheme.—The trustees of the Salvador Government 6 per cent. loan of 1908 announce that, in consequence of the commercial dislocation caused by the war in Europe, the revenues have been seriously reduced, and the Government is preparing a funding scheme to deal with the interest on the bonds which may accrue during the present war. Particulars of the scheme should reach London shortly. A further 207 bonds of the loan have been purchased in the market for the sinking fund, making a total of 2,431 cancelled to date.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and July 31, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 31, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to August 1, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,952
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	12,886,000	11,537,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	18,090,000	11,592,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	12,528,000	10,372,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	1,993,000	3,059,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	320,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	13,425,000	6,936,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	41,000	50,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	8,900,000	9,570,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	160,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,002,000	6,472	771,816
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,007,093	677,520
Revenue .....	267,232,000	69,359,565	54,935,336
Total, including Balance .....		152,810,517	65,369,855
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		280,000	275,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	1,500,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		273,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £207,457,000 in 1915-16 and £1,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		208,457,000	1,000,000
Total .....		670,589,862	68,894,855
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 31, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to August 1, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	11,690,848	8,860,775
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	396,324	—
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,451,000	529,682	486,321
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	1,852,260	1,765,267
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,080	774,078	677,787
Supply Services .....	740,496,000	357,961,298	50,323,403
Expenditure .....	804,466,000	373,204,490	62,113,553
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		345,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		23,534,000	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		98,041,667	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		830,000	1,150,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		—	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		—	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (i) (b) .....		50,000	55,000
Section 16 (i) (c) .....		—	55,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (Treasury Bills) .....		15,420,000	—
Total .....		526,658,571	63,334,467
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. July 31. £	1914. Aug. 1. £	
Bank of England .....	143,253,198	4,470,319	
Bank of Ireland .....	678,099	590,069	
Total .....		143,931,291	5,060,388
Total .....		670,589,862	68,894,855

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 31, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	173,384,000
Total .. .. .	£245,884,000

\* Includes £231,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August 2, 1915.

A branch of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., will be opened at Shanghai on August 9.

The offices of the Brazil Railway Co. and the Sorocabana Railway Co. have been removed to 9, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

European Oilfields.—Production week ended 1st inst., 90,300 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 54½ coopecks per pood.

As the result of the war, the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for July amounted to 108,178 tons, while the imports were 84,860 tons.

The National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, Ltd.—Mr. Robert C. Nesbitt has been elected chairman of the board for Great Britain and Ireland in succession to the late Mr. C. E. Bright, C.M.G. Mr. Nesbitt has been a member of the board since 1902.



The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be OPENED on 6th August, and will be CLOSED on or before 11th August, 1915.

# LONDON & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

ISSUE OF

**£1,500,000 FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. REDEEMABLE PREFERENCE STOCK.**

To be Redeemed at Par (£100 per cent.) on 30th June, 1925.

**PRICE OF ISSUE £96 PER CENT.**

Dividend on the full amount of Stock allotted will accrue from 1st July, 1915. The stock will rank as to security parri passu with the existing 4 per cent. Preference Stock (1902) of the Company.

The Dividend on the Stock will be payable Half-yearly, on the 1st July and 1st January, by warrant, which will be sent by post unless otherwise directed. A full Half-year's Dividend will be paid on 1st January next.

Trustees are authorised to invest in this Stock, subject to the provisions set forth in the Trustee Act, 1893.

MESSRS GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO. are authorised by the Directors of the London and North Western Railway Company to receive applications for the above-mentioned Stock at the price of £96 per cent., payable as follows:—

**£5 per cent. on application; £91 per cent. on 26th August**

In default of payment of the balance, the Allotment will be subject to cancellation, and the amount previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. should be made to MESSRS GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO., 67 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Applications must be for multiples of £10 Stock. No allotment will be made of a less amount than £10 Stock.

In case of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid as deposit will be applied towards payment for the Stock allotted. Should there be a surplus after making that payment such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications from existing holders of Perpetual Debenture, Consolidated Guaranteed, Consolidated Preference, Preference (1902), and Consolidated (Ordinary) Stocks will have preferential consideration.

Allotment Letters, with receipt appended, should be sent to the Secretary's Office, Euston Station, London, for registration not later than the 15th November, 1915. No dividend will be paid in respect of any holding until the Allotment Letter has been received for registration.

A Form of Renunciation will be attached to the Allotment Letter.

A commission of 5s per cent. will be allowed to Bankers and Brokers on allotments made in respect of applications bearing their stamp.

Application for a quotation will in due course be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from Messrs Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67 Lombard street, London, E.C.; Messrs Harris and Co., 21 Birch Lane, London, E.C.; or from the Secretary of the Company, Euston Station, London, N.W.

The Treasury has been consulted under the Notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raise no objection to this issue. It must be distinctly understood that, in considering whether they have, or have not, any objections to new issues, the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them. 5th August, 1915.

This Form may be used.

N No.....

Applications should be forwarded direct to Messrs Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., 67, Lombard street, E.C.

## LONDON & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Issue of £1,500,000 4½ per Cent.

Redeemable Preference Stock at £96 per cent.

To the London & North Western Railway Co.,

Care of Messrs GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.,  
67, Lombard street, London, E.C.

.....hereby request you to allot to..... \*£..... of the above-mentioned Stock in terms of the Prospectus of the 5th August, 1915, and..... hereby agree to accept the same or any less amount that may be allotted to..... The sum of £..... being the amount of the required deposit at the rate of £5 for every £100 applied for, is enclosed herewith, and..... hereby engage to pay the balance when due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this application, as provided by the said Prospectus.

Usual Signature.....

Name in Full.....

Address.....

Occupation or Description.....

Please write distinctly.

Date....., 1915.

\* Applications must be for not less than £10 Stock, and must be for multiples of £10 Stock.

All Cheques to be made payable to Bearer and Crossed, and when altered from "Order" to "Bearer" the alteration must be signed by the Drawer. A separate Cheque must accompany each Application. An acknowledgment will be forwarded in due course, either by Allotment Letter or by return of the Deposit.

## NOTICE.

### TRADING WITH THE ENEMY AMENDMENT ACT, 1915.

**Public Trustee—Custodian for England and Wales of Enemy Property.**

The attention of Bankers, Traders and Others is directed to the provisions of the New Act, which further amends the law relating to trading with the enemy. Special attention is directed to the following requirements:—

1. Dividends and interest payable in respect of **ALL CLASSES** of securities held for enemies are now payable to the Custodian. Under the provisions of the new Act interest on securities issued by or on behalf of British, Colonial or Foreign Governments or Corporations or Municipal or other Authorities, and monies representing the payment off of the capital of any securities are payable to the Custodian. The duty of making such payments to the Custodian and of furnishing him with the necessary particulars rests with the person, firm or company through whom the payments in the United Kingdom are made.

**ACCOUNTABLE PARTIES SHOULD APPLY TO THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE FOR RECEIVABLE ORDER "A," UPON WHICH THE RETURN SHOULD BE MADE. NO MONEY SHOULD ACCOMPANY THE RECEIVABLE ORDER, BUT A WARRANT DIRECTING PAYMENT WILL BE ISSUED IN DUE COURSE.**

N.B.—Where Coupons or Drawn Bonds to Bearer are held for the accounts of enemy persons the holder should apply to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, Whitehall, S.W., for a Licence authorising the presentation for payment of such instruments, and should apply to the Public Trustee for copies of Receivable Order "A" which should be completed and handed to the paying authority upon whom the duty will then fall to account to the Custodian.

2. The obligation to register property with the Public Trustee under Section 3 (1) of the earlier Act is now extended to (a) bank balances and deposits; (b) debts to the amount of £50 and upwards.

**ALL PERSONS, FIRMS OR COMPANIES WITH WHOM ENEMIES HAVE BANK BALANCES OR DEPOSITS OR WHO OWE £50 OR MORE TO ENEMIES (apart from those dividends, etc., payable to the Custodian) SHOULD APPLY TO THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE FOR REGISTRATION ORDER "F."**

N.B.—The Act provides that the liability to disclose property of any nature held for enemies shall apply to companies as well as to persons and firms.

**COMPANIES WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY DISCLOSED PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 3 (1) OF THE OLD ACT SHOULD THEREFORE APPLY TO THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE FOR REGISTRATION ORDER "B."**

The term "enemy" means any person or body of persons of whatever nationality resident or carrying on business in the enemy country but does not include persons of enemy nationality who are neither resident nor carrying on business in the enemy country.

Attention is called to the penalties fixed by the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1914, for non-compliance with the requirements thereof, and to the fact that such penalties will also apply for non-compliance with the requirements of the present Act.

C. J. STEWART, Public Trustee,

Custodian for England and Wales.

2, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.,

Trading with the Enemy Department,  
July, 1915.

### IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. LOAN (FIRST SERIES).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 15th August, 1915, will be PAID on and after the 16th instant (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,  
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,  
3rd August, 1915.

### MCINTYRE, HOGG, MARSH & CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SHARE REGISTER of Transfers of the above Company will be Closed from August 2nd to August 15th (both dates inclusive) for the preparation of Dividend Warrants.

By Order of the Board,  
H. T. MUGGERIDGE,  
Secretary.

2, 3, & 4, New Basinghall Street,  
London, E.C.,  
July 31st, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVI.—No. 919. SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1915.

New Series.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

## PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

The Investors' Review is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Morning, on the following terms:—

One Year, £1 1s. 0d. Six Months, 11s. Three Months, 5s. 9d.

For the Colonies and Abroad the charge is

One Year, £1 4s. 0d. Six Months, 12s. 6d. Three Months, 6s. 6d.

Short of Three months the Price is 6d. per Copy Inland, and 7d. Abroad, Post Free.

Cloth cases for binding the Half Yearly Volumes price 1s. 8d., postage 4d. extra. Bound Volumes 15s. 6d., or 16s. 3d. postfree.

Cheques and P.O. Drafts should be made payable to

"Investors' Review,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,  
London, W.C.

Telephone No.:  
Gerrard 9132.

Telegraphic Address:  
"Unveiling, London."

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

**Telegrams** advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

**Private Letters** in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

## Passing Events.

Friday morning's war news should warn all patriots that for the next few weeks they may have to face many moments of anxious suspense. So far from being "practically finished" in the East, as a lying German "order of the day" has told Flanders, the great Austro-German attack on Russia is only beginning its second and not improbably most sensational stage. We are therefore likely to hear from German sources of Russian "defeats," of territories and cities occupied, of lines of communications seized, of threatened, if not actually attempted, advances into the heart of the Empire, even, perhaps, upon Petrograd, and if we listen to the German lying—for it will be lying—we shall be depressed unless we keep in mind the fact that the dominant purpose underlying the Grand Duke Nicholas's strategy, for probably at least another two months, must be to entangle the enemy deeper and deeper into Western Russia. The more successful the Russian armies are in doing this, the more may it look to the superficial observer as if the Germans were winning, as if Russia was being defeated. In reality, Russia will be winning in proportion as her strategy succeeds in drawing the Germans on and on until they are gripped by the winter. In thus acting there will be no Russian unwillingness to fight shown. Far from it. Probably the destruction of the German hosts by Russian troops and Russian artillery, by the climate, the hardships of marching and fighting further and further from the base of supplies and from disease will proceed at a greater speed than ever. Everywhere the enemy is relying on his overwhelming preponderance in artillery and machine guns, but his strength in men has now passed its maximum, and Russian retreats of the kind we have witnessed during the last four months, or nearly, will consume the conscripts at an appalling rate, and do more to lighten the pressure on the West than any mere stand on the Bug front or around Brest-Litovsk, Kovno, or Vilna could do. Probably the Junker ruling staff understands the danger well enough, and, therefore, the pressure of its hosts will be more furious than ever, more totally regardless of what happens to man and beast. Avalanches of fighting items will be precipitated, now on this spot, now on that, in a fury of endeavour to snatch a victory on which a kind of truce-peace might be sought for and obtained.

In the arena of diplomacy as well there will also be many attempts, such as the one to reach a peace with Russia through Denmark. The Kaiser, it seems, offered Russia Galicia and Constantinople, on condition that he himself, modest all-highest, should be allowed to take Egypt. That this insane proposal was contemptuously rejected is a fact that will have no deterrent effect on impervious Teuton conceit. Berlin officials are so professorial in intellect and understanding as to be hopeless, and diplomatic assaults will go on as furiously as the marching and gunning, yielding results as futile as the military. A great combined effort is being organised to try and force or coax a peace before November. Another winter campaign the German conscripts will not endure, it is said, and we must see to it that they are compelled to face it, whether they will or no. Therefore the message of to-day's news is to the Allied Powers, "Be vigilant, strain every nerve in order to be prepared to meet the unexpected in shocks and assaults, and beneath all hold to the stern resolution to turn a deaf ear to all blandishments." At bottom things are going much better than they may seem to be, and the tide of Teutonic fury is spending itself with a profusion that augurs well for the success of the Allies. We have but to hold on and soon Italy will have secured her frontier, the Dardanelles will be freed, and Serbia delivered from the danger of another Austro-German attempt at its conquest. We in the West—the French, British, and Belgians—have but to continue wasting the German forces set against us to see daylight ere long through the long misery of our conflict, and Russia is all the time consuming the mighty hosts pressing in upon her territory. Will the German Fleet capture Riga? It has not the worst of it so far, and it is so timid that we can have little fear of it.

Were circumstances other than they are we could almost admire the Germans. Their indifference and obliviousness to facts and omens would be sublime were it not so perfectly self-destructive in its insanity. At no point in the immense arena of strife have the two invraging empires made a conquest of the mind, of allegiance, or even of respect from those whose territories they have overrun. The Belgians are as resolute to-day to have nothing to say to the invader as the Alsations are after 44 years of Prussian domination. France will have no dealings with the loathed foe; he



is not popular in Poland; Austria does not look with equanimity on the dominance of the Prussian in Galicia; even the buffeted and derided Turk grows increasingly restive under the bullying insolence of his masters. Nowhere, in short, has the invader conquered the hearts of a people, and nowhere has he beaten a patriot army into submission to his will. From this point of view his marchings and massings of hosts, his endless supply of death-dealing machines, from monster cannon to handy machine gun, his inventions in poison gasses and flame-spreaders are all in vain. As one reads of the strenuous marchings, of the scurrying of hundreds of thousands of miserable bipeds from one town to another, north and south-east, west and south, one cannot help trying to imagine what the feelings of these unfortunates must be. Do the soldiers of the Hapsburg and Hohenzollern really believe themselves to be working out a policy not merely of dominion *uber alles* for the Teuton race, but one calculated to secure the good will of the people they are striving to dispossess of their all, upon whom their leaders have encouraged them to perpetrate abominable cruelties? Is there no spirit of revolt awakening in the millions of Germans now led on to their doom? Has the soul been drilled and lashed out of the whole race, so that it is no more able to assert itself and the manhood in it than the "dumb, driven" horses and mules and beeves whom these conquering, hero marches and artillery displays are doing much to extirpate, amid scenes that are agonies of heartless cruelty? Ah! there is no answer heard: probably the Prussian master allows none to be uttered.

On the contrary, the Kaiser and his-Junkers go on keeping up the illusion with a zeal in playing the part that almost deceives the world outside. Holding no extraneous territory except by bullet and bayonet, and almost impotent on the ocean, they yet proceed in fancy to create new kingdoms, boast of new conquests, and "offer peace," now in one direction now in another, all with the insolent confidence of men who had successfully played the game and won. It would be a show, provocative of infinite jest, were it not so tragically significant of the end of an age and race. Only a race doomed of Heaven to effect its own destruction could behave with such mad abandon. No sooner has the great and really cunningly planned effort to compass the destruction of the Russian armies in Poland failed than another gigantic life and wealth-wasting dash on Petrograd is organised and set in motion from East Prussia. The Warsaw-Petrograd Railway has already been cut, the German news compilers assert, and not only is Petrograd to be seized, but the elusive and intact armies of the Grand Duke Nicholas are at last to be cut behind, surrounded, and made to lay down their arms. A brief study of the map will help the least skilled in military strategy to understand the wild improbabilities embodied in this project. A raid on Petrograd would not cow Russia, or much embarrass her defence, and would do nothing at all towards the defeat of the armies now clear of the Teuton in Poland. In all probability the Russians, fully cognisant of the danger, and understanding the game, are once more just drawing the enemy on, intent upon forcing him to go through that second winter campaign he so greatly dreads. When Warsaw was about to fall into Prussian hands the world was assured that Hindenburg the headlong was not the man to be snared like Napoleon. He was much too old and shrewd a bird for that. But Warsaw fell, and Ivangorod and Novo Georgievsk were surrounded, and towns and rivers and forts north and south of Brest-Litovsk kept giving themselves up, all empty, to German swarms, and so the invader has had to go on and on. "To enter Russia is always easy; it is the escape that costs." We shall watch the further unfolding of this tremendous drama with intense interest as day by day it develops, luring the Prussian worshipping of force, and of force only, to his death.

But note meantime the immensity of the service Russia continues to do for all her Allies in thus holding

the foe, and keeping him occupied, so that it is impossible for him to reinforce the Turk or the Austrian, or to strengthen sufficiently his own armies in the West. Had Russia been really crippled and forced to endure Prussian dominance, whether she liked it or not, an army much larger than the 300,000 said to be in readiness for the job might have forced its way down through Serbia and come to the rescue of the Turks in the Gallipoli Peninsula, and Austria, sorely pressed, could have had all the reinforcements she wanted or could feed for her vain efforts to stem the forward march of the victorious Italians—for victorious they are and are going to be, the way they are fighting proves that—and as for the French and ourselves, we might have been hard put to contain, not to speak of making head against, the endless musters of men and artillery, of gas and fire squirts, whose death-dealing mass might have poured upon us night and day from the trenches and from the heavens thousands of tons of murdering rain launched upon us by the vast levies of Prussian hosts, strong in the efficacy of their scientific inventions. They could not have won, because the human soul remains unconquerable, but they might have cost us far too many men. But here, also, though the horrors to come will no doubt be great, Russia effectively helps. The overwhelming masses of Junker dupes are no longer available, cannot be spared, because Poland, Galicia, and Northern Russia is absorbing millions of them and using up guns and ammunition at a speed perfectly ruinous. We have therefore but to hold on like grim death, the French and ourselves, and sturdy little Belgium, forcing the enemy to attack, always to attack, eating into his strength with stern effect whenever a chance offers, and so make certain for the Kaiser one more winter's campaign, in order to see the dawn of a new and better spring. All the study of the Allies must be to do this, and to do it with the least possible waste of our soldiers' lives. Let the enemy rage and exhaust himself, baffle his hopes, and hold him until he surrenders at discretion and begins to crawl back to his lairs. Then swift destruction may be the highest mercy, for this war cannot end until all that is possible has been done to free mankind for ever from a like calamity.

Probably the knowledge that the two Kaisers were meditating an attempt to drive through all oppositions in order to go to the rescue of the Turk in the Dardanelles prompted this week's joint action of the four allied Powers at Sofia. Bulgaria is the danger-spot in the Balkans, now as always, thanks not so much to the stubborn land-greed of the Bulgarian people as to their King Ferdinand's ambition. He probably thinks that the success of the Austro-Germans in Poland has increased his chance of making a good bargain for himself, and incidentally for Bulgaria, in the rearrangement of territory. Evidently, therefore, the allied Powers have gained little by making representations to him or to his Ministry. Bulgaria, if we may believe the report telegraphed by Mr. Henry Wood to the United Press of the United States, is ready to jump on either side of the fence, but would, on the whole, prefer to join the Allies of the quadruple *entente* if they would pay the price. That price is mainly Serbian Macedonia with its 1,500,000 Bulgarian people. The territory was pledged and assigned to Bulgaria after the first Balkan war, and is asserted to belong to it still by the right principles of nationality. When the *entente* can assure to Ferdinand and his Ministry that this territory will be returned to Bulgaria and minor claims in Grecian Macedonia and elsewhere realised, they will find it ready and waiting to fight for them. These guarantees must be real and absolute; no paper promises will be accepted, no putting of the question to the people's vote, for example. What the minor adjustments are, the message does not disclose; but we may say at once that Bulgaria ought not to be granted that Serbian Macedonia she asks for, were it only because she played traitor towards her colleagues of the Balkan League after the close of the successful war against Turkey.



She ought not to get back that territory; furthermore, because she can afford no satisfactory proof that its population is really Bulgarian. The religious "dodge," as we may vulgarly call it, has been worked to obscure the racial position, and in any case it is simply impossible for the *entente* to desert Serbia now, to call upon her to make sacrifices of conquered territory her people claim with far more show of right than Bulgaria has ever been able to show. Are the four Powers, then, to allow Serbia to run the risk of Austrian invasion or to imperil the position of the Franco-British forces in the Gallipoli Peninsula? They must, and there is really no great danger. Whatever it may be, the risk must be run, and such help given to the Serbians as can be spared. We do not think any Austrian success against Serbia is probable, but there would be great danger to the future peace of South-Eastern Europe were the Bulgarians to be placated at Serbian and Greek expense. Kaiser Wilhelm II.'s one successful piece of diplomacy is, thanks to his sister, the coercion or mishandling of Greece, and Greek shackling or impotence is also probably the chief source of Ferdinand of Bulgaria's demands; but the allied Powers fighting in defence of liberty must not let themselves be deflected from their purpose by any disagreeable incidents of this kind. They must not even abandon the Greek people, who are much more to be pitied than blamed, and we do not think they need fear any attack through Serbia upon their bases in Thrace or Gallipoli. The fighting power of the Teuton has passed its maximum; his bluff begins to stand at a discount. Whether or no, at all costs we must stand by Serbia, whose sacrifices and loyalty shine clear above the Balkan welter of self-seeking and cowardice.

We are told by the *Times* that the meeting held on Wednesday evening in the Queen's Hall to urge the Government to declare cotton contraband was well attended and "a gathering most representative of commercial and scientific life." This may have been the case, but no names are given to enable us to test the accuracy of this statement except those of the speakers, and among them, with the exception of Sir Charles Macara, there was nobody—we say it with due respect—of much weight in business circles. The resolution was that "his Majesty's Prime Minister be informed that in the opinion of this meeting the protection of the interests of the Empire and its Allies would be best secured by an immediate declaration that cotton is contraband of war, and that the necessary steps should be taken to protect the interests of neutrals, both growers and consumers." In the abstract we have nothing particular to urge against this demand, but Sir Charles Macara's advocacy in support of it does not seem altogether convincing. He remarked that "after twelve months' experience of the war, he felt it an absolute necessity that well-considered, strong measures should be carried out which would have the effect of preventing cotton reaching enemy countries, while, at the same time, acting fairly in the interests of neutral countries and safeguarding the future welfare of a great international industry." That is all very well; but how are the interests of neutral countries to be dealt with and safeguarded? That has been the supreme difficulty all along, and as it was and is as much our interest as our policy to avoid causes of quarrel with either Holland or the Scandinavian States, the difficulty of coming to a clear-cut decision has always been greater than these advocates of extreme measures allow. And surely it was going too far even for a zealous representative of the Lancashire cotton trade to declare it to be his opinion that "if cotton had been made contraband of war, he believed the war would have been over last Christmas." What data had he to go upon to generate or sustain an opinion of that oracular description? At the meeting it was accepted as possible that the Germans were substituting paper fibre for cotton in the manufacture of explosives. Would they not have done that all the sooner if they had been

unable to get cotton? What could Sir Charles know about German resources? We are as anxious as anyone can be that the substances necessary for the manufacture of explosives of all kinds should be denied to the enemy, but none of the speakers at this meeting gave any clear advice as to how this desirable end could be attained, and we cannot accept either Lord Charles Beresford or Sir William Ramsay as authorities upon public policy, let alone upon affairs of commerce. Our opinion seems to be that of most newspapers, for in the Harmsworth syndicate papers alone is prominence given to this assemblage.

Not much of financial interest has come through from the Australasian States since the close of their fiscal years, but a few figures relative to the finances of New Zealand, whose fiscal year closes on March 31 like our own, are bestowed in the last issue to hand of the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*. These can be best set forth in the subjoined little table, and it is explained that the Customs revenue fell off £259,461, but that death and stamp duties gave £195,236, and railways £77,936 more, railway income having risen to £4,106,675. There was a further expenditure of £2,557,295 on public works, an increase of £136,488 on the spending of the preceding year, and of this total £350,000 is provided from revenue by the transfer of that amount, as shown in the table, all the rest coming from borrowed money, and of the aggregate spent £1,146,753 went to the railways, compared with £1,104,896 thus laid out in 1913-14. It is added that, relatively to population, New Zealand loan expenditure is now on a much smaller scale than in Australia, and the position more easily manageable. That is well, because the power to raise money on loan is going to be both costly and limited for many a day to come. War expenses are stated to have been £2,172,000 to date.

	1912-12.	1913 14.	1914-15.
	£	£	£
Balance at beginning of year .....	807,276	709,508	426,905
Revenue .....	11,734,022	12,224,339	12,443,525
Other receipts .....	248	101,421	262,670
Total .....	12,541,546	13,035,268	13,133,100
Expenditure, pert. and annual appropriations .....	11,082,038	11,825,863	12,379,803
Transferred to public works fund .....	750,000	675,000	350,000
Other payments .....	—	107,500	245,250
Balance at end of year .....	709,508	426,905	149,047
Total .....	12,541,546	13,035,268	13,133,100

It is unnecessary to return to the finances of the Port of London Authority just yet, for although the full accounts are now made public, they tell us little more than the summary dealt with in our issue of the 24th ult. revealed. Accompanying the full figures, however, we have the sixth annual report, and it contains a good deal of interesting matter. We learn, for instance, that there was a decrease of 3,973,651 tons in the shipping entering and leaving the Port of London with cargo. Of this decrease 2,528,502 tons were foreign and 1,445,149 tons coastwise vessels. But for the war it is probable that the figures for 1914-15 would have again exceeded previous totals, as the first four months to the end of July, 1914, showed an increase on the corresponding period of the preceding year. Even as it was, however, the inward and outward shipping trading with foreign ports aggregated 14,320,596 tons and the coastwise 2,276,000 tons, so that the decrease was not serious, it was, in fact, only 11.08 on the foreign and 5.65 per cent. on the coastwise trade. That the weight of business done was smaller is plain enough from these figures, but the decline of the trade of the Port of London, including Queenborough, was only 3.78 per cent. for the calendar year 1914. As the Port Authority's year closes on March 31, this is not a fair comparison, but it is all we have, and it shows that other great ports in the kingdom suffered much more. The trade of Liverpool, for example, fell off nearly 9 per cent., that of Glasgow over 11 per cent., that of Hull almost 20 per cent., and of Southampton 28.72 per cent. Southampton was closed as a commercial port when the war broke out, so that its disappearance must have helped



to maintain the business of London, and it should not be forgotten that the London Port Authority has done much work for the Government free of all charge, although London has not been in any way interfered with as a commercial port. There has, however, been serious interference with transport facilities in many directions caused by the war, but the difficulties appear to have been surmounted, and the congestion at the port has passed away, thanks probably to the special committee appointed to deal with it at the beginning of the year. Among the special services rendered by the Authority to the Government has been the lending to it of 235 men and 22 officers from the Dredging Service, of 262 stevedores to serve in France, and 770 dock labourers were allowed to enlist. The discharge and storage free of expense of the large gifts of food-stuffs from Colonial Governments and other sources has also been managed by the staff of the Authority, and it has built a military pontoon bridge to connect Tilbury with Gravesend. In matters financial, beyond what has already been stated, it may be mentioned that the Port Authority has a balance of £6,056,697 unissued of its authorised Port stock, and we may recall that the capital expenditure during the past fiscal year was £966,384. Every year, therefore, the charge for interest increases, and if the Port is to maintain its present supreme position in the world, labour-saving facilities and skilful organisation with the view to economy in handling will have to make great progress, because after the war is over there will be a struggle everywhere to avoid losses and defaults.

What has become of the figures of the *Daily Mail* circulation for July? They were hurried out for June on July 2, and we are now almost at the middle of August, with no show for the past month. As was pointed out by us in dealing with the June exhibit, it was impossible to have given a correct statement of the circulation for one month at a date in the second month so near to its close. Can it be that the accountants who signed those statements, warned by the hint in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, have refused to lend their names to any repetition of what was obviously a rather unworthy mystification? Some answer or light is required upon this subject in the interests of straight-running journalism, because there can be no doubt of one fact—the circulation of the *Daily Mail* is on the decline. We have made a point of asking about it everywhere, and circumstances have so fallen out as to give us the opportunities in a good many places during the past five or six weeks. We therefore can vouch for it that the paper is selling less well than it did before it took up its present un-British attitude. What, then, has been the actual circulation of the *Daily Mail* during the month of July? Will the members of the Harmsworth family answer that question or assent to judgement by default?

We do not remember to have seen last year's balance-sheet of the Credito Italiano, but the statement as at June 30 last discloses a sound and healthy position. Converting the lire at 25 to the £, the paid-up capital stands at £3,000,000, and there is a reserve fund of £460,000. Current and deposit accounts amount to £14,952,270, and acceptances, &c., total £2,054,510. On the other side we find cash £3,089,600, or over 20 per cent. of the liabilities, omitting acceptances, which are covered by customers' securities, &c. Bills receivable amount to £8,077,250, balances with other banks £2,020,920, current accounts £2,760,490, loans against securities £1,536,230, and investments, &c., £1,024,740. In addition, there are securities amounting to £123,780 belonging to the Clerks' Provident Fund, and freehold bank premises are taken in at just over £500,000. Nett profit, including £5,460 brought forward, stands at £120,400, or just about 4 per cent. on the capital, which does not seem very generous, but no particulars are given as to how it is arrived at. However, the company is well fortified with liquid assets, and that is the main point in times like the present.

A certain amount of speculative curiosity has been excited by the appointment of Sir Lewis Amherst Selby-Bigge, of the Education Department, to the secretaryship of the Scientific Research Committee. Is this eminent official an authority in research? we have been asked, and cannot answer. All we know about him is embraced in what the *Times* and *Who's Who* tells us, and from their statements it would appear that Sir Lewis is much more of a philosopher than a scientist. He has written much, and we hope well, on David Hume—whose grave we have seen in Edinburgh—and he is presumably an authority on "British Moralists," for he has written a book about them—but are these qualifications for a special secretaryship in scientific research? "Not at all," the critics assert, and proceed to instance the appointment as proof of "how things are going"—all in the old, old style. Is it so?

As was foreshadowed in the report, the directors of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust Co., Ltd., have decided that there is no further excuse for the existence of the company, and meetings are now convened to arrange for the final obsequies. Of course, the war is at the bottom of the trouble, as the Trust has large interests in Germany, which became inaccessible when Junkerdom developed virulent rabies. And so, with the sanction of the British Government, negotiations have been concluded for the sale of the German interests to the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg in consideration of the bank surrendering £1,800,000 of the ordinary shares to the Trust (cumulative dividend to April 30 last), or paying compensation for each share short delivered. The number of shares available in Germany is estimated at approximately 150,000, which has been fixed as the minimum to be surrendered by the bank, and payment of any balance will be met by the acquisition of certain interests held by the Germans in this country. The result will be that the holders of at least 150,000 shares will have their rights satisfied by the transfer to them of the German assets, leaving £1,000,000 of preference and a maximum of £1,500,000 ordinary capital interested in the remaining British assets. These assets consist mainly of holdings in the Nobel's Explosives Co., of Glasgow, the Alliance Explosives Co., and the Australian Explosives and Chemical Co. In these circumstances the directors consider that there is no justification for the continuance of the Trust Co., and they recommend that the company be wound up and its assets transferred to Nobel's Explosives Co. in exchange for shares in the latter. If this arrangement is carried out, as there is every reason to believe it will be, the £10 preference shares of the Trust Co. will be converted into 10 5 per cent. preference shares of £1 each in the Explosives Co., ranking for dividend from January 1 last, and thereby giving the preference holders an extra four months' interest for the current year. The ordinary £10 Trust shares will be exchanged for 12 £1 ordinary shares in the Explosives Co. It appears to be a perfectly sound and equitable scheme, and the directors of the Trust, who must have had a very anxious time during the past 12 months, will have earned the £23,000 odd which they are to receive as additional remuneration as compensation for disturbance.

The directors of Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton, Ltd., say that they have adopted a cautious policy in drafting the balance-sheet for the year closed June 30 last, and a study of that balance-sheet confirms their statement. Nowhere in it is there the slightest trace of any propping or padding in order to expand profits. On the contrary, such an entry, for instance as "stocks of barley, malt, hops," &c., &c., shows a reduction of £118,540 at £909,421. The value of the breweries, too, has been written down by £16,337 to £1,048,637, and that of licensed properties by £16,329 to £1,048,763. Cash, to be sure, is also £35,409 lower at £269,045, but the sum left is surely equal to any emergency. Thanks to this conservatism one can look



at the profit and loss statement without misgiving. It shows that the sales produced £76,718 less at £672,890, and that £6,154 less at £136,931 came in from rents, interest and dividends. Outgoings, however, were also less in several directions, and notably in salaries, subscriptions to war funds, Army reserve allowances, directors' fees, &c., &c., items which constitute an agglomerate £29,748 less than that of the previous year at £303,732, but bad debts, reserve for doubtful debts and depreciation of investments, taken as one item at £46,274, shows an increase of £12,008, and may also represent conservative book-keeping, although the way in which the various segments are thrown together prevents us from being sure. Principally, however, the saving in outgoings, balancing one thing with another, is due to the reduction in the interim dividend, which was only 2 per cent., as against 4 per cent. in the first half of 1913-14, and the directors make up the dividend to 10 per cent. only for the year by a final payment of 8 per cent. This is 2 per cent. less than was paid for 1913-14, when also a 3 per cent. bonus was given, so that the shareholders in all get 10 per cent. for the past year, as compared with 15 per cent. for the year before. The distributable profit, however, was £65,211 down at £402,265, including £64,676 brought forward, so that the board had no choice, especially as it wisely refrained from punishing the reserve, which therefore again gets £50,000, raising it to £600,000. The balance left to carry forward is through this wise handling of the accounts increased by £2,789 to £67,465. The past year's conditions have been abnormal, and many economies have been effected, the directors state. What these are and what the policy of the future will be in face of the onerous new taxation and drink-selling restrictions will no doubt be touched upon at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on Monday. It is worth noting meantime that the investments of the company have been increased by £404,442 during its past fiscal year, and now amount to £1,047,932. It has put money in the War Loan and in Treasury bills, and its holdings in other marketable securities taken at current quotations show an increase of £401,175 at £812,966, the aggregate just mentioned being made up by "sundry shares and debentures at current quotations and valuations," which from a second group valued at £234,966. The company has therefore a very large protection in public securities over and above the amount of its reserve, and must have drawn in and put by a large amount of money during its past year.

Misfortune seems to dog the career of the North Borneo Trading Co., Ltd., whose position and prospects are becoming steadily worse. For the year 1914 the accounts show a loss of £6,853, against a profit of £1,275 for the previous 12 months, while if we go back to 1910 we find the company so successful that it was able to pay a dividend of 22½ per cent. That was in the halcyon days of the rubber boom, and probably proved its undoing, for it has paid nothing at all since. It has had to struggle with insufficient capital, and there is real pathos in the statement that the issue of debentures referred to at the meetings held in 1912, 1913, and 1914 has not yet been made. The outbreak of the war sealed the doom of the latest efforts, but the parties who were underwriting the proposed issue have advanced £41,700 at 7 per cent. interest as a temporary loan, provisional debenture scrip being deposited as security. Owing to financial difficulties, it is proposed to form a separate company to acquire and work the Tuaran and Tenghelan Rubber estates, which have a planted area of 1,610 acres, and are just coming into bearing, the estimated production for the current year being 60,000 lbs. The company's remaining rubber interests consist of shares in the Sekong Rubber Co., the Bode Rubber Estates, and the Lamag Rubber Estates, standing in the balance-sheet at £32,000, no provision being made for depreciation. Sekong paid a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year to July 31, 1913, but has paid nothing since; Bode was reconstructed last year after the dividend guarantee

expired, but it is doing fairly well, and the crop for the current year is estimated at 110,000 lbs. Five per cent. for another year has to be paid under guarantee to the Lamag Estates, from which it is hoped to get an output of 16,000 to 20,000 lbs. this year. With regard to the company's timber business, we can quite understand that the conditions have been most difficult and unsatisfactory, owing to the disorganisation of freights and markets caused by the war, but the opportunity has been taken of overhauling the sawmill and other plant; on which over £7,000 was spent during the year. With careful handling and nursing the company may pull round, but the balance-sheet is terribly lopsided, and the £2,000 or so of cash in hand will not go very far.

Preliminary figures relating to the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s business for the year ended June 30 last have been circulated from the London office. The facts given show that the gross earnings fell off \$30,950,000 last year to \$98,865,000, that sum including the money received from both railway and steamers. Working expenses, however, were cut down by \$22,098,000 to \$65,290,000, so that the net earnings of \$33,575,000 were only \$8,851,000 worse. But fixed charges increased by \$219,200 to \$10,446,000, and the final surplus of \$23,128,000 is \$9,071,000 worse than that of the previous year. On the other hand, the Pacific steamships and the commercial telegraph and news department returned \$622,000 more \$1,494,000, and after allowing for the \$125,000 again contributed out of revenue to the pension fund, the net revenue available for dividends was \$21,509,000, or only \$8,449,000 less than that of the previous year. After payment of all dividends, the surplus from the railway earnings was under \$90,000. A year ago it was \$9,690,000. The common stock of the company gets its 10 per cent. dividend as usual.

We are usually somewhat suspicious of the process known as the "segregation of assets" in the case of companies like the Canadian Pacific Railway, but there are doubtless good reasons for the formation of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd., which is to take over the Atlantic and Pacific fleets of the C.P.R., as well as the Allan Line fleet. Under the arrangement the Allan Line will continue to operate in the old name and with the same management, but it will now have the financial backing required to provide for the improvement and enlargement of its fleet which has not been the case hitherto. Other transportation com-

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panies with whom the Canadian Pacific Railway has traffic relations will be dealt with on a similar basis by the new organisation, which is expected to commence effective operations about the middle of October or beginning of November. The head offices will be in Montreal, and the following names are given as those of the first directors:—Messrs. C. M. Bosworth (chairman), I. G. Ogden, E. W. Beatty, K.C., F. E. Meredith, K.C., and H. Maitland Kersey, managing director in London. No particulars have transpired as to capitalisation or the price at which the assets are to be acquired, and no useful opinion can be formed until these details are available, but we may be permitted to hope that the lesson to be drawn from the experiences of the International Mercantile Marine Co. will be taken to heart.

A profit of £53,695 was earned by the Rhodesia-Katanga Junction Railway and Mineral Co., Ltd., during the calendar year 1914, receipts having been £85,674 and expenses £31,979. It would thus appear that the lessor, Mashonaland Railway Co., Ltd., had ample cover for the £44,000 per annum which it provides under its lease for the payment of this Katanga company's debenture interest, and the balance divisible equally between lessor and lessee is substantial. It is a pity that the news about the property is not equally good. For the five months ended May 31 last the railway earned £20,538 at a cost of £7,950, so that there was a nett balance of £12,588. This is an income at the rate of little more than £30,000, and the decline is not to be wondered at when we learn that the difficulties of transport arising from the outbreak of war have made it impracticable to continue mining operations. The impossibility of bringing copper to railhead during the rainy season also interfered with the working of the Kansanshi mine, and smelting operations there have been suspended for the present. It has, however, been advantageous to the company to have its line in the hands of the Mashonaland Railway Co., and although the skeleton profit and loss account with its accumulations is not very cheering, better times should become possible when the war is over. No good purpose would be served by discussing the accounts at this juncture.

### No Chatter of Peace while Belgium, Luxemburg and Poland are Occupied.

Evidently the Kaiser and his generals understand the significance of the "victory" they have failed to secure in Poland. To the German people it is all clean victory, victory never defeat, and as a Dutchwoman who has lived in Germany from the beginning of the war to end of last week has been telling Mr. Wile of the *Daily Mail*, the whole ingenuity and force of militarism is directed to keep them deluded. Berlin is ordered to amuse itself as usual, and seems to do so with the docile servility to be expected of it—until it knows. Public works, such as bridge-building and underground railway boring, even go on there with an ostentation meant to impress the minds of the masses that the country is not embarrassed in the slightest by the outlay upon the war. Even the inactivity of the German fleet is utilised, like the gold in the State Bank, to sustain popular delusion about the empire's strength and success, and boast is made that the British have not been able to bombard Hamburg or Bremen. All bad news is kept out of sight, all good news exaggerated when not invented, but in spite of an ingenuity in deception wholly Prussian, the day of disillusionment and retribution draws near and the Kaiser's surroundings know it. They know, too, that Russia is devouring their armies. So the peace intriguing has begun again. In the end of last week it was reported that peace overtures had been made to the Tsar by the Kaiser through Denmark and had been rejected. Only the self-delusion of the doomed could have prompted the Kaiser to make them—that he did and failed seems proved by the official *dementi*. In the United States, too, a fresh Press campaign to bring

about a cessation of hostilities would appear to have been organised by the besotted Berlin official Moonists. "The United Press, serving 700 of the principal American newspapers," combined "respectfully" to ask the Kaiser to telegraph to it "at this moment of Germany's greatest triumph, an expression of the historic significance of the German victory in Poland, or a statement of the basis of the settlement which Germany considers necessary to secure for European peace and civilisation the surest advancement." These words betray the Teutonic inspiration. None but a German mind could have conceived a petition in such language, in terms so perfectly innocent of any perception of facts, or so officiously servile. The carefully arranged mystification enables Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, to deliver himself of one more message of the drivelling order. He is "instructed" by his Majesty, the Emperor, to express that baffled man's "regret to be unable to comply with the request of the United Press of the United States for a personal proclamation on the occasion of the success of the allied German and Austro-Hungarian armies," but he proceeds to remind these tame German-American journalists that "Germany is fighting for a peace which will guarantee her, and with her the Powers which are fighting the great battle on her side, such firm safeguards as she needs for a lasting peace and for her national future." She is striving, it would seem, for such a peace as "will guarantee to all nationalities the freedom of the oceans, and will offer possibilities to every nation for serving the work of progress and civilisation by means of a free and world-wide commerce."

Could the height of childish impudence further reach? Germany's trade methods hitherto have been absolutely antagonistic to real freedom. What about her industrial *cartels* and the success of her insinuating and relentlessly monopolist producers and traders in forming a steel rail union, for instance, or in locking up individual energy in the production of raw materials, such as coal, for the benefit of a monopoly as infamous as Rockefeller's? It is Free Trade England that has made the oceans free, and kept them free, this England the Germans are bidden to hate. German domination, which happily cannot arrive now to trouble us, would have left the trade routes of the world free for Germany and German dependencies alone, and our reward for having ungrudgingly given the Germans the freedom of the ocean is this war, waged against us partly because Protectionist Germany was being defeated by Free Trade England in spite of all her wiles. It is, however, perfectly useless to argue with people so blind, so bewitched, so betrayed. To try to convince the German nation that it is being befooled and hurried to its ruin in order that the military reactionaries—savage as the worst of the Vandals—may continue to hold them down and to gratify their blood lust, is as useless as to attempt to teach common sense to a German professor. All we can do is to hold firmly together, a quadruple rampant against Hell, until this Teutonic madness has been exorcised by suffering and then to impose our peace. But how can we do that? Germany is "victorious" in Poland, we are told, and will soon throw her released legions with all their panoply of death-dealing germs and gases against Italy, France, and Great Britain to overwhelm them likewise.

That possibility is a warning call to vigilance and effort, but there is no necessity for alarm. To begin with, there is no substantial German victory in Poland. With the occupation of Warsaw, nothing substantial seems to have been gained, and the more the Germans spread over the country regions east and north, the further they penetrate into Russia at any point the less likelihood is there that their hosts will ever get home again. The Kaiser, bedraggled demi-god as he has become, cannot even get up his spectacular "procession" into the city, for postures on a pontoon bridge would make even this blood-smeared lunatic look too ridiculous. But supposing the Kaiser and his Hindenburg the headlong do send some hundreds of thousands or millions of men to renew the attacks in France and



Belgium, to endeavour to master the Italians, is there any reason why we should be disturbed? None whatever, provided we are steadfast and hold our own, get ready for the onset and keep ready. As we have said long ago, and insisted on in those articles composing the pamphlet "No Deluding Peace," as long as we hold the Germans in by our Fleet, helped by the Allied Fleets of France and Italy, it is merely a question of time when the Kaiser and his advisers must surrender at discretion. Held as they are, kill and dash hither and thither as they may on land, we have only to maintain and increase their isolation to make that consummation of all the murdering inevitable.

Therefore, the preliminary to a discussion of peace terms, which we trust the Allied councillors will unite in demanding when the proper hour strikes, is first and foremost the German withdrawal from all territory belonging to other countries and now occupied by Austro-German troops, and also from Alsace and French Lorraine. That, imperatively, must be the first step. Belgium and Luxembourg must be evacuated, Alsace and Lorraine, Russian Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina likewise, and included in this preliminary must be an undertaking demanded from the German brigands and their chief to restore as quickly as possible everything their troops have stolen from the inhabitants of these despoiled countries during the time of their occupation, everything non-perishable, i.e., other damages to be assessed after inquiry and investigation. But these constitute only the first step; the next is equally imperative, and therefore equally to be insisted upon—viz., that no negotiations must be entered into with the plotting gang of robbers who have insolently proclaimed to the world their contempt for treaties, who regard such documents merely as hoaxes, or as a means of staving off a present difficulty until another opportunity thought to be more favourable occurs for them to complete the meditated theft. It is impossible to treat with people of that description on any civilised footing. They have themselves barred the way to any confidence in anything they say or do, in any words written or spoken. Therefore, the second step towards a real peace must be a demand on the part of the Allies that, by a free election under manhood suffrage—or under universal suffrage, if it please them better—the Germanic peoples, all inside their borders involved in the fate of the two aggressor empires, shall elect deputies, who in turn will appoint delegates, with whom alone negotiations can be opened up with a view to a permanent peace. A Junker-made peace would be no real peace at all; we must have a peace of peoples.

It will be said that these are impossible preliminary conditions, that they imply a war lasting for perhaps another three or four years. We do not think so. The war is much more likely to continue to drag on its wasting course if the Germans can remain possessed of the faith that by intriguing in the United States, in the Balkans, wherever possible; by moving this influence and the other even in the countries of the Quadruple Entente; by Press campaigns, by subornation even, they can divide the Allies and effect first one arrangement called a peace and then another. Treat them with stern severity, and they may soon collapse. They are past the maximum of their fighting strength now, and must from now on decline, rely more and more on guns, less on men. Because that is so, because the prospects of another winter campaign—for which we on our side must all carefully prepare—are perfectly appalling in pestilence both in want-consumed Austria-Hungary and in Germany the illusion-hugging, a resolute attitude, a determination fully and constantly expressed to have nothing whatever to do with any discussion of peace terms while a foot on alien soil is occupied by German troops, and to have no say or truck with any Bethmann Hollweg or von Jagow of all the miserable servile band of Junker lacqueys, but only with the Germanic peoples speaking directly through their chosen representatives, is much more likely to bring the truth and its meaning home to these people than shilly-shally word-fumblings with the Prussians. Stern bluntness is much more likely to

cause the Germanic union to collapse suddenly than old-world diplomatic palaver. For we do not believe that the whole of the nations under the sway of these two putrid mediæval barbarisms, Habsburg and Hohenzollern, are to-day as fully of one mind with their rulers as when the war began. On the contrary, were the truth known it is by no means impossible that the better spirit now beaten down and, as it were, locked away in dungeons by the barbarians who have beguiled the people to their ruin, would assert itself and begin a vindication of the right to speak that should pave the way to an enduring peace. How other than by a resolute denial of all intercourse with the transgressors can we bring home to the inhabitants of the two offending empires the magnitude of their loss or the horror of the crimes into the perpetration of which they have been betrayed by the worship of a devilish ideal?

### Can the Nation Overcome Its Corruptions?

There are always two aspects in which a war like the present—as, indeed any great upheaval among the human beings forming a nation—can be viewed. There is in regard to this war a high spirit of patriotism, and alongside it the selfish spirit of the profit-seeker, jealousies of rival officials and rival departments, and the "slackness" of no small number of workers. Many give their all willingly, some give nothing. When, so far as all four Allies are concerned, we look at the heroic side of this struggle, nothing could be more heartening, full of cheer, but when we turn to the executive, hum-drum side there is much which disappoints, and in our own United Kingdom often things that excite disgust and dread. Last Sunday's *Observer* told us how the long strain of resisting the German invasion of Poland and Lithuania is bringing all political parties in Russia into one well-clenched phalanx of patriotism. Sections of political opinion which before the war were at daggers drawn, or jealously secluded from all participation, not merely in the administration of the country, but in the work of the deliberative assembly, the Duma, are now seated in honour at the very heart of things. Formerly, says the Petrograd correspondent of the paper, the Opposition was excluded from the Defence Committee of the Duma; now the Cadet leader has been elected its Chairman, and even the Socialists are admitted to work upon it. "Violent reactionaries," too, have become "ardent reformers," and a unity of purpose and resolute determination among all parties to act as one man is re-creating Russia. It will be a new country, free as it never has been, when this tornado of war is over.

Can we say the same thing here? Not if we listen to the tales that come to us about the rivalry between the War Office and the new Munitions Department, about the obstructiveness of Woolwich Arsenal, the fierce antagonism or sulky inertia of the Ordnance Department towards those outside manufacturers who are being enlisted to make up the tale of shells and other warlike ammunition now demanded by the Army.

We hear things that would make us despair of the country or accept its decadence as its doom did we not believe that the spirit of patriotism is stronger than any self-seeking or nepotism. But to quell the degraded spirit and weld the nation as one man Ministers must display courage and speak out, take us into their confidence to help them in rooting out abuses. No question of political advancement, no rivalry between this man and that in the race for the Premiership, no jealousy of reputations must stand in the way. A pure patriotism is demanded of the members of the Cabinet more than of any other group of men, and if it be true, as we hear, that the Ordnance Department is "taking no notice" for weeks and weeks of urgent communications sent to it, or answering them in a manner that prevents instead of furthering work, that, in short, it is as jealous of the new helpers coming forward as if it were a trade rival afraid of losing its profits—which we fear it too often is—the sooner its crimes are ex-



posed or that it is put under control of the Munitions Committee for London the better.

The tales also about bureaucratic incompetence, official unfamiliarity with business, and, above all, the daily accumulating evidence of military nepotism or snobbery, are enough to make one's hair stand on end when viewed in light of the danger that still looms dark over the empire. Will Ministers enlist every help not merely to get at the truth of these stories, but to rouse the nation to the sense of its degradation? Will they have the courage to tell the country how plutocratic, bureaucratic, family and class influences are hampering the efficiency of the Army? If Mr. Lloyd George will throw all personal considerations aside and rise to the height of his mission and duty, he will soon be able to bring the Ordnance Department, Woolwich, the War Office, the Admiralty to heel. If his colleagues concerned will also examine and tell instead of glossing and keeping silent, our great citizen Army may also get fair play and its chance. But it must all be done soon, because the winter will be upon us again before any shifting of the Huns that will hasten their home-going can be effected, if the obstruction, self-interest, and class-exclusiveness still prevalent are allowed to continue their malignant obstruction.

We are not speaking at random, never quite do, and on one point the public itself can judge. If a soldiering man has a handle to his name, or is connected with people of handled names—the son of a duke, the brother of an earl, the nephew of a bishop, or even the cousin of a baronet, especially if that baronet be rich—his chance of getting promotion and active employment in the Army is still at this hour sensibly better than that of the plain man, the son of a farmer, or of a shopkeeper, or of a country "medico," although the said plain, unfamilied man may be much the abler and more efficient officer. Promotion and employment in the upper strata of the Army are still affairs not of merit but of influence, and the dissatisfaction is deep. Study the War Office lists, and proof abundant will be found that from top to bottom the Regular Army, as it calls itself, is as exclusive and as jealous to-day of the Citizens' Army Lord Kitchener has called into being as it was of the old Volunteers; as jealous, and, when it can get away with it, as contemptuous, as obstructive to fair play in employment. "Patriotic oneness of effort?" Not much. It is Lord Kitchener's duty to see to it that an end is also put to this form of corruption, socially exclusive, snobbish, contemptible. This British nation must also, like the Russian, rise above its mediævalisms, and become a united whole, a nation, an empire where every man shall have his chance. This is not the day for privilege to assert itself, when all should be working together for one great end—the deliverance of the world from a threatened tyranny more systematic, more exclusively selfish, abominable, and soul-blighting than any Cæsar of Rome was ever able to organise and maintain. If this war is to bring the emancipation of democracies in its aftermath, the sooner we begin the better. What lies at the bottom of the conscription fuss and anti-patriotic press ruffianism? Just this: the hope that its adoption might prolong the existence and increase the power of the exclusive military caste that is still supreme in our so-called "regular" army.

Of the plutocratic or slimey side we may not now speak, but it touches upon a very important branch of the approaching renovation—or eclipse—of society. But here is an extract from a trusty Canadian correspondent's letter just received, which discloses the ugly fact that, there as here, the glow of patriotic ardour is in danger of submergence beneath the mud of corrupt finance, and that, apart from the masses who enlist—give their lives, often their all, for the old land—the sway of "graft," the soul-trafficking for the dollar, the political and financial putrescence are as aggressively destructive of the young nation's chances as ever. What is to become of a land where souls are bought and sold like swine at a pig fair?—

"My chief reason in writing has been to point out to the British investor how badly a large volume of his money is being misused, if not lost, in Canada. The

railway problem is going to be desperate. There are far too many lines constructed for the needs of the country, many of them having been built purely for political purposes. One Transcontinental through the bare wilderness north of Superior would have been enough; instead we have three, a gigantic scandal. There is absolutely no local traffic, and the rest of the country has to pay in freights for its upkeep. The Government has just had to take over the eastern end of the Grand Trunk, and I am almost certain before a year has elapsed the Canadian Northern will be in the receiver's hands. In the end the Government will have on their hands practically all the Canadian railways save the Canadian Pacific, and I doubt if the latter will want to compete with the Government system.

"After the war you will see the old game revived of luring British emigrants and capital into Canada with the connivance and co-operation of the British Press. Already there are on foot at the Royal Colonial Institute and other places schemes for extensive settlement of discharged soldiers after the war. I for one would, as long as present conditions in Canada exist, protest against betraying ex-soldiers or anyone else into the maw of the Canadian manufacturers and railways.

"I see Borden's presence at the Cabinet has 'opened a new epoch in Imperial affairs.' His proper place is at Ottawa, where I was told the other day, by one of the ablest judges in Canada, that affairs are in a shocking state—scandals and graft everywhere. A fairly upright judge is sitting on the war contract scandals, and daily reveals atrocious mismanagement and corruption. In Manitoba we have two commissions sitting investigating a huge steal in connection with the new Parliament buildings. Four of the late Ministers are to be criminally prosecuted after the local election now impending. Borden himself is a well-meaning, timorous mortal surrounded by gentlemen who know exactly what they want. Periodically he flies from his troubles to England or Virginia, and leaves the field to rascally colleagues. Most of us in Canada are very tired of the organised slush which is the chief characteristic of English Imperialism."

### Our Foreign Trade in July.

We are told by the daily newspapers that the returns for the month show improvement, and in some respects they do. Nevertheless, the excess value of imports over exports was about £20,600,000 for the past month alone, and is £150,000,000 for the seven months. Moreover, these figures do not tell the whole story. We are not sure, indeed, that all the imports of merchandise are included, and certainly our exports of munitions and other Army furnishings are not embraced in the returns. We are therefore more or less in the dark as to what the actual position is, and can only discern in a general way that it is in some degree increasingly irksome to our banking credit. Let us first give the figures. Imports last month were £16,172,000 larger than for July, 1914, an increase of 27.2 per cent., and exports fell off £9,684,000, or 21.8 per cent., a decline lessened by the increase of £1,583,000 in the value of re-exports, up 21.7 per cent. For the seven months to date imports have risen 15.9 per cent., while exports have declined 27.1 per cent. and re-exports 9.4 per cent. It does not matter at all so far as the influence of the excess on foreign exchanges is concerned that the rise in the value of imports should be largely a matter of price. What we see is that we have much more than usual to pay for what we are buying and less money to pay with, or less goods to exchange. The war has affected us not only by stopping the outflow of merchandise in many directions, but by checking, reducing, or obliterating the inflow of interest and dividends from investments abroad. We get no money at all from Germany, and trade has not yet had time to revive for our benefit in the oversea colonies that Germany has lost. Other nations also have been affected by the war through the stoppage of their trade with Germany and the reduction in the demand from neutral countries for com-



modities they are no longer able to import or pay for in the usual quantity, but not to an extent proportionate to ours.

The *Times* analysis of the monthly returns shows us how things are going, at least to some extent. There is, for example, alongside a decrease of 15.4 per cent. in the quantity of wheat imported last month an increase of 32.8 per cent. in the price. Oats have risen 42.6 per cent. in quantity and 168 per cent. in price, and there is hardly a single article of food which is not more or less sensibly dearer now than it was a year ago. Even tea, which has risen 8.8 per cent. in quantity, is 47.2 per cent. higher in price, and where there is a decrease in quantity, as in fresh mutton, down 19.17 per cent., the rise in price has driven the value of that smaller quantity up 17.7 per cent. compared with July last year. And yet we have bought much less iron and steel, although these also have gone up in price. The reduction shows how our general manufacturing industries have been affected for the

## IMPORTS.

	July.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 61,783,683	£ 59,376,484	£ 75,548,147	+ 16,171,663
Gold .....	6,777,135	6,554,640	622,084	- 5,932,556
Silver .....	1,246,994	1,100,403	617,949	- 482,459
Total .. ..	69,807,812	67,031,532	76,788,180	+ 9,756,648

## EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	47,164,208	44,405,380	34,721,511	- 9,683,869
For. and Col. M'dse..	8,311,343	7,825,916	9,408,790	+ 1,582,874
Gold .. ..	1,651,268	2,769,523	559,620	- 2,209,903
Silver .. ..	1,285,971	968,138	438,615	- 549,523
Total .. ..	58,412,790	55,968,957	45,128,536	- 10,840,421

## IMPORTS.

Seven Months ended July.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	440,491,024	435,250,317	504,482,975	+ 69,232,658
Gold .. ..	32,253,276	35,488,752	6,132,295	- 28,856,457
Silver .. ..	9,215,391	7,061,279	5,893,164	- 1,168,115
Total .. ..	481,959,691	477,800,348	517,008,434	+ 39,208,086

## EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	304,220,016	299,862,991	218,344,399	- 81,518,592
For. and Col. M'dse..	67,366,920	67,102,332	60,731,810	- 6,370,522
Gold .. ..	20,493,214	25,134,365	6,090,164	- 19,044,201
Silver .. ..	8,081,745	8,381,538	4,736,884	- 3,644,654
Total .. ..	400,161,895	400,481,226	289,903,257	- 110,577,969

## VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

July.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	69,807,812	67,031,532	76,788,180	+ 9,756,648
Exports.. ..	58,412,790	55,968,957	45,128,536	- 10,840,421
Excess value of im- ports over exports	11,395,022	11,062,575	31,659,644	+ 20,597,069

Seven Months ended July.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	481,959,691	477,800,348	517,008,434	+ 39,208,086
Exports.. ..	400,161,895	400,481,226	289,903,257	- 110,577,969
Excess value of im- ports over exports	81,797,796	77,319,122	227,105,177	+ 149,786,055

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

worse by the war. Exports of machinery and mill-work, for example, declined 48 per cent. in value last month, and alongside an increase of 55.7 per cent. in the quantity of raw cotton imported, there has been a decline of 14.3 per cent. in the exports of cotton piece goods. In spite of the consumption of cotton in the manufacture of explosives, its price has gone down, and if our Government is at last obliged to take stricter measures to prevent Germany from getting supplies, it may go lower still unless short crops balance the reduced consumption.

It all comes back to this so far as we are concerned. Has this country the resources with which it can face adverse exchanges for, say, another 16 or 18 months, without danger of an upset to its delicately poised

credit structure? On the answer to that question depends to no small extent our position not merely as the greatest merchants and merchant bankers in the world, but as the greatest "stayer" in the war game. It cannot be answered in a sentence or in an article, but so far as the revealed figures of our foreign trade can carry us there is no evidence of such weakness as need excite alarm. Our resources in credit are not yet over-taxed. Vigilance must be exercised, and it is possible that we may have to submit to the loss of some portion of our stock of gold, at any rate of our hidden stock, before the recoil begins, but otherwise the very fact that our exports of merchandise have totalled £218,000,000 in the past seven months in spite of war, of diminished purchasing power the world over, affords firm ground for confidence that the Free Trade Empire of England will outlast the tempest, not perhaps undamaged, but yet firm, erect, and strong to resume its onward march. In this connection it is worth noting that there has been a much smaller movement of gold both out and in during the past seven months. Imports of the metal, in fact, show a reduction of nearly £29,000,000, and exports have likewise gone down about £19,000,000, so that, as far as the Board of Trade figures reveal, the seven months of war expenditure this year to date have barely cost us £10,000,000 of gold. The real sum may be much less, because our statistical department takes no cognisance of gold held in Canada or elsewhere for account of the Bank of England, and by help of which a too severe pressure of exchanges is kept off the home money market. If no stronger suction arises in the months to come, we shall therefore do very well, but a vigilant solicitude must be taken to prevent bankers' credits from becoming too cheap in the London market, for that would be fatal to everything. And war finance always cheapens bankers' money because the extra outgoings, which have to be provided for by credit, continually tend to enlarge floating supplies.



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## WAR TIME HOLIDAYS AND THE CHILDREN

Holidays this year must be short and inexpensive, but the children will need their outings in the fresh air of the countryside all the same.

The following is a selection of Routes which run daily, and pass through every variety of country, at fares which could not be cheaper.

- Route No. 10A Elephant & Castle & Loughton
- Route No. 47 Shoreditch & Farnborough
- Route No. 160 Stockwell & Reigate
- Route No. 27 Highgate & Twickenham
- Route No. 105 Ealing & Surbiton
- Route No. 24 Golders Green & St. Albans
- Route No. 142 Kilburn Park Station & Watford

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



## Letters to the Editor.

## THE GERMAN MIND.

DEAR SIR,—In last week's INVESTORS' REVIEW you mention a letter, written presumably by a civilian in Berlin, the translation of which appeared in the *Standard*, and was originally published in the *France de Demain*. I do not now whether this letter is original. So many concoctions have been published in the world's Press that it is difficult to distinguish between reality and imagination. I give you, however, translation of a short note which I have received, written by a man who is actively engaged on the other side in the settlement of this terrible dispute between nations. In order not to detract from its value, I translate it as literally as possible :—

"God may grant that soon a peace may be given to us which may be lasting and reconcile all nations. It is my firm conviction that two cultured nations like Germany and England are destined to supplement, and not to devour, each other. They will find each other at the end of this terrible and thorny path. For my part, I consider it the finest task imposed upon every educated and thinking man to work for such an end, after this terrible time, with all his possessions, knowledge, and power."

Is it not time that thinking men begin to realise and impress upon the minds of others that there is a vast difference between the ideas of the governors and of the governed?

Yours faithfully,  
S. BETTMANN.

Coventry, August 9, 1915.

[The letter referred to by Mr. Bettmann finds but too many echoes in other German utterances, written and spoken, to allow us to doubt its genuineness. But that there are other and wiser Germans, more humane also, we know well. Our greatest sorrow lies in this, that all the best of Germany, including its sentimentalism, once so full of lovable ideas, has been submerged under the lava outburst of Prussian militarism. All the German peoples are not slaves of the Prussian military wreckers of civilisation, and one day the true men will emerge, perhaps to save. Had there been 5,000 men only in Germany ready to risk life and all in stern opposition to the Junker caste during the past ten years, when the war monster was growing and getting equipped for devastation, we should most likely have escaped the calamity now looming black over all civilisation. There does not seem to have been as many as ten men within the Empire willing to give life for freedom. Therefore, the punishment of the Teutonic Empires must be proceeded with until even the tender, sensitive plant of German moral courage is given light, air, and liberty to unfold. In this lies the greatness of the tragedy and its horror.—Ed.]

## ONE MORE SUMMONS TO PATRIOTIC EFFORT.

SIR,—In the name of the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisation, I wish to thank the Statesmen, the public, and the Press, to whose support we owe the great and successful meetings at the Guildhall, on May 19th, where the Prime Minister led the first Imperial meeting held in this country, and at the London Opera House, on the immortal anniversary of August 4, where London, the Empire, and the Navy spoke together in the visual embodiment of Lord Crewe, Sir Robert Borden, and Mr. Arthur Balfour. On the latter day many thousand meetings passed the identical resolution which was approved by the Prime Minister more than two months ago. We hear by cablegram and telegram that this resolution was submitted and passed with enthusiasm, not only in the great self-governing dominions, and places so variously remote as Paris, Petrograd, India, Jamaica, Vancouver, Tasmania, the Fiji Islands, Wei-hai-Wei, Newfoundland, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Blantyre, Nyassaland, Gibraltar, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Sydney, Penang, Montreal, Mombasa, Nukuolofa, Barbados, the Windward Islands, and further telegrams are constantly arriving. In the

United Kingdom and Ireland, as far as can be judged at present, meetings have been held and the resolution passed in many thousand places.

The Central Committee venture to hope that this demonstration may have been of National, Imperial, and International value, which may have an influence upon the course of the war.

All these meetings, including those at the Guildhall and the Opera House, have been absolutely free to the public, but some very heavy expenses of organisation and equipment have been met by the Central Committee, which, for all its work, depends solely upon voluntary subscriptions.

The Committee has much other work in hand of a patriotic and economic nature, an account of which will be shortly published in a full report of its proceedings since the beginning of the war. But the Committee is plainly and urgently in need of further funds to continue its work. Any subscriptions—and it would be idle to limit the size of the subscriptions desired—should be sent to the Treasurer, at 62, Charing Cross, S.W.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY CUST, Chairman.

August 11, 1915.

\*\*\* A good and necessary work, but would it not be possible for local patriotism to meet the local expenses? Are rents exacted for the use of meeting-places?—ED.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-Sumatra Rubber.—Second interim of 12½ per cent. Only one interim dividend of 12½ per cent. was paid last year, the total distribution for the year being 30 per cent.

Bank of British North America.—Interim of 40s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended May 31 last, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 8, same as a year ago.

British Linen Bank.—Interim at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 18 per cent. last year.

Brompton and Kensington Electricity.—Interim for half-year to June 30 on the ordinary at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago, but tax free.

Cambrian Railways.—Interest on the A, B, and C debenture stocks for the half-year to June 30 will be paid in the usual course on Sept. 1.

Cleator and Workington Junction Railway.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Usual quarterly of 1½ per cent. (being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum) upon the preferred, and of 2½ per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum) on the common, also an extra 2½ per cent. on the common, all payable Oct. 1.

Fife Coal.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of tax, same as a year ago.

Financial Times.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference for half-year ended June 30, payable 25th inst., last year an interim of 15 per cent. per annum was declared on the ordinary.

Halley's Industrial Motors.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum, free tax, same as last year, but less tax.

Harrod's Stores.—Interim on the ordinary in respect of half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 31.

Harrod's Stores Founders' Shares.—Interim in respect of half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 31.

International Investment Trust.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 2, against 4 per cent. a year ago.

J. and R. Allan.—Interim on the ordinary of 2½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Langat Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent.

Maple and Co.—Interim of 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, payable Sept. 1, against 1s. per share.

Mather and Platt.—Interim of 3 per cent. (actual), against 5 per cent.

Merchants' Trust.—Interim of 2 per cent. on the preference and ordinary for half-year ended July 31, same as a year ago.

Minneapolis, St Paul, and S.S. Marie Railway.—Half-yearly on the common at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 15.

New Transvaal Gold Farms.—1½d. per share, against 3d.

Ogilvie Flour Mills.—Usual quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the preferred, payable Sept. 1.

Railway Investment.—Interim on the preference of £2 per cent., less tax, payable Sept. 4.

Rambutan, Limited.—6d. per share, tax free, payable Aug. 21.

Price's Patent Candle.—Interim of 16s. per share, less tax, for half-year to June 30, payable Sept. 29.

Scottish Northern Investment Trust.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Spratt's Patent (America).—Interim on the ordinary of 6d. per share, less tax, payable 11th prox., same as a year ago.

Uva Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		Aug. 6	£	£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 6	4,425	+	1	117,145	+	10,554
Grand Canal ..	" 6	1,055	—	201	5,675	—	609
Great Northern ..	" 6	25,385	+	1,385	708,950	+	23,500
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 6	35,442	+	591	1,001,248	+	89,207
Midland Great Western ..	" 6	17,447	+	5,050	390,415	+	11,666

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		June *	£	£	£	£	£
Beira ..	June *	30,095	—	14,638	—	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	July 31†	\$391,100	—	\$87,300	—	\$1,206,100	—
Canadian Pacific ..	Aug. 7	\$1,787,000	—	\$449,000	—	\$9,234,000	—
Egyptian Delta ..	July 20†	4,142	—	1,961	—	43,372	—
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Aug. 7	161,820	—	24,698	—	4,704,515	—
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 7	30,719	+	123	—	875,815	—
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 7	11,661	+	1,346	—	310,037	—
Gr Trk Pac Prairie So ..	July 31†	14,170	—	5,956	—	45,484	—
Mashonaland ..	June *	45,270	—	14,891	—	184,435	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	5,795	—	4,952	—	93,781	—
New Cape Central ..	July 17	1,312	—	240	—	52,966	—
Rhodesia ..	June *	69,910	—	14,563	—	360,158	—
W. Pass & Yukon ..	July 31†	\$89,569	—	—	—	—	—

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. † April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 3	1,28,000	—	11,041	—
Barsi Light ..	" 10	15,300	—	21,000	—
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 10	3,54,320	—	579	—
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 17	7,95,000	—	1,62,000	—
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 7	8,19,000	—	1,18,000	—
Burma ..	July 3	3,31,676	—	94,473	—
Delhi Umballa ..	Aug. 7	52,900	—	2,478	—
East Indian ..	" 7	18,33,000	—	7,000	—
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 7	1,16,61,000	—	109,000	—
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 10	57,249	—	5,920	—
Madras and S. ..	" 10	8,70,000	—	6,419	—
Mahratta ..	" 3	1,02,162	—	493	—
Nizam's Guaranteed ..	" 10	31,731	—	822	—
Rohilkund and ..	" 10	5,66,146	—	16,768	—
Kumaon ..	Mar. 8	6,89,429	—	1,15,571	—
Southern Indian ..	" 10	3,40,200	—	5,96,764	—
Southern Punjab ..	Mar. 8	6,89,429	—	1,15,571	—

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN.

		July 31†	£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 31†	1,376,000	+	131,000	†	3,605,000 + 341,000
Chicago G. W. ..	" 21	286,000	+	2,000	†	803,000 + 2,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 14	24,200	—	1,000	†	469,000 + 6,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 31†	628,000	—	52,000	†	—
Inter. of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	42,400	—	138,900	†	225,500 — 683,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	July 21	998,000	—	121,000	†	2,924,000 — 276,000
Mexican ..	Nov. 21	103,600	—	102,900	†	3,524,700 — 106,900
Do. ..	Oct. *	262,500	—	126,300	†	1,149,000 — 524,100
Do. ..	"	905,600	—	84,200	†	3,405,200 + 7,200
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	July 14	494,000	—	42,000	†	1,007,000 — 93,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 14	875,086	—	77,923	†	2,520,920 — 95,781
Missouri Pacific ..	" 31†	1,627,000	—	213,000	†	4,709,000 — 542,000
National of Mexico ..	Aug. 7	628,408	—	395,370	†	17,894,408 — 6,798,370
Do. ..	June *	74,000	—	197,000	†	2,287,000 — 18,400,000
Southern ..	July 31†	1,731,000	—	159,000	†	5,123,000 — 582,000

† 10 days. † 1914. \* Nett. † Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1. † Jan. 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé ..	June	2,950,000	+	376,000	12	36,051,000	+	3,937,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	412,000	—	63,000	12	7,042,000	—	2,016,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,203,000	+	1,719,000	12	27,891,000	+	3,130,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	335,300	—	128,000	12	4,828,700	—	1,523,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	2,678,000	—	657,000	12	33,575,000	—	8,851,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	May	1,215,000	+	208,000	11	10,843,000	+	542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	June	1,859,000	+	301,000	12	22,252,000	—	490,000
Chicago Buri. & Q. ..	May	1,640,000	+	431,000	11	28,499,000	+	205,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	205,000	—	15,000	11	3,092,000	—	51,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	2,823,000	+	566,000	12	24,717,000	—	1,900,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	May	804,000	+	348,000	11	12,985,000	—	902,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	169,000	—	45,000	11	3,313,000	—	749,000
Cuba ..	"	540,877	—	78,776	11	4,749,143	—	16,656
Do. ..	"	260,649	—	111,003	11	1,688,244	—	143,315
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	643,000	—	13,000	5	2,864,000	—	492,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	593,000	—	93,000	11	5,864,000	—	233,000
Erie ..	June	1,545,000	+	27,000	6	6,332,000	—	377,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£275,100	—	£15,900	6	£1,031,750	—	£22,350
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£26,700	—	£21,900	6	£19,700	—	£27,400
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£6,300	—	£10,100	6	£20,100	—	£23,150
Gt. Northern ..	May	1,050,000	—	162,000	11	27,687,000	—	1,144,000
Illinois Central ..	June	481,000	—	382,000	12	10,879,000	—	861,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	139,000	—	197,000	12	2,983,000	—	509,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	3,680,000	—	284,000	12	12,579,000	—	496,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	May	829,000	—	227,000	11	9,218,000	—	2,274,000
Minn. S.P. & S.S.M. ..	"	337,000	—	63,000	11	7,599,000	—	104,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	358,000	—	199,000	12	9,820,000	—	1,231,000
Missouri Pacific ..	May	778,000	—	118,000	11	11,962,000	—	1,027,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	4,854,000	—	1,679,000	11	18,331,000	—	6,632,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	1,738,000	—	478,000	11	15,850,000	—	2,523,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	185,000	—	90,000	12	2,141,000	—	40,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,559,000	—	424,000	12	13,229,000	—	334,000
Northern Pacific ..	May	1,341,000	—	41,000	11	19,446,000	—	58,100
Pennsylvania East ..	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
and West Lines ..	June	8,456,000	—	1,041,000	6	28,749,000	—	2,102,000
Reading ..	May	556,091	—	114	11	6,119,201	—	57,204
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	946,000	—	700,000	11	11,219,000	—	1,744,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	473,000	—	73,000	12	4,890,000	—	1,516,000
Southern ..	June	1,139,000	—	366,000	12	13,400,000	—	2,911,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	3,598,000	—	568,000	12	35,689,000	—	2,005,000
Union Pacific ..	"	2,826,000	—	256,000	12	30,180,000	—	1,446,000
Wabash ..	May	295,000	—	17,000	11	5,692,000	—	320,000

† Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Production week August 8, 71,600 poods, or 1,155 tons.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	%	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	%	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 7	Ps. 8,000	—	Ps.8,000	†	Ps.407,200	—	Ps.25,450
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 8	29,260	—	2,010	†	715,705	—	418,279
Arauco ..	June *	5,250	—	712	†	41,872	—	10,374
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 7	5,874	—	749	†	32,818	—	3,818
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	July *	3,655	—	70	†	26,573	—	5,921
Bolivar ..	" *	8,250	—	1,648	†	86,169	—	25,698
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	—	M239,757	4	M12,681,000	—	M787,340
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Feb. *	M18,28,250	—	M6,250	2	M55,750	—	M10,250
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 7	92,000	—	16,000	†	446,000	—	29,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 8	77,000	—	1,000	†	430,908	—	21,033
Do. Western ..	" 8	45,000	—	7,000	†	238,000	—	11,000
Central Argentine ..	" 7	101,000	—	17,000	†	637,000	—	46,080
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 7	10,648	—	767	†	57,000	—	5,161
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 7	3,331	—	791	†	18,392	—	3,198
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 7	1,438	—	13	†	9,890	—	816
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 7	1,532	—	114	†	7,427	—	619
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	—	500	†	37,900	—	1,733
Cordoba Central ..	Aug. 7	37,500	—	200	†	205,450	—	3,135
Costa Rica ..	June 26	5,355	—	3,327	†	326,981	—	146,944
Cuban Central ..	Aug. 7	6,032	—	113	†	40,719	—	3,223
Dorada Extension ..	July *	5,500	—	2,500	†	53,000	—	6,600
Entre Rios ..	Aug. 7	8,600	—	500	†	47,800	—	3,000
Gt. South. of Spain ..	July 31	Ps. 68,627	—	Ps.3,030	†	Ps1,772,175	—	Ps998,099
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Aug. 7	6,500	—	100	†	315,000	—	103,800
Havana Central ..	" 7	4,919	—	277	†	27,567	—	1,274
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	June *	17,261	—	3,025	†	128,878	—	51,112
La Guaira and Car. ..	July *	6,750	—	2,250	†	49,000	—	19,500
Leopoldina ..	Aug. 7	28,802	—	6,694	†	894,367	—	112,305
Manila ..	" 7	3,381	—	1,494	†	179,564	—	35,562
Midland Uruguay ..	July *	10,213	—	511	†	10,213	—	511
Mogiana ..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	—	M125,225	4	M6,570,000	—	M517,804
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	22,300	—	3,333	†	232,228	—	66,325
Nitrate ..	July 31†	20,345	—	10,917	†	175,886	—	248,017
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	12,627	†	8,634	—	12,627
Paraguay Central ..	Aug. 7	\$414,000	—	\$176,000	†	\$2,076,000	—	\$603,000
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	—	M59,123	4	M7,350,000	—	M339,662
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	July *	\$724,838	—	\$262,661	†	\$724,838	—	\$262,661
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	May *	3,737	—	513	†	19,858	—	1,392
Salvador ..	Aug. 7	\$20,000	—	\$250	†	—	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 1	44,043	—	5,254	†	179,437	—	5,040
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	—	M132,722	4	M5,440,000	—	M4,558
Taita ..	June *	10,500	—	14,200	†	132,886	—	176,687
United of Havana ..	Aug. 7	24,954	—	4,639	†	131,507	—	20,357
United of Yucatan ..	Feb 6	\$64,400	—	\$6,200	†	\$403,900	—	\$54,300
Uruguay Northern ..	July *	1,787	—	232	†	1,787	—	232
West'n of Havana ..	Aug. 7	5,274	—	928	†	28,631	—	4,896
Zafra and Huelva ..	June *	7,061	—	6,058	†	43,248	—	42,577



## SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,250,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

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Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &amp;c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

Many interesting things are happening in the Money market, going on behind the scenes, as one may put it, but perhaps the most interesting fact connected with it is the shipments of gold and securities to the United States. Apparently about £4,000,000 of gold and £7,250,000 of American securities have been received in New York on London account, and it has been said here for some time past that our Treasury was buying American railroad bonds to be utilised in New York as security for credits raised there or as a means to meet debts incurred. It is an ingenious expedient, but will not go very far, even helped by gold the immediate source of which is not disclosed. Possibly an effort may still have to be made, and at no distant day, to raise a straightforward loan in New York, although that must not be done on terms likely to be hurtful to our great War Stock. There would be nothing derogatory to our dignity in borrowing abroad, but there might be injury to our credit if the terms were excessive, and it may be better to bother stock markets by throwing securities upon them when the public is in mood to buy even at the risk of lowered prices. Or we might offer Treasury bills at an acceptable discount to give New York a chance to show its supplanting power.

In other respects the Money market week is interesting chiefly in the evidence it gives of the abundance of gold held by the public. During the Bank week ended on Wednesday its stock of coin and bullion increased by £3,516,000, and all but £779,000 of this was drawn from the internal circulation in response to the appeal of the Government to the public not to hoard gold. Probably the stock of the Bank of England will continue to be assisted in this manner—and we shall need it all, for the aggregate reserve of £65,738,000 now shown is by no means excessive, looking at our commitments and at our responsibility, not only for our own share in the gigantic costs of the war, but for the sustenance of our Allies. It was, for instance, rumoured last night that Russia was about to raise a loan here, and we need not be surprised should that prove true by-and-by, although it is improbable that

any step of the kind will be taken until the Dardanelles are cleared for the resumption of traffic. Then Russian assets, the produce she has to vend, should make borrowing by the Imperial Government comparatively easy.

By how much of our credit we are helping France, Belgium, Italy, and Serbia, or may be preparing to help Greece and Rumania, cannot be guessed, and should not be told if we knew; but the figures of our Bank return are emphatic in proof of the tremendous distention of credit war is forcing upon our market. "Other" deposits, for example, although only £854,000 up on the week, stand at £85,076,000, and "Public" deposits, which contain the undistributed balance of the amount paid upon the new War Loan, are, although £4,454,000 down, at the great total of £142,604,000. The market could not possibly use that mass in its ordinary affairs. It is so huge that the repayment out of the War Loan of the Bank of England advances to assist business a year ago has left no trace on credit rates whatever. Money is cheap, or cheapening. At the beginning of the week three months' bank bills were quoted at  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent.; to-day the rate is under  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., and even the six months' quotation has often gone below 5 per cent. Discounts must thus recede if short credits are abundant enough to be easily obtainable at quotations well below the range of discounts. Here it is satisfactory to note a hardening tendency, and no doubt the continued threatening position of New York exchange will alone be sufficient to keep the market from falling a victim to too easy money.

In the course of the week the Government has paid off upwards of £9,562,000 of Treasury bills, but the total outstanding is still £236,322,000, and it will not be possible for the Treasury to effect much further reduction in the aggregate. It is much more likely to be obliged to raise its rates of discount. The official quotation for Treasury bills is now  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for all usances up to 12 months, and that seems to be considered a "flat" rate too low even for three months' bills.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended August 11 £2,619,360 in £1 notes, £1,283,635 in 10s. notes, and £560,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,737,650 in £1, £411,451 in 10s. notes, and £260,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £2,053,864, leaving a total of £48,783,504 10s. outstanding, made up of £36,310,669 in £1, £12,172,835 10s. in 10s. notes, and £300,000 in note certificates. There is also an investments reserve account of £308,162 17s. 3d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £9,360,839 14s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £1,204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £441,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

Silver has been rather interesting this week, and, as Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. say, it is five months since there has been a rise of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the price. At the end of last week that price was 22 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per oz.; to-night it is 23d. The cause of the advance has been the unexpected appearance of the United States Treasury as a buyer. It has picked up 675,000 ozs., and wants another 500,000 ozs. This surprised the Indian bazaars and led bears in Bombay to rush in to cover. Whether the market will keep hard or go further up is doubtful, for China may take advantage of the rise to sell, and supplies of the metal are plentiful enough.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council bills drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 15,000 at 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. This amount was allotted in bills on Madras at 1s. 3.937d. per rupee. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 10th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,76,88,934, realising £1,843,560, compared with Rs. 5,19,88,332, realising £3,469,492, to August 11 last year.



### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 11, 1915.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 83,225,940	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,700
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	64,775,940
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 83,225,940		£ 83,225,940

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 46,915,039
Reserve .. ..	3,503,490	Other Securities .. ..	148,135,566
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	142,604,347	Notes .. ..	50,762,560
Other Deposits .. ..	85,575,819	Gold and Silver Coin ..	962,107
Seven Day and other Bills ..	47,081		
	£ 245,775,272		£ 245,775,272

Dated August 12, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year, Aug. 12.	Aug. 4, 1915.	Aug. 11, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,582,615	3,450,561	3,503,490	52,929	—
7,889,491	147,058,021	142,604,347	—	4,454,274
83,326,113	84,221,335	85,075,819	854,484	—
6,888	41,081	38,616	—	2,465
23,041,152	45,874,146	45,915,039	959,107	—
70,786,596	155,264,727	148,135,566	7,129,161	—
15,530,389	47,185,725	51,724,667	—	4,538,942
			8,995,681	8,995,681
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
35,034,240	46,171,745	50,762,560	4,590,815	—
33,014,629	62,221,755	65,738,047	3,516,292	—
17 p.c.	208 p.c.	228 p.c.	28 p.c.	—
5 "	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £779,000 in.

#### TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £9,636,000 of the Treasury Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. There was, however, a decrease of £9,562,000, in the amount outstanding, so that the sales of new bills during the period apparently amounted to £74,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3 1/2
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3 1/2
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 1 1/2
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5 1/2
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 17 1 1/2
*163,821,000	—	—	—
236,322,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday—Sovs. released ..	£ 200,000
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	979,000
Thursday—Bars .. ..	5,000
	£ 1,184,000

#### LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,699,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	300,466,000	948,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 14 ..	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" 21 ..	394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
" 28 ..	332,781,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000
August 4 ..	260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—
" 11 ..	273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—
Total ..	8,102,895,000	10,489,713,000	—	2,386,718,000

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 23, 1915.	July 16, 1915.	July 9, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 42,809,400	£ 42,694,400	£ 43,604,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	215,200	207,200	223,200
Gold Settlement Fund ..	9,690,000	9,336,000	9,421,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,182,600	5,293,400	4,493,800
Total reserves ..	57,897,200	57,536,000	57,747,400
30-day bills and loans ..	2,391,200	2,429,200	2,601,600
60-day bills and loans ..	2,563,000	2,420,600	2,273,400
90-day bills and loans ..	2,239,200	1,879,800	1,711,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	691,200	798,400	749,000
Total ..	7,884,600	7,528,000	7,335,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,584,600	1,584,600	1,579,600
Municipal Warrants ..	3,022,000	2,878,200	2,779,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. ..	1,045,800	1,171,000	1,221,400
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,845,400	1,990,600	1,675,800
All other assets ..	953,000	887,200	738,800
Total assets ..	74,232,600	73,575,600	73,077,400
Paid-up capital ..	10,834,000	10,827,000	10,820,800
Reserve deposits—nett.	60,212,600	59,523,200	59,161,600
Note circulation—nett.	2,964,200	2,848,400	2,675,000
All other liabilities ..	281,800	377,000	420,000
Total liabilities ..	74,232,600	73,575,600	73,077,400

### PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 7.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. ..	£ 554,000
Excise .. ..	310,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	503,000
Stamps .. ..	23,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	320,000
Land Values Duties .. ..	—
Post Office .. ..	—
Crown Lands .. ..	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	183,461
Miscellaneous .. ..	125
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	60,000,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 ..	—
Issue of War Stock and War Bonds ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments .. ..	—
Canal Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	255,000
Temporary Advances Deficiency ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. ..	38,055,050
	£ 100,243,636
	£ 100,243,636

† Reduction.

### BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 12, 1915.	Aug. 5, 1915.	July 29, 1915.	July 22, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 172,890,960	£ 68,883,320	£ 165,173,760	£ 162,052,240
Silver in hand ..	14,713,840	14,734,160	14,730,760	14,685,920
Bills discounted ..	10,789,080	12,185,480	11,100,640	10,499,280
Advances ..	23,787,760	23,812,800	23,893,040	24,294,160
Note circulation ..	513,032,120	509,015,360	503,701,160	500,511,560
Public deposits ..	3,595,640	8,756,160	8,843,880	7,718,920
Private deposits ..	94,619,440	91,123,320	95,195,920	95,018,880
Foreign Bills ..	69,280	53,840	61,600	55,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36 per cent. against 36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £22,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £41,291,160, decrease £505,440, and at the branches to £42,506,080, decrease £315,600.

### IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 29, 1915.	July 21, 1915.	July 14, 1915.	Aug. 4, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 8,823,300	£ 7,328,900	£ 8,943,500	£ 7,593,800
Cash in reserve ..	157,860,400	157,899,100	157,886,100	160,490,700
Gold in reserve abroad ..	9,007,900	9,368,000	9,996,700	11,676,100
Circulation note issue ..	392,000,000	387,000,000	384,500,000	240,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,224,700	21,347,000	22,633,500	51,793,300

### NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	July 24, 1915.	Aug. 8, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 31,243,168	£ 31,121,483	£ 31,011,972	£ 13,551,720
Silver .. ..	162,486	191,447	212,993	53,484
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,243,278	14,144,636	14,385,103	30,184,365
Note circulation ..	42,464,618	42,725,641	41,867,234	38,426,799
Deposits .. ..	2,902,143	2,981,813	3,901,340	2,470,217



## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 7, 1915	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915	Aug. 8, 1914
Loans	£519,046,000	£504,212,000	£512,266,000	£417,032,000
Reserve held in own Vaults	88,900,000	89,364,000	88,262,000	77,318,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	26,346,000	26,442,000	25,678,000	—
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,968,000	7,812,000	6,814,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits	£510,538,000	£508,420,000	£504,818,000	£381,790,000
Nett Time Deposits	28,914,000	28,058,000	27,040,000	10,218,000
Circulation	7,496,000	7,562,000	7,578,000	—
Excess Lawful Reserve	33,840,000	35,730,000	33,520,000	8,624,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.  
\* Deficit.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	July 24, 1915.	Aug. 8, 1914.
Loans	£117,772,000	£117,502,000	£119,036,000	£113,946,600
Specie	9,858,000	9,536,000	9,742,000	8,776,200
Deposits	121,674,000	120,994,000	122,898,000	112,635,400
Legal Tenders	1,706,000	1,738,000	1,870,000	2,109,600

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	July 23, 1915.	July 15, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£122,414,600	£122,260,550	£122,119,650	£122,001,800
Treasury Notes	8,334,450	12,869,700	14,367,200	14,158,100
Bills discounted	236,149,890	239,229,250	227,580,050	232,720,650
Advances	671,650	852,000	685,000	670,600
Note circulation	272,874,500	276,908,200	265,739,100	270,612,300
Public deposits	82,279,600	82,580,200	85,977,600	86,819,950

Clearing House returns during July £252,034,605 against £235,431,975 in June.

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 31, 1915.	July 24, 1915.	July 17, 1915.	Aug. 1, 1914.
Gold	£6,300,000	£6,299,000	£6,298,000	£5,717,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	4,907,000	4,491,000	4,721,000	6,150,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,782,000	2,665,000	2,695,000	1,555,000
Discounts and Loans	7,369,000	7,453,000	8,212,000	7,495,000
Notes in circulation	15,342,000	14,575,000	14,947,000	13,432,000
Deposits at notice	4,922,000	5,184,000	5,873,000	3,903,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 31, 1915.	July 22, 1915.	July 7, 1915.	July 31, 1914.
Gold	£3,420,000	£3,603,000	£3,598,000	£2,960,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,517,000	3,126,000	3,216,000	1,678,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	636,000	637,000	637,000	493,000
Discounts & Loans	4,251,000	4,234,000	4,348,000	4,868,000
Notes in Circulation	7,912,000	8,325,000	8,115,000	6,754,000
Deposits at notice	1,392,000	1,270,000	1,114,000	793,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 31, 1915.	July 23, 1915.	July 15, 1915.	July 10, 1915.
Gold and silver	£11,867,688	£11,834,172	£11,868,628	£11,784,252
Bills	6,291,308	5,830,784	5,606,560	5,681,960
Note circulation	16,406,900	15,926,400	16,105,600	16,399,136
Current and deposit accounts	3,725,596	4,033,780	3,847,568	3,316,936

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1915	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 17, 1915
Gold	£28,157,686	£27,925,355	£27,899,251	£27,869,124
Silver	29,493,098	29,775,711	29,738,354	29,644,053
Foreign Bills	4,781,694	4,950,786	4,988,787	4,901,033
Discounts and Short Bills	26,674,549	26,914,881	26,627,113	27,074,248
Treasury Account, &c.	30,737,545	30,976,708	31,202,386	31,480,278
Notes in Circulation	80,936,956	80,935,928	79,901,136	79,846,351
Current Accounts, Deposits	25,951,405	26,549,191	26,801,467	27,171,434
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,496,376	2,250,968	2,300,012	2,298,297
Government Securities	2,759,794	3,697,119	2,833,084	2,662,441

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	August 5, 1915.		August 10, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.2
Do.	Cable transfers	11.74	11.77	11.73	11.75
Italy	Three months' bills	30.00	30.20	30.30	30.45
Do.	Cable transfers	29.60	29.80	30.00	30.15
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	36	35	36	35
New York	Cable transfers	4.76½	4.77½	4.75½	4.76½
Do.	Cheques & mail transfers	4.76½	4.77½	4.76	4.76½
Paris	Three months' bills	27.25	27.35	27.75	27.95
Do.	Cable transfers	26.85	26.95	27.30	27.40
Petrograd	Cable transfers	146	150	145	147
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	18.25	18.45	18.20	18.40
Do.	Three months' bills	—	—	18.50	18.65
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills	46½	46	47	46½
Do.	Cable transfers	24.87½	24.97½	24.80	24.90
Switzerland	Three months' bills	25.70	25.90	25.70	25.90
Do.	Cable transfers	25.30	25.50	25.50	25.50

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	26.90	27.80	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	29.75	30.10
Amsterdam	sight	11.75	11.75	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	cbqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg	cbqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd	3 mths	147½	137½	Bombay	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York	sight	4.7½	4.75½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/9d.	1/9d.
Lisbon	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai	T.T.	2/2½d.	2/3d.
Madrid	sight	24.85	24.90	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	2½	4½
Six months	3½	4½
Nine months	3½	4½
Twelve months	3½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	4½	4½
Three months	4½	4½
Four months	4½	4½
Six months	4½	4½
Three months fire inland bills	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	3	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3½	3½
7 and 14 days' notice	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4-4½	4-4½
for call loans	3-3½	3-4

## The Week's Stock Markets.

No better proof could be afforded that the Stock Market is enduring an intense strain at the present time than the brief gleam of hope and stiffening prices which passed over the City on Thursday afternoon when news came that the Russian exchange had dropped from 144 to 131. "Good news from the Dardanelles" was the inference put round the market, and the tone hardened at once, although business remained without character—the mere routine of small bargains not always easy to carry through. During the week the tendency has not been very good, and Home Railways were disposed to give way until it became known that the North-Western Railway Co.'s issue had turned out a great success. Then hope revived and prices looked brighter. After all, people say, the country has not been exhausted by the magnitude of the War Loan, for investors were so ready to subscribe for the new "Brum" preference stock that the lists were closed a day before the time specified in the prospectus. That is unquestionably a heartening fact, and we hope the new Australian Commonwealth loan may encounter an equally ready response out there. It is to be for £20,000,000 in all, money solely devoted to pay for the costs of the war, but only £5,000,000 is to be issued now. The rate of interest is to be 4½ per cent., and the loan is redeemable in 10 years. Although offered in local markets only, so that we will not have to support it here, the probability is that bankers on this side may be asked by-and-by to give their support, and Australian bank balances in London will certainly be drawn upon. There should still be wealth enough in Australia, however, to account for, at any rate, the first portion of this £20,000,000 loan, and as its bonds and stock are to be accepted at face value in payment of Commonwealth probate and succession duties, while free of stamp duties and of all income-tax, not only in the Commonwealth, but in the various States, there should be something like avidity shown in taking it up. Patriotism must, anyway, be prepared to support this and other demands the war is certain to bring upon us. As long as these are in prospect we cannot expect to do more than mark time in other directions, and the satisfaction to us always is to see our miscellaneous markets standing up against adversity as they do.

Two pieces of bad news, in a financial sense, have come from South America this week, but attracted little notice. One is to the effect that the Argentine



Government has laid the 1916 budget before the Chamber, showing an expenditure of about £30,000,000 and a revenue of about £25,500,000. There is consequently an expected deficit of some £4,500,000, which is anything but satisfactory in the present state of Argentine business affairs. The other is that the Brazilian Chamber has passed a Bill authorising the issue of a loan of 300,000 contos paper, or £15,600,000, the money to be utilised to protect the

ful side. The news from the Dardanelles has been read favourably; there are hopes that the various Balkan groups will be brought into line, and some of the foreign exchanges have taken a turn for the better. It is said that the Government have been buying American gold bonds heavily for shipment to New York, in order to influence the exchange, and it is also said that another large credit will be placed at Russia's disposal in London for the same purpose. Good results are also hoped from the conference about Mexican affairs in Washington, and there have been no adverse developments to seriously disturb markets at any point. War Loan stock has settled down in the neighbourhood of 98½ cum and 98½ ex rights, and the fluctuations have not been so wide or erratic as they were at first. The number of transactions runs to about 200 a day, and the absorbing power is just about equal to the selling pressure. Consols are neglected, except for conversion transactions, and the old (3½ per cent.) War Loan has scarcely moved a fraction away from 92½. Colonial issues have shown more firmness, but there has been little enough interest in them. Foreign stocks also have been idle as a rule, but Argentine, Chinese, and Japanese issues were firm. Russians and Mexicans came into some demand for the reasons already stated, but Uruguays were weak. Tenders of Colombian 3 per cent. bonds for redemption were received on Monday, and those at 49 or under were accepted.

Nothing of interest has occurred among Home Railways, and the tone has been dull. Several deceased accounts have come on the market recently, and although the selling would have been regarded as trifling in normal times there is so little buying power at present that any offer of stock has an effect quite disproportionate to the amount. The dividend list for the past six months is now complete. Caledonian pays the same as a year ago, viz., 3 per cent. on the preferred, but nothing on the deferred, and this was just as expected. Glasgow and South-Western pays 1 per cent. per annum against ½ per cent. on the deferred, but this did not lead to a single marking of business when the dividend was announced, which must be almost a record in a usually active stock. Furness did extremely well paying 2 per cent. per annum against nil, but this also failed to stimulate dealings, and there were no transactions recorded. American Rails have also eased off a little, but Unions, Southern Pacifics, Eries, Norfolks, and Readings have been fairly prominent from time to time. Steels were strong among Industrial shares, but they close below the best. Canadas spurted smartly on the announcement that the dividend would be maintained, and this had also a strengthening effect on Grand Trunk issues. The Toronto correspondent of the *Times* states that the Canadian Northern Railway has successfully floated a loan in New York for \$9,500,000 (£1,900,000) for two years at 5 per cent., secured by a general mortgage on the railway and unsold bonds of the company guaranteed by the Government. Argentines have been steady, and Mexicans improved on the hope that some means would be discovered by the Washington Conference to re-establish peace in the country.

In the Miscellaneous markets attention has been mainly directed to the Canadian steel group. Such shares as Canadian Car and Foundry, Dominion Steel, and Lake Superior Corporation have been in good demand, and prices were firm as a rule, although not fully maintained. British Armament companies also received a fair amount of support under the lead of Armstrongs and Vickers. Marconi issues were strong with American Marconis most prominent on fairly heavy buying, which is generally attributed to efforts to secure control, and this helped the other shares in the group. Brazilian Tractions improved on the recovery in the exchange. In the Shipping section P. and O. and Royal Mails received some support, but little transpired in the long list of Industrial issues. Bank shares were decidedly dull, and the Insurance market was practically neglected.

Rubber shares have provided a fair amount of investment business which is turning more in the direction of the older established concerns, probably because there is a freer market in them, while a lot of the less prominent shares are almost unobtainable at current quotations. Here and there prices have given way, but, on the whole, the tone has been strong and confident in spite of a slight reaction in the price of the commodity. Investors are on the hunt for high-yielding securities to "sweeten" gilt-edged holdings, or to compensate for loss of interest in other directions, and well-selected Rubber shares are as attractive as any from this point of view. Oils also have shown a certain amount of strength for much the same reasons, and the leaders have been in good demand. Russians improved on the more hopeful position with regard to the situation in the East, notwithstanding the temporary reverse at Warsaw.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—The market remained in a very steady state, holder showing reserve, while a fair amount of business was effected. White kinds continue in small supply. Of home refined, Tate's No. 1 cubes sold at 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s., and pieces, 21s. to 25s. 6d., as to quality. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; and white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; with yellow crystals at 26s. 6d. Cane descriptions ruled steady in the private market. St. Lucia, crystallised, mid yellow, sold, 25s. 6d. Trinidad, fine yellow at 26s. 3d.; and low brownish to mid palish Demerara at 24s. 9d. to 25s. 3d. With regard to foreign sorts, white Java in outports sold 27s. to 27s. 3d.; and Argentine Molida, at spot, London, at 26s. 6d. In auction, cane sorts ruled quiet, but rates steady. 2,435 bags Demerara crystallised, partly sold, mid to choice yellow, at 25s. 6d. to

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½	65	65	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	98½	98½
60½	60½	60½	" 4½% 1922-7.	94½	94½
80½	80½	80½	New Zealand 4½%	95	95
—	92½	92½	Queensland 4½%	92	92
—	18 dis	18 dis	" 4½% new	96½	97
92	92	92	Union of S. Africa	96½	96½
—	92½	92½	4½% 1920-5	96½	96½
92	95	95½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	96½	97½
66	66½	66½	French Rentes	69	68½
—	63	63	Japan 4½% (1st)	86½	87½
—	66½	68½	" (2nd)	83½	83½
—	94	94½	Russia 4½%	73	73
—	82	82	" 4½%	75	74½
—	85	85	" 5%	92	92
Brightford defd.	52½	51	London and S.W. dfd.	23	22½
Caledonian defd.	78	83	Do. new pf.	98½	98
Chatham ord.	78	78	Metropolitan	23½x	23½
Gt. Central pf.	14½	14	Do. 5% New pf.	98½	98
— dfd.	7	7	Met. District	13½	13½
Gt. Eastern	37½x	36½	Midland dfd.	58½x	58
Gt. Northern dfd.	38½	38	Nth. British dfd.	15½	14½
Gt. Western	101½	97½x	Nth.-Eastern	105½x	104
Lancs. and Yorks.	69½	69	Nth.-Western	105½	102x
Canadian Pacific	151½	162½	Sth.-Eastern dfd.	23	22½
Do. 6% Notes	105½	106½	Chesapeake	43½	47
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93½	93½	Erie	28½	30½
Grand Trunk ord.	8½	9	Milwaukee	85	87½
Do. 3rd pf.	21	22½	N. Y. Central	93½	95½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96	96½	Southern	14½	15½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	94½x	95½	Southern Pacific	91½	95
Atchison	105½x	108	Union Pacific	134½	138½
Baltimore	93½	86½	U. S. Steel	74½	77½
Antofagasta dfd.	112	114	Cent. Argentine ord.	75½	75
Do. 6% Notes	99½	100	Do. 5% Notes	98	98½
Brazil Common	6	6	Do. 6%	101½	102
B. A. & Pacific	43½	43	Leopoldina	30½	30½
B. A. Gt. Southern	73½	73½	Mexican ord.	14½	16½
B. A. Western	80	79½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	162	161
Bank of Australasia	111	110	United of Havana	68½	69
Barclay & Co. "A"	8x	7½	London City & Midland	7½	7½
Do. "B"	10x	10	London County & West.	15	15
Capital & Counties	21	20½	London Joint Stock	20	19½
Chartered of India	51	51	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	25	21
Hongkong & Shanghai	74	72x	Do. (£12 pd)	28	28
Lloyds	24	22½	Parr's	28½	27
London & Provincial	16½	16½	Standard of S.A.	10	10
London & S.W.	12	12½	Union & Smiths	22½x	22½
Apollinaris ord.	2	2	Forestral Land	33½	32½
Armstrong, Whitworth	36½	36½	Furness, Withy	29½x	29½
Associated Cement	2½	2½	Hudson's Bay	5½	4½
Birmingham Small Arms	58½	58½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	22½	20½	Do. dfd. "A"	38½	38½
Bovril	20½	19½x	Kynochs	26½	27½
Brazil Tracton	48	49x	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco	67½	67½	Lyons, J.	4½	4
Brown (John), & Co.	25½	24½	Marconi	2½	2
Brunner, Mond	3½	3½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	22½	22½
Cammell-Laird	41½	5	Mond Nickel ord.	3½	3½
Casner-Kellner	61½	61½	National Steam Car.	11½	11½
Coats	41½	41½	Nobel Dynamite	16½	16½
Cunard	28½	28	Pears, A. & F.	2	2
Dennis Bros.	26½	26½	P. & O. dfd.	26½	26½
Dorman, Long	20½	20½	Royal Mail	73	73
Eastmans	71	71½	South Durham Steel	27½	26½
English Sewing Cotton	30½x	30½	Underground Inc. Bds.	74½	74
Fine Cotton Spinners	24½	24½	Vickers	32½	32½x
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	5½	4½	Mexican Eagle pf.	1½	1½
Baku (ros.)	3½	3½	North Caucasian	26½	26½
Burmah	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	13½
Lobitos	28½	28½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	43½
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3½	3½	Shell	43½	43½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	14½	15½
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½	Ural Caspian	1½	1½
Anglo-Malay	8½	8½	Linggi	13½	14½
Batu Caves	12½	12½	London Asiatic	6½	6½
Bukit Mertajam	2½x	2½x	Malacca	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang	2½	2½	Malayalam	21½	21½
Damansara	2½x	2½	Merlimau	4½	4½
Gula Kalumpung	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.)	11½	11½
Highlands	2½x	2½	United Serdang	8½	9½
Johore Rubber Lands	12½	13½	Vallambrosa	12½	13½x
Abbotiakoon	7½	7½	De Beers dfd.	9½	9½
Brakpan	3	2½x	East Rand	12½	12½x
Broken Hill Prop.	44½	42½	Gt. Boulder	14½	14½
Cam & Motor	13½	12½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining	6½	6½	Modder "B"	5½	4½x
Chartered	10½	10½	Do. Deep	4½	4½
City Deep	3½x	3½x	New Modder	14½	14½x
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rand Mines	4½x	4½x
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto	55½	54½
Crown Mines	4½	4x	Van Ryn Deep	2½	2½

coffee, rubber, and other national industries. That sort of finance can only make bad worse in both these great South American Republics.

War Loan first and the rest nowhere would be a concise and fairly accurate description of the Stock markets. Of course, there is a certain amount of business elsewhere, and the number of transactions recorded has been creeping up again, but it is very patchy and terribly small when every allowance is made for the restrictions under which dealers have to work. On the whole, however, the tone has been inclined to the cheer-



CORN (Mark Lane).—Business showed little expansion at market this week, the general range of prices being firm, with a further<sup>r</sup> improving tendency in some cases. Wheat (English): Best whites delivered up, quoted at 60s. 6d., and reds of similar quality 60s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s.; No. 2 ditto, 58s.; and No. 3, 57s.; Indian, 55s. to 55s. 6d., all ex ship. Argentine, 56s. 6d. landed terms. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s. 6d. to 47s. 6d.; Manitoba patents, 44s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., both ex quay. Grinding barley: Scarcity continues to make itself felt, and in absence of offers quotations are quite nominal. Japanese, 39s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, 32s. 9d.; ex ship, 33s. 9d., landed, and reservedly offered in the latter position. White flat South African, 35s. to 36s., according to quality. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 27s. to 30s., landed, according to quality; and American, white clipped, No. 2, 34s., ex quay.



**METALS.**—Copper: Free realisations in the speculative market, induced by unfavourable American advices, led to continued irregular movements this week, standard cash delivery by Thursday being finally fixed at £67 5s. and three months £68 10s. Electrolytic £81 to £82. Tin relapsed last Monday, but part of the decline was recovered as dealings progressed, standard cash settling down at £150 5s. and three months £152. The tendency improved until the middle of the week, and a fair amount of "bear" covering with forward buying prevailed, cash fluctuating to £152 5s., with three months to £154 10s. Selling pressure followed on Thursday, while values of these dates relapsed to £150 5s. and £151 10s. respectively. Lead lower. Foreign, August to October, £20 5s. to £20 7s. 6d. Spelter weaker, American, g.o.b., August, £70; October, £60. Iron rather easier.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—No improvement has transpired during the past week in the amount of business passing in the market, and producers experience various difficulties in securing fresh orders. More irregularity is now showing itself in raw cotton quotations. Diverse reports are being received from the American belt, and according to some advices the lack of rain in Texas is adversely affecting the growth in that State. Letters and telegrams from Egypt are healthy enough as to the progress of the crop there. A good deal of interest has been taken in the Board of Trade returns, which show larger shipments of cloth in July than in any month since the beginning of the war. In yarn our foreign trade last month was somewhat affected by the restrictions of the Government, but this week licences are coming forward more freely. In piece goods for abroad the demand continues very limited, and manufacturers are passing through a severe depression. The annual holidays have been held in several weaving centres this week, and in this way a little relief has been obtained. For India only miscellaneous sales have occurred, chiefly in fancies, and staples appear to be as slow as ever. The prospects in China are fairly encouraging, as stocks are comparatively low, but buyers are cautious as to what they do in the way of placing fresh orders. There is no particular alteration in the amount of business coming round for most of the smaller outlets. Printing cloths have not attracted much attention. An irregular trade has been done in heavy goods, such as T-cloths and Mexicans. The home trade is passing through a quiet period, as is usual at this time of the year. American yarns for home use have been rather irregular in price when tested. Buyers have not been in the mood to purchase anything more than small lots. Coarse numbers continue better situated than fine counts. There is not much fresh business about in shipping yarns, but old contracts are being worked off on a rather freer scale for the Continent. Egyptian spinnings continue uncertain, and most producers are doing very badly.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—White descriptions remain in good support at recent prices. No auctions of grocery cane crystallised were held. Private market steady.

**COFFEE.**—Terminal market ruled dull. September delivery quoted 34s. 9d. A moderate quantity offered by auction evidenced a slow demand. A few lots suitable for home trade requirements were disposed of.

**SPICE.**—Pepper market dull all round, and quotations mostly nominal.

**JUTE.**—Held steadily, but buyers are very reserved at the moment. Native first marks, August, value £24, and September £23 10s.

**HEMP.**—Manila grades quiet at unaltered prices.

**RUBBER.**—Quiet. Plantation spot crepe sold 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para spot, and also forward sellers, 2s. 4½d.

**OILS.**—Turpentine spot, 34s. 3d.

**METALS.**—Tin quiet and values easier. Standard, three months, sold at £151 15s., closing £149 10s. cash and £151 15s. three months. Settlement price, £149 10s. Copper slightly lower. Standard cash sold finally £67, and three months at £68, £68 10s., and £68 5s., closing £67 and £68 5s. respectively. Settlement price, £67. Electros, £81 to £82. Tough £81 to £82. Best selected, £79 10s., to £80 10s. Strong sheets £98. Lead firmer. English £22; foreign, September, old £20 10s. to £20 15s., and December at £20 17s. 6d. Spelter lower. G.O.B., officially quoted £68 to £58. Tin plates, I.C. cokes, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d. basis, f.o.b. Wales. Iron easier. Cleveland cash, 65s. 11d.; one month, 66s. 4d.; and three months, 67s. 2d. Quicksilver £18 5s.

#### JULY MINING OUTPUTS.

Abbottiakoon.—10,787 tons; gold recovered (including £8,247 from tube mills), £21,948.

Associated Northern Blocks.—Iron Duke—Gross surplus £244. Victorious Leases.—Treated 2,094 tons sulphide ore and 1,661 tons oxidised ore for £5,310. Surplus from Victorious, £1,361.

Bantjes.—20,500 tons; profit, £1,304 (June, £1,756).

Bisichi Tin.—Production, 31½ tons; shipments, 12 tons.

Broomassie.—4,831 tons for £7,872.

Briseis Tin.—Shipped 5 tons tin per steamship Persia.

Benue Tin.—Output, 8½ tons.

Burma Ruby.—96,000 loads washed produced rubies value Rs.43,000; royalties, Rs.5,000.

Bullfinch Proprietary.—6,470 tons, 2,817 ozs.; value, £8,214; profit, £3,331.

Cam and Motor.—Treating, 13,096 tons; gold, £20,961; profit, £4,653.

City Deep.—60,000 tons; profit, £62,196. The yield recently has been higher than that called for by the ore reserves. (June, £53,759).

Crown.—206,000 tons; profit, £101,531 (June, £108,807).

Cape Copper.—O'okiep: 94 tons fine copper. NababEEP: 153 tons fine copper. Total, 247 tons fine copper.

Cinnamon Bippo.—3,570 tons, 1,606 ozs.; profit, £1,458.

Cornwall Tailings.—12,065 tons sands treated, yielding 32.7 tons black tin, value £2,570.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—28,000 tons; profit, £5,829. (June, £6,048.)

Dua (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 10½ tons.

Forum River (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 15 tons.

Ferreira Deep.—52,320 tons; profit, £31,490. (June, £23,060.)

Geduld Proprietary.—26,050 tons; profit, £12,645; reserve, 4,431 ozs. (June profit, £11,780.)

Geldenhuis Deep.—51,000 tons, £67,903; profit, £10,353. (June, £64,246; profit, £10,105.)

Giant.—5,907 tons, yielding £3,425; profit, £375.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Tons, 4,100; value, £7,397; profit, £3,001.

Gaika.—Crushed 3,300 tons; value, £7,487; profit, £3,549.

Globe and Phoenix.—6,288 tons, 7,528 ozs.; profit, £17,576; taken from reserve, 87 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe.—21,816 tons, 9,510 ozs.; value, £40,503; profit, £12,691.

Great Boulder.—At sulphide mill, 17,121 tons ore treated, 14,021 ozs.; value, £50,065.

Great Fingall.—4,720 tons ore yielded £7,728.

Jos Tin Area.—Output 58.8 tons, 57.6 of which are of an assay value of 75 per cent., and 1.2 of an assay value of 61 per cent. metallic tin. Official note.—Of the above output 51.2 tons have been recovered by the dredge from 20,800 cubic yards of ground.

Knight's Deep.—100,600 tons; value, £73,076; profit, £14,081; reserve, 239 ozs.

Lake View and Star.—16,511 tons yielded £20,144; profit, £2,839. Official note.—The reduction in the number of tons treated is due to the loss of three working days, owing to the breakdown of the tailings wheel shafting. The general managers advise that operations have again resumed normal capacity.

Lonely Reef.—4,780 tons, 3,229 ozs.; value, £13,574; profit, £5,174.

Luipaard's Vlei.—Tonnage, 21,320; profit, £3,042.

Malayan Tin Dredging.—55½ tons tin ore; value, £5,000; yard age, 197,000.

May Consolidated.—14,490 tons; £10,951; profit, £1,042 (June, £10,738; profit, £1,049).

Modderfontein B.—42,000 tons; yield, £85,018; profit, £50,940 (June, £45,921).

Modderfontein Deep Levels.—34,500 tons; £63,808; profit, £34,874 (June, £58,589; profit, £30,242).

Mount Lyell.—27,348 tons ore treated, being 17,022 tons from the Mount Lyell and 10,326 tons from North Mount Lyell. Converters produced 620 tons blister copper containing:—Copper, 613 tons; silver, 31,398 ozs.; gold, 789 ozs.

Naraguta Extended (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 27 tons; shipped 23 tons.

Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin.—Output, 40 tons; despatched 48 tons.

New Modderfontein.—52,500 tons, £103,792; profit, £59,362 (June, £109,715; profit, £64,947).

Nourse.—57,500 tons, £70,720; profit, £12,627 (June, £70,102; profit, £16,356).

Oroya Links.—Treated 12,300 tons; value, £12,600; royalties, £86; surplus, £464.

Pigg's Peak.—Tonnage, 2,710; loss, £95; development, £379.

Plymouth Consolidated.—11,000 tons for (including concentrates) £11,317; surplus, £4,402.

Princess Estate.—22,600 tons, £28,513; profit, £118 (June, £27,923; profit, £54).

Rayfield (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 60 tons; shipped, 61½ tons.

Robinson Deep.—55,700 tons, £74,650; profit, £25,034; reserve, 1,610 ozs.

Robinson.—55,000 tons, £80,076; profit, £41,070. (June, £82,645; profit, £43,637.)

Rose Deep.—68,600 tons, £81,196; profit, £23,482. (June, £81,184; profit, £26,628.)

Simmer and Jack.—70,100 tons, value £78,856; profit, £32,565; reserve, 9,450 ozs.

Simmer Deep.—61,800 tons, £48,654; profit, £5,000; reserve, 1,999 ozs.

Sub Nigel.—6,570 tons, £12,614; profit, £2,039.

Selukwe Columbia.—1,332 tons, value £2,309; concentrates value £160 produced, but not treated.

Shamva.—50,207 tons, value £38,490; profit, £18,280.

Sons of Gwalia.—13,819 tons for £20,734.

South Kalgurli.—10,113 tons, 3,007 ozs.; value, £12,750; surplus, £2,171.

Talisman Consolidated.—Treated, 2,900 tons; value, £14,435; profit, £5,422.

Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates.—Fred—Value, £3,115.

Thistle Etna.—3,057 tons; value, £2,959.

Tomboy.—Profits, U.S., \$37,000.

Transvaal Gold Estates.—12,925 tons; value, £31,740; profit, £15,547.

Village Deep.—52,000 tons, £78,163; profit, £29,184. (June £77,986; profit, £28,388.)

Village Main Reef.—31,560 tons; value, £53,704; profit, £24,097.

Vogelstruis Estates.—15,133 tons, 2,249 ozs.; cyanide, 806 ozs.; current slimes, 276 ozs.; total, 3,331 ozs.



### American Business Notes.

At the time of writing we cannot say whether our Government is to be compelled by force of circumstances or clamour to declare cotton contraband or not, but that Germany's supplies must be stopped is desired by all, and that they will be we have little doubt. We trust the Government, and last night's meeting in Queen's Hall seems to prove that the nation does so likewise.

In the Southern States of America, however, it is rumoured, a strong agitation is being engineered, probably by Germans, to endeavour to raise bad blood between this country and Mr. Wilson's Government, should we dare to follow the example of President Lincoln and handle the cotton problem without flinching. The Washington correspondent of the *Times* says that a wide feeling exists in America that the agitation is largely artificial and selfish both in the racial and national sense, and we are all the more ready to believe this because on the part of the Federal Government there can be no valid objection to the British Government's action should it decide in the protection of its soldiers' lives to stop supplies of cotton to Germany by blockade formally declared, if need is. All means and every means must be taken to secure the object aimed at, and we do not believe that planters in the United States will suffer to anything like the extent the agitators led by Senator Hoke Smith allege if cotton is made contraband. Only care must be taken to give as little ground as possible for vexatious claims on the part of the United States after the war.

From the same correspondent we learn that the officials responsible for the Federal insurance of the American export trade would rather like Great Britain to declare cotton contraband, because they do not know how to answer inquiries about the insurance of the pending crop as things stand. As long as cotton is not contraband, they seem bound to insure it, and yet they cannot do so with safety as long as cargoes are liable to seizure apparently on the caprice of British commanders. Better, therefore, this writer contends, take some definite step, else we are in danger of drifting into a long Anglo-American controversy, good only for Germans, and perhaps for gamblers.

While this question is in suspense, the diplomatic conflict between Washington and Berlin would seem to have come to a sort of ignominious flop and impasse, and thus far neither side has come out of it with credit. All we can be sure of is that the Prussians need have no fear of war breaking out between Germany and the United States. They should also begin to realise by this time that Mr. Woodrow Wilson can lick the best of them at sermon composition. Berlin cannot have the victory every time, in everything.

In the 12 months ended June 30 last, which constitutes the fiscal year of the United States, exports of merchandise exceeded imports in value by £219,000,000. This excess alone, the *New York Commercial Chronicle* points out, is larger than the value of the entire merchandise exported by the United States as late as the year 1896-7, and upon it is founded the confident predictions of many ignorami that New York is going to "supplant London" as the centre of the world's trade clearings, the world's finance. The States will have to go far and to become a Free-trade country before they can do that, for, after all, £219,000,000 twice repeated is not a very broad basis to rest a world-domination in finance upon, and when we look into the sources of this transitory prosperity and find it to be due entirely to the war in Europe, there seems less need than ever to fear results to us than superficial philosophers would have us believe. Probably enough, had there been freight sufficient to meet the demands of European buyers, the excess of United States exports over imports would have been greater even than it is, but of the excess as it stands how much is clear money, how much, that is to say, is unmortgaged balance beyond the sums still necessary to meet United States interest charges and other obligations payable in Europe? At present we cannot even make a guess.

What, however, seems true enough is that comparatively small amounts of United States securities have thus far been sold back by Europe. No trustworthy estimate of the amount can be given, but we shall be surprised to receive proof acceptable that it has amounted to as much in capital value as the excess of merchandise exports now disclosed. And for the time being this excess of export values is quite a Godsend, and has prevented something like a financial and industrial collapse within the Republic. If European belligerents had been able to meet all the demands of their fighting forces without going to North America for help, then instead of being able to boast of unprecedented trade prosperity, there would have been squirming and liquidation; we should probably have had the same story there of industrial collapse, bank failures and general business disorganisation as is now again beginning to spread regarding Germany, although the United States is not a country which has deprived itself of any foreign trade, profitable or other.

In its last fiscal year the United States sent abroad an unusual number of useful animals to Europe, so that it is hardly an exaggeration to say now that "good horseflesh is decidedly at a premium in the country." There has also been a phenomenally large demand for American automobiles, breadstuffs, brass, chemicals and drugs, cotton and woollen apparel, barbed wire, explosives, leather and leather manufactures, meats, firearms, and zinc, as well as for other articles, but against these augmentations there has been a falling away in the export of agricultural implements, railway cars, bituminous coal, copper, cotton, fertilisers, furs, hardware, locomotives, iron pipes, and a variety of other articles useful for the industries of peace. We took £60,000,000 worth more of United States commodities than in the previous year, and that sum represents warlike materials, the real import of which has probably been far more than £60,000,000, the total being concealed because we bought less in other directions. Some amount of the increased value, too, must be put down to prices, wheat, all grains in fact, being dearer, and had it not been for the fall in the price of cotton there would have been a distinctly larger excess in United States export aggregates. As it was, the export of breadstuffs, owing to the almost insatiable demand from Europe for wheat and flour, exceeded in value £80,000,000, a sum far in excess of any former aggregate.

With all this prosperity the New York financial market has not been particularly active, and in the first half of the last year not a single steam or electric railway contributed anything to the needs of brokers and financiers in the way of new shares offered for subscription. Apart from the stocks issued by the New York Central Railroad, the new company created to embrace the Lake Shore and other subsidiaries, and by the Interborough Consolidated Corporation, the new share issues for the half-year were quite insignificant, and of new bonds the total was only £47,000,000, of which about £18,500,000 consisted of New York State and City bonds.

Are things coming to a crisis in Mexico at last? Another American citizen has been shot on the Texas border, and clashes of fighters have occurred there. Prominent members of what is called the Cientifico party are swarming in El Paso. They fled from Mexico City when General Huerta was turned out, and are blamed by Washington people for fomenting disorder on the frontier in order to bring about Yankee intervention. They represent great landed and Conservative interests, the Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells us, and are not in sympathy with the Carranza, Villa, or any of the other self-designated chiefs. This explains why they would welcome Yankee intervention, and we hope it will not be granted to them, at least not on their terms. It can be no object of the Government of President Wilson to restore social or slave-master tyranny in Mexico, for that has lain at the root of the country's troubles throughout all its history. The only good thing, in-



deed, to be discerned in all the turmoil and destruction of life and property which has gone on in Mexico for more than three years is that it may end in giving the land to the people, in dispossessing the inheritors of the old Spanish land-grabbers of their power over the lives and fortunes of the people they hold under slavery. It is, furthermore, because Carranza is a member of this monopolist clan that we have never been able to conjure up any great belief in his power to lift the Republic—one of the fairest and naturally one of the richest pieces of the globe—out of its welter. Naturally all investors in Europe would rejoice were intervention to take place; and it is possible enough, nay probable enough, that the penalty President Wilson will have to pay for his mismanagement of Mexican troubles at the outset will be just that active interference all interested persons outside this Spanish-American Republic long for. Gone about without selfish motives, with the determination to enlarge or to leave intact the liberties and institutions of the people, and bent only upon effecting such a settlement of its affairs as would remove part at least of the sources whence periodical outbursts of civil strife spring, intervention might be the very best thing possible. It would probably do the American people good, and might start Mexico on a career of self-regeneration calculated to make it one of the most desirable countries in the world. Unfortunately, in such instances selfish designs nearly always shoot up and grasp at the direction of public policy, bending it to selfish ends. The risk is therefore great for all concerned, and unfortunately every day that passes increases now the probability that the end of the present troubles must be an American army in Mexico. The people of the Northern Republic themselves have too vital a stake in the fortunes of Mexico to allow any Government in Washington to leave it alone, and soon President Wilson will enter on the last year of his Presidential term, the new election year. His party, therefore, if not himself, will develop an eagerness to satisfy the capitalist side of political life which they may have been able to avoid hitherto. So great is the probability of intervention that we feel disposed to warn all holders of Mexican securities to refrain from parting with them and wait events.

### Insurance News.

The news of another air raid on the East Coast has stimulated the demand on the part of the public for aircraft insurance policies, the demand for which had already assumed substantial proportions. The staffs of the leading insurance companies have been kept busily engaged receiving premiums on behalf of the Government scheme, and the War Risks Insurance Office (Aircraft Department) has taken further steps to advertise the fact that now that an insurance scheme has been established no liability can be accepted by the Government, and no claim can be entertained in respect to damage to property unless the property has been insured under the scheme.

Although the peace talk so far has had no effect on insurance rates, which remain on a level prohibitive for ordinary business purposes, numerous inquiries for rates are being received by Lloyd's underwriters. A certain number of claims arising out of business arranged in the early days of the war have been paid, and underwriters are showing no inclination to accept fresh risks except at very high quotations.

The cost of the war is beginning to press heavily on British life assurance companies, the amount paid in respect of the rank and file of both services killed in the war to date amounting to nearly three millions sterling. This sum includes over three-quarters of a million paid by industrial assurance offices to the relatives of over 42,000 sailors and soldiers, the weekly disbursements on this class of insurance alone amounting to upwards of £20,000. Friendly societies have also had to meet a heavy drain on their funds directly attributable to the war. In addition to about half-a-million paid in death benefits, considerable sums have

also been disbursed in the form of sick allowances to men who have been invalided from the Navy and Army, these payments being, of course, in addition to the contributions of members serving with the colours which the societies themselves are keeping up.

Numerous outbreaks of fire in cotton warehouses in Liverpool and Manchester during the past month were chiefly responsible for the fact that the cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom—that is, fires where the estimated damage amounted to £1,000 and over—made up a heavy total, estimates placing the figure at £446,000, which contrasted with a total of £492,000 in June and £358,000 in July of last year. One of the most serious outbreaks of the month occurred in Belfast, where damage to the extent of £58,000 was caused to a granary.

French life offices whose policy conditions give them the power to claim a second year's extra premium to cover war risk have intimated to the authorities that they will not make the charge, the extra premium already paid being considered as covering the war risk during two years. Some of the companies, however, look to the assured, in return, to pay now the ordinary premium which falls due, or to undertake to pay it and other premiums as they fall due within three months after the termination of hostilities.

The considerable fall which has taken place in the market price of insurance shares since the issue of the War Loan was natural enough in view of the demoralising effect of the new loan upon all first-class securities. The extent of the fall in insurance shares was not altogether surprising, as a good many of these had been standing at a comparatively high level having regard to the general depression of other markets. Taking the total of 21 representative companies whose shares are of a par value of £5,390,000, the market value on July 20 was £34,869,000, showing a decline as compared with a month previous of £2,837,000, or about 7½ per cent.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Statistics for July show that the imports of rubber amounted to 4,447 tons, against 3,418 tons for the corresponding month last year, while the deliveries were 5,524 tons, against 3,225 tons. Too much importance must not be attached to the comparatively small receipts, as this is the slack season for shipments. At the same time, the figures for the seven months would seem to favour bullish views as to market prospects. Since the beginning of the year we have imported 39,589 tons, against 24,183 tons for the corresponding period, but the deliveries have amounted to 40,432, against 24,162 tons. In the seven months, therefore, the deliveries have exceeded receipts by 840 tons, and the stocks at the end of July were reduced to 4,870 tons, or considerably less than one month's average consumption. That is not a very large margin for the market to work on, but so long as regular shipments are assured, it is quite adequate, for it must be remembered that rubber deteriorates rather rapidly, and a huge accumulation would be as uneconomical as it is unnecessary. Of course, an "accident" to a ship carrying a large quantity of the raw material might create some temporary inconvenience, but the stocks in private hands are doubtless sufficient to meet any emergency, and although consumption, mainly in connection with the war, has increased enormously, we see no reason to doubt that production cannot keep pace with it. There are people who are never satisfied unless they see prices soaring to boom levels; for our own part, we regard 2s. 6d. per lb. or thereabouts as a very handsome valuation for a commodity that can be produced with the regularity of cabbages at 1s. per lb. or less. War demands will doubtless sustain the market for some time to come, but sooner or later rubber will have to be sold at an ordinary commercial profit, and we cannot too strongly impress that aspect of the case on investors interested in plantation companies. That the trade is fully alive to the unreliability of exaggerated optimism seems to be proved by the fact that, in spite



of what is called a "strong statistical position," the price has eased off nearly a penny since the figures were published.

It is rather astonishing to find how little the political disturbances in Mexico appear to have affected the oil output. For the first half of this year the shipments of crude petroleum amounted to 10,439,000 barrels, or a decrease of only 212,000 barrels as compared with the corresponding six months. Tuxpam contributed 5,675,000 barrels, and Tampico 4,764,000 barrels. Exports amounted to 8,118,000 barrels, of which no less than 7,760,000 went to the United States, while the bulk of the 2,320,000 barrels shipped Mexican coastwise were destined for the Mexican Eagle Co.'s refinery at Minatitlan, whence they would reach Europe in the form of prepared fuel oil. Of course, business must have been interrupted in various directions, but it is encouraging to learn that the June shipments, aggregating 2,379,000 barrels, represent the largest shipping month in the history of Mexican petroleum exports, with the single exception of July last year, when a total of 3,460,000 barrels was reached—that was in the month before the great war broke out. It is well that Mexico can pay some attention to external trade while devoting so much energy to domestic squabbles.

Very satisfactory progress is shown in the report of the Selangor United Rubber Estates, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last. The estimated output of 100,000 lbs. was exceeded by 2,400 lbs., and the average yield per bearing acre was 267 lbs., which may be regarded as quite encouraging. Best of all, the cost of production "all in" was reduced by 5½d. to just over 1s. 1d. per lb., while the average price realised was only ½d. lower at 2s. 2½d. per lb. Crop proceeds amounted to £11,183, an increase of £3,800, and the nett profit comes out at £5,440, an increase of £3,200. The directors therefore seem quite justified in declaring a dividend of 5 per cent., against nil, which absorbs £3,664, and leaves £1,607 to be carried forward, against £299 brought in. There is nothing special to remark about the balance-sheet, except that the financial position has considerably improved, cash in hand being £2,910 higher at £3,187. Output for the current year is estimated at 140,000 lbs., and the indications are that this should be substantially exceeded.

Everything did not go as smoothly as might have been hoped with the Jugra Land and Rubber Estates, Ltd., in the year ended April 30 last, but, on the whole, shareholders ought to be well satisfied with the results. Both coffee and coconuts turned out rather badly. Against an estimate of 15 tons of coffee the yield was only about 8 tons, and the visiting agent advises that this catch crop should now be cut out. The coconuts collected numbered 152,378, against an estimate of 183,000, but for the current year a crop of 261,000 is expected. It is said that the war conditions upset the copra market, and seriously affected the price. These two items resulted in a loss of £370, against a profit of £190 from coconuts alone last year. But the rubber figures are entirely encouraging. The output was 524,310 lbs., against the estimate of 475,000 lbs., and represents an increase of 276,900 lbs. as compared with the previous 12 months. "All in" costs consequently fell 6.9d. to 1s. 1.35d., and although the average price obtained was 2.6d. less at 2s. 2.64d., and 29,330 lbs. were lost by the sinking of the *Troilus*, the gross receipts were £24,943 higher, while the crop expenses increased only £5,910. In the end the nett profit comes out £16,090 higher at £25,437, and the raising of the dividend from 4 per cent. to 10 per cent. seems quite justified, as the carry-forward even then is £2,830 higher at £4,315. Nothing is placed to reserve, but, thanks to premiums on share issues, the fund stands at £65,215, which should be sufficient for any ordinary rainy day even if it did come straight out of the shareholders' pockets. Depreciation of plant and buildings is allowed for on a generous scale, and as a large proportion of the 5,000 acres planted is not yet in full bearing, the question of estate depreciation does not yet arise. The changes in the balance-sheet are trifling, except in so far as they reflect the natural growth of the business, and they call for

no comment, unless we might suggest that the cash position would be all the better for a little stiffening. However, all the debentures, except £3,775, have been converted into shares, and the affairs of the company look healthy and promising.

Rubber Securities, Ltd., started in a rather evil hour, and even apart from one or two strokes of sheer bad luck its progress would have been disappointingly slow. It certainly did a little better in the year to June 30 last than in the previous 12 months, the accounts showing a profit of £844, against a loss of £450, but when the figures are examined there is not much satisfaction to be derived from them. Interest and dividends fell off £486 to £1,846, but the difference was more than made good by the receipt of £722 as consideration for selling an interest in a Borneo property, and such opportunities are rare in these times. It was also found possible to reduce expenses by £640, and obviously that process cannot be carried much farther. We are not surprised, therefore, to find that nearly £8,000 more is owing to creditors, and that the liquid assets are very meagre, with a sad tendency to dwindle. The worst item, however, is in connection with a property in German East Africa, where the company stands to lose £16,475. With a few minor derelicts this has been carried to a depreciation suspense account, which stands at £18,585, or considerably over one-fourth of the paid-up capital. Many of the company's holdings are in young concerns that are still in the development stage, and revenue ought to improve considerably as time goes on, but there is a lot of leeway to make good, and we are afraid the company is already too heavily handicapped.

Asahan Rubber Estates.—Crop harvested for the 12 months ended July 31 approximately 135,029 lbs., as against 62,531 lbs. for the period from August 19, 1913, to July 31, 1914. Sold to date, 89,835 lbs., at a gross average of 2s. 2.92d. per lb.

Bah Lias Tobacco and Rubber Estates.—Crop harvested for the nine months ended July 31 was approximately 34,847 lbs. Sold to date, 13,844 lbs. at a gross average of 2s. 4.56d. per lb.

Sialang Rubber Estates, Ltd.—Crop harvested for the six months ended July 31, 1915, was approximately 353,234 lbs., showing an increase of 160,356 lbs. over the corresponding period last year. Of this, 106,540 lbs. have been sold to date, at a gross average of 2s. 3.32d. per lb. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 194,880 lbs., out of 1915-16 crop, at an average of 2s. 2.44d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 232,960 lbs. out of 1916-17 crop at an average of 2s. 2.96d. per lb. (London equivalent).

Batavia Plantation Investments.—June rubber crops, 70,465 lbs., increase 4,760 lbs.; aggregate for six months, 306,777 lbs.; increase over last year to date, 24,416 lbs.

## The Week in Mines.

Very quiet conditions have prevailed in the Mining markets this week, but there have been several interesting features. In the South African market several of the principal gold mining shares have advanced on good returns for the past month, notably City Deeps and Modder Deeps, but in other departments the tone has been rather dull. Copper shares have been under the influence of a continued weakening of the market for the metal, and the disappearance of Amalgamated has resulted in less activity.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market developed a more cheerful feeling on the excellent output and labour figures for last month, and buying of some of the principal shares was stimulated by the particularly good showing made by certain returns. City Deeps, for instance, advanced ½ to 3¼, and Modder Deeps rose from 4½ to 4 21-32 on the increased outputs and profits for July. Consolidated Langlaagtes have also been in good demand, and have advanced 3-32 to 1 31-32, and Crown Mines recovered ¼, to 4½. Gold Fields at 1 9-32, and East Rands at 1½ have also met with support, while Brakpans at 3 1-32, Modders at 14½, and Van Ryn Deeps at 2 19-32, have continued to attract attention. Dagga-fonteins have been in renewed demand at 7s. 9d., on reports that the Central Mining Corporation has taken an interest in the company along with the Consolidated Mines Selection, which will enable the company



to raise the necessary finances to resume development operations. Main Reef Wests have been dull at 6s. 6d.; a special meeting of the debenture-holders has been summoned to authorise the suspension for three years of the sinking fund provisions, under which £25,000 of debentures are redeemed annually. The object of this proposal is to enable the company to undertake the expense of sinking and equipping the two subsidiary incline shafts, which have been found necessary in order that development of the deeper levels may be carried out. Among diamond shares De Beers deferred were dull at 9½, but the Rhodesian market was fairly firm. Chartered was in request at ros., and Tanganyikas have been firmer at 17-32. Gold Fields Rhodesian, however, fell 6d. to 5s. 9d. on the poor report. In the West African section Ashanti Goldfields have been in demand at about 16s.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been less active and rather weaker owing to the weakening of the market for the metal. Rio Tintos have fallen ¼ to 54½, Anacondas ¼ to 7½, and Utah ¾ to 13½. Namaquas at 2½, Mount Morgans at 2½, Hampdens at 28s. 6d., and Mount Lyells at 22s. are also lower on the week. Russians, after being dull, recovered somewhat, Kyshtims closing ¼ above the worst at 1½.

Tin shares have been generally easier, except Siamese Dredgings, which advanced ¼ to 2½ in anticipation of a good report. Broken Hills have been on offer owing to the dullness of the metal markets. Proprietarys fell 1s. to 43s., the debentures 2 to 96½, and South Silver ½ to 6½, and British ¼ to 1-132. There has been steady liquidation in Indian Mines, said to be for a deceased account, and Mysore have fallen ½ to 3½, and Ooregums 6d. to 24s. 6d. West Australian shares have been weaker, Great Fingalls fell to 2s., Golden Horse Shoe to 2½, and Kalgurils to 1½.

#### MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £3,272,258, as compared with £3,208,224 in June, and with £3,111,398 in July, 1914. The total is the largest since May, 1913. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058
February ..	2,445,088	2,504,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March .....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514
April .....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651
May .....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,111,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347
June .....	2,655,602	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224
July .....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258
August .....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,395	3,092,754	3,024,037	—
September ..	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	—
October .....	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	—
November ..	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	—
December ..	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total ..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	21,996,458

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The native labour figures are again very satisfactory; they show an increase of 6,223 "boys," of which increase the gold mines have secured 5,871:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
July, 1914 .....	167,006	9,257	13,656	189,919
August .....	168,831	9,485	—	178,316
September .....	169,619	9,389	—	179,008
October .....	170,438	9,212	—	179,650
November .....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December .....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915 .....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February .....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March .....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April .....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May .....	183,961	8,857	—	192,818
June .....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July .....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397

The number of natives on the gold mines is the largest since May, 1913, when the number was 197,644.

**GOLD FIELDS RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENT.**—This company, which was formed a few years ago to take over and develop the Rhodesian interests of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, seems to be as unlucky as its parent, for the report for the past year makes very poor reading. Revenue from divi-

dends, &c., in the year ended March 31 amounted to only £79,100 as compared with £130,679 in 1913-14, and £98,307 in the 14 months to March 31, 1913, while the nett profit, which rose from £67,199 to £104,027 in 1913-14, declined to £53,106. Meanwhile depreciation continues to grow. Investments which cost £3,061,941 showed a depreciation of £508,296 in 1913, of £1,402,994 in 1914, and of £1,416,890 this year; but as the last-named valuation is based on prices ruling in July last year the total market depreciation is really much larger than that given. During the year advances and loans rose from £217,886 to £500,517, amounts borrowed advanced from £307,500 to £452,500, while cash declined from £40,714 to £10,811. In order to assist its subsidiary concerns the company had to increase its drafts on the Consolidated Gold Fields, but as several of the companies, notably the Shamva and the Falcon, have now reached the profit-earning stage the position should now improve. It is anticipated that this year a substantial sum of the £422,000 lent by the Consolidated Gold Fields will be repaid. Metallurgical difficulties have caused disappointment in the past, but these are gradually being surmounted, and the steady expansion of output in Rhodesia should be reflected in the current year's accounts.

**BELL REEF DEVELOPMENT.**—The report of this Rhodesian company for the past year is also disappointing. Mechanical and metallurgical difficulties have adversely affected the output, and development during the year yielded values about 2 dwts. per ton below the average of the ore reserves. These are 3,718 tons lower at 53,070 tons, averaging 10.8 dwts. The 34,202 tons treated yielded £71,424, the profit being £11,328. The profit and loss account shows a nett profit of £6,179, which is carried forward. Owing to financial difficulties development work has been restricted during the year. It has not been possible to reduce the debt due to the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Co., which amounts to £54,222.

**RHODESIA COPPER AND GENERAL EXPLORATION.**—The report for the year ended May 31 shows that the income from investments amounted to £6,457, while £1,181 was received in interest, making a total of £7,638; for the previous year the income from investments was £7,364. Administrative expenditure was reduced by £853, and the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £5,886, as against £9,036. Adding £1,221 brought forward, there is a total of £7,108, which is carried forward. Last year a dividend of 3 per cent., tax free, was paid, the first since 1910-11.

**AFRICAN LAND AND INVESTMENT.**—Revenue in the year ended June 30 declined from £19,417 to £18,703. After providing for debenture interest and other charges the nett result was a loss of £200 against a profit of £302, raising the debit balance carried forward to £580. Last year the debit balance was reduced from £682 to £380. The reserve account has been increased by £493 to £7,493 to meet depreciation, though this amount does not adequately represent the actual loss. No dividend has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the preference dividend is five years in arrears.

**MOUNT MORGAN AND GERMAN COPPER INTERESTS.**—No little stir has been caused in Australia by revelations showing the extraordinarily wide and powerful interests which Germany has secured in the metal industry. The Broken Hill zinc concentrates were practically entirely smelted by German-controlled smelters, and the great bulk of its lead concentrates went to Germany, which has consequently been the ruling factor in the lead as in other metal markets of Europe. It now appears that the famous Mount Morgan Co., which is the greatest copper-producing company in Australia, finds that its German connections have seriously interfered with its freedom now. The Commonwealth Attorney-General has been in conference with the representatives of the Mount Morgan Co. and the Electrolytic Copper, with which it works, regarding the exclusion of the influence of the firm of Aaron Hirsch and Sohn, who also hold an interest in the Electrolytic Co., and with whom the Mount Morgan Co. has comprehensive contracts, as with other German firms. Because of these contracts, the operations of the Mount Morgan Co. and the Electrolytic Co. were practically brought to a standstill by the outbreak of war. As a result of the conference, however, a Bill has been introduced by the Victorian Government providing for the cancellation of all enemy contracts, and it is intended to reconstruct the Electrolytic Co. in such manner as to exclude the German interest. It is to be hoped that the contracts made in this country between Australian mining companies and German smelting interests will also be rendered null and void by our own Government, for if these companies were released from these contracts they would be in a better position to make other arrangements for smelting, which would increase the supply of metals, and reduce prices to a more normal level.

**INTERNATIONAL COAL.**—This Cardiff company has just issued an excellent report, the profits for the year ended June 30 being more than double those for the previous year. The nett earnings total £18,304 as compared with £8,112 for 1913-14, and a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent. is paid, less tax, as compared with 5 per cent., tax free, last year. The general reserve receives £6,500, or £1,500 more, than before, and £3,988, or £1,180 more, is carried forward.

**WM. McEWAN AND CO.**—For the year to June 30 last the nett profits, including £27,239 or £2,860 more brought forward, amounted to £82,598, an increase of £360. A dividend of 6 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, and £27,598 remains to be carried forward. The report supplies no further information.



## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS, LTD.

With Egypt well within the war zone, it is not surprising that this company suffered considerably in the year ended March 31 last. Gross receipts showed a decrease of £60,845 at £195,082, coaching traffic being reduced by £34,808, and goods traffic by £23,798. The number of passengers carried fell from 7,319,660 to 5,604,760, and the tonnage of goods fell from 968,576 to 599,236 tons, a decrease of 369,340 tons. Expenses were reduced by £13,610 to £154,680, but the ratio to gross receipts rose from 60.44 per cent. to 72.31 per cent. In accordance, however, with the terms of the new concession, the ratio is reduced to 64 per cent. by taking credit for £9,112 placed to suspense a year ago, and placing a further sum of £7,095 to suspense for subsequent liquidation. After providing for interest and other fixed charges, the surplus is £18,420 less at £58,315, out of which it is proposed to pay 2½ per cent., against 5 per cent. on the preference shares, leaving £32,296, or £7,600 more, to be carried forward. The transfer of the Helouan Railway to the Government has not yet been carried into effect, and meantime the company has continued with advantage to work the line, which showed a clear profit of £3,870 for the year.

### MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

Its figures are made up to April 30 each year, and for the past 12 months then ended profit was lower by £223,262 at £995,432. Adding the balance of £248,134 brought forward, which was £152,880 down, there is together £558,967 less available at £1,243,566. But it only takes \$700,000 even now to pay the 10 per cent. dividend distributed quarterly, so that the margin is still splendid, and out of the surplus profits the directors give \$25,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, \$5,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society, and \$2,500 to the Belgian Relief Fund. The Government war tax on note circulation paid for the past quarter of the year only took \$15,926, and \$115,000 more than last year was, at \$250,000, written off to meet depreciation of securities; but this time nothing was added to the reserve fund from profit and loss, as against \$400,000 a year ago, and there is no mention of the officers' pension fund now, which then got \$50,000. A year ago, too, \$180,825 was added to the reserve from premiums on new shares issued, in addition to the \$400,000 bestowed upon it out of the year's profits. The reserve as it stands, however, is equal to the paid-up capital, which is \$7,000,000, and the bank is otherwise strong. Its note circulation rose by \$606,355 to \$6,204,069. Its liabilities on deposits non-interest-bearing fell \$617,333 to \$12,692,061, but its interest-bearing deposits show an increase of \$4,090,451 at \$50,037,102. These are the principal movements amongst the liabilities of the bank, and under assets we find an increase of \$785,097 in the bank's holdings of railway and other bonds and debenture stocks, now \$4,968,195. Money lent at call in Canada shows an increase of \$486,501 at \$3,606,343, but loans outside Canada have declined \$2,805,924 to \$964,193, such changes being natural in existing circumstances. In the same manner other current loans and discounts in Canada show a decrease of \$6,201,815 at \$47,401,859, but liabilities to customers under letters of credit form a cross entry \$620,061 higher at \$696,100. The only new entry is \$1,000,000 deposited in the Central Gold Reserve. Altogether, the balance-sheet shows an increase of \$3,069,723 at \$86,190,465.

### WALTER SCOTT, LTD.

This coal and steel company did remarkably well in its year ended June 30 last in spite of all manner of drawbacks, such as the large number of men joining the colours and the unprofitableness and irregular employment of the brick and cement works. At £81,850 the profits were £24,154 up, and that compares with a decline of £33,698 a year ago. With such riches the directors are able to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares to 7½ per cent. They only got 5 per cent. a year ago, but had 10 per cent. two years ago. It was better, however, to keep down the dividend and put aside some money than to restore it to the former figures. As it is the depreciation reserve has been increased by £11,311, or £5,197 more than last year, while £6,784, against nothing, has been utilised to write down the book value of investments. Even thus the balance of £4,520 left to carry forward is £4,098 better than that brought in. Debts due to the company are £28,895 up at £124,485, and by the company £31,590 down at £150,970. The debt of the company to its bankers alone is £39,641 less at £41,818.

### GEORGE WHITECHURCH, LTD.

This firm of leather merchants did remarkably well in the year to June 30, and the profits show an increase of no less than £41,220 as compared with the previous 12 months, and therefore, although £4,370 less was brought forward, the available balance of £51,080 is up £36,850. Very prudently the directors take advantage of these exceptionally favourable results to write off the balance of goodwill (£22,000), and to set aside £10,000 as the nucleus of a reserve fund. In these circumstances the shareholders are well entitled to a bonus of 5 per cent., in addition to the dividend of 10 per cent., the payment of which had to be deferred a year ago, but was made in February last, and the carry forward is raised from £2,420 to £6,377. It may be recalled that in October, 1913 the shareholders were invited to subscribe for 30,000 shares, of which only 8,025 were taken up, and an option on the balance has been given to Mr. Edward Whitechurch at 20s. 6d., in consideration of a payment of £500. Cash and bills show an increase of £48,200, and debtors have risen £18,660 to £69,235, while creditors show an almost similar expansion at £91,280.

### THOMAS ADAMS, LTD.

A large part of this company's trading is carried on in foreign countries, and the blow dealt to this branch of the business and to trade in general by the outbreak of war has so affected profits that for the year ended June 4 they only amounted to £5,494, or £18,970 less than in 1914. Including £11,713 brought in, the available total was £18,344 down at £17,207, and not only have the ordinary shareholders to go without a dividend, but no distribution is made on the preference shares, compared with 7½ per cent. and 6 per cent. respectively in the previous year. Even then the amount to be carried forward, after meeting debenture interest, &c., is £361 smaller at £11,352, although nothing is set aside for lease redemption policies, against £3,505. The balance-sheet shows decreases of £19,652 to £247,958 in debtor accounts, of £3,261 to £31,341 in securities, and of £5,100 to £118,362 in stock, plant, machinery, &c., while lease redemption policies for £7,000 have disappeared, but bills and cash are £8,687 up at £23,581. Mortgages and debentures have been reduced by £8,550 to £126,406 and sundry creditors by £1,825 to £133,408.

## BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

D. AND J. FOWLER, LTD.—Gross profit for the year ended March 31 shows an improvement of £6,444 at £38,978. After meeting the usual charges and providing 10 per cent. for the preference reserve fund as before, the divisible balance, including £11,580, or £486 more brought forward, is £25,866, an increase of £7,286. Out of this sum 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, or ¼ per cent. more than a year ago, and £2,500, as against nothing, placed to reserve in anticipation of debenture expenses, leaving £14,366, or £2,786 more, to be carried forward. In view of the great European war and the exceptionally severe drought conditions which have prevailed in South Australia, the directors regard these results as distinctly satisfactory. Stock-in-trade has risen £7,938 to £135,093, and sundry debtors owe £7,305 more at £152,503 as against £92,223, or a rise of £1,365, owed to sundry creditors. Cash at bankers and in hand is £3,493 larger at £4,230, and banker's overdraft has been reduced by £1,554 to £24,379.

GRAND CANAL CO.—In the past half-year the receipts amounted to £42,860, a decrease of £1,935, while the expenditure at £31,722 was only £42 less. Fortunately, the amount brought forward was £3,500 larger, and the balance of net revenue, after setting aside £500 for depreciation of securities, is £1,145 higher at £15,260. It is proposed to repeat the dividend of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, leaving £4,820, or £1,600 more, to be carried forward.

MANCHESTER TRUST, LTD.—Its year ends on June 30, and for the past 12 months its profit was £2,216 larger at £5,222. This enables the directors to increase the dividend by 50 per cent. to 1s. 6d. per share, less income-tax. This takes £3,392, and the balance has been transferred to the contingencies and reserve fund, raising it, including the balance of profit and loss brought forward, the Scarisbrick Hotel, Ltd., suspense account, and the balance of the repurchase account, to £18,052. From this £13,303 has been withdrawn to write down the assets in accordance with the valuation of June 30 last, leaving £4,748 to be carried forward. A call of 10s. per share was made in February last in consequence of nearly £18,000 of the debenture debt which matured on July 1, 1914, failing to be taken up, and in consequence the paid-up capital is now £24,781 larger than it was a year ago at £112,981. That is the only change of the slightest importance revealed in the balance-sheet.

ROCK INVESTMENT CO., LTD.—Owing to war influences, the receipts from dividends, &c., during the year ended June 30 were reduced by £2,642 to £21,608, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges, the nett balance was £3,819 smaller at £7,452. In consequence of this decrease no final dividend, is paid on the ordinary stock, which has to be content with the 1 per cent. paid in January, compared with 3½ per cent. for the previous year, and £577 less is transferred to the surplus revenue account. Investments have been increased by £14,003 to £477,263, against which the liability on loans has risen by £16,000 to £49,000. No valuation of the securities was made by the directors, but the auditors say that they are of opinion that the investments show depreciation in excess of the investment depreciation account of £84,843.

UNITED STATES MORTGAGE CO. OF SCOTLAND, LTD.—Notwithstanding the depression in the Southern States, owing to the poor prices for cotton, the directors say that the collections of interest in the 12 months ended May 31 exceeded those of the preceding year. The revenue from all sources, however, showed a small decrease of £496 at £37,363, and after providing for all charges and writing £2,000, or £1,000 less, off reserve fund investments, the nett balance, including £3,933 brought in, was £729 down at £34,019. Out of this a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, is again paid on the deferred stock, and another £5,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving £314 less at £3,619 to be carried forward. Investments in America have been reduced by £4,274 to £557,345, and, on the other hand, £7,230 of the temporary loans have been paid off, leaving £4,700 outstanding.

Furness Railway.—In view of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire having been appointed a Civil Lord of the Admiralty, his Grace has considered it desirable to resign the chairmanship. In consequence of this retirement, the following changes have been made:—The Right Hon. Lord Manchester, deputy-chairman, has been appointed chairman; Mr. F. J. Ramsden, deputy-chairman; Mr. Myles Kennedy, of Stone Cross, Ulverston, a director.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

The ordinary half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of the South Metropolitan Gas Co. was held on Wednesday at De Keyser's Royal Hotel, Victoria Embankment, Dr. Charles Carpenter, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. McLeod) having read the notice calling the meeting and other formal business having been disposed of,

The Chairman said: I think it will perhaps be most convenient if I deal first with the least satisfactory aspects of the past half-year's accounts. Our primary difficulty has been with regard to the purchase and supply of coal, the cost of which shows no sign of receding from the high figures to which it rose as a result of the coal strike of 1912. I may here tell you of our usual procedure with regard to the purchase of coal. We cannot, of course, become speculators in this article. Our practice is, and has been for many years, to go into the market in the early spring and to arrange our contracts for the ensuing 12 months, and the collieries who are in the habit of supplying gas coals to us, and of whom we annually buy for large sums of money, are fully aware that this is the course we follow. Our great anxiety in settling these contracts this year, however, was not the price to be paid for the coal, but the fact that nearly everybody offered us less than had been their custom in previous years. Their reply was that the output was largely reduced owing to enlistment, and what coal they had to spare must be shared among their regular customers. If the regular customers had been entirely British one would not have had serious complaint to make about such an arrangement. But when it is remembered that the Continent takes a large share of our coal, and that material which we were urgently wanting was going abroad, whether to neutrals or not does not matter, I think you will agree with me that it was high time the Government interfered. We are now filling up our stores at a rate that would have been absolutely impossible unless drastic restrictions had been enforced, even despite the fact that we did not let prices stand in the way of our purchasing. With regard to the freight question, we are, as the report informs you, getting over this trouble by providing our own steamers. The other item which, but for some explanation, might call for adverse comment is with regard to the amount of the temporary loan. Under normal circumstances, we should have sufficient floating capital—by "floating" I mean, of course, other than that invested in buildings and plant, &c.—to enable us to carry on our business with comparatively small recourse to our bankers. But high prices and the war have hit us severely in this respect. We formerly bought our coal on a schedule of deliveries which had some regard to the variation in our consumption—that is, we took heavy supplies in the winter and small ones in the summer, and this suited us, because we had less gas consumed in the summer months, and therefore were provided with less money to pay for the coal we purchased. We have now had to give up this policy, as we have found it necessary to fill up our storage accommodation to the fullest possible extent during the summer. This means that more money is required to lie idle in the form of coal stocks, and the difficulty is accentuated by the high cost we have to incur for its purchase and transport. The war has also considerably interfered with our trade in residuals, in some of which we have had to carry considerable stocks. Our stock of coke, for instance, which in the ordinary way is exported and paid for, is now lying on our hands waiting for next winter's requirements, since the Government have restricted its export. I do not quarrel with this restriction, but it means that we have in coke and other residuals a good deal of money. In common with other companies, we have for many years made it a practice to rely upon our bankers for their assistance in meeting difficulties created in this manner, since they have usually been found to be temporary, and it was not considered good policy to raise capital, which bears a permanent charge, for requirements which happen infrequently. It appears desirable, however, that we should issue further capital, as the difficulties to which I have referred appear to be becoming more common, and we are, in accordance with our Act of Parliament, offering stock to the company's employees and gas consumers. I am afraid the loan figure will be considerably higher by next winter, but we have every reason to expect it to be something like a normal figure before I have the honour of again addressing you in February next. Before leaving the subject of the high cost of coal, I ought to add a word with regard to residual products, because it has been stated somewhat fully lately that there should be more restrictions placed upon gas companies as to the amount of profit they should be allowed to make in respect of these. The answer that should satisfy everyone is, of course, that, as a result of the half-year's working, we have to be content to take a very considerably reduced dividend. With regard to coke, our practise is to charge for this a price which, taking all the circumstances of our coal purchases into consideration, may be regarded as a fair one. We have as far as possible endeavoured to apply the price pertaining to the sale of gas to that of coke. The report tells you we have had a decrease in our gas consumption of nearly 3½ per cent. This we can trace solely to the lighting regulations put in force to diminish the amount of light in our various thoroughfares. Had it not been for these there is every reason to believe that, despite the additional charge we found it necessary to impose, we should have had an increase instead of a decrease in our business.

The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. Kenneth P. Hawksley) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## MANILA RAILWAY.

The eighth ordinary annual general meeting of the Manila Railway Co. (1906), Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Cater Scott (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Mackenzie) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I much regret that for the first time since the reconstruction of the company I have had to come before you with accounts which do not show the progressive character it has been my pleasure to report to you generally, but accounts which, on the other hand, show a decided falling off. It is a matter of great disappointment not only that our receipts have shown a considerable falling off, but that our working expenses have shown an increase. The reduction in receipts is primarily due to the short rice crop in the island, and—as I think I have explained to you on previous occasions—that affects not only the rice traffic, but, as there is a habit in Manila of the small growers travelling with their crops to market, it has also affected our passenger receipts. Moreover, it has reduced the prosperity of the native population, and this affected their spending power, so that our passenger and general traffic are still further reduced. The war, also, has undoubtedly affected us to a certain extent, although perhaps not to the extent one might have expected. During the year ended December 31, 1914, 70 new miles of road were brought into operation, and also, as everywhere else, there has been a very considerable advance in the price of coal, in all other materials, and even in labour. We have seen the same factors prevail throughout the world, and Manila has been no exception. Still, I must confess that the increase in costs is disappointing. So far as 1915 is concerned, it is early for us to say very much about the results. I am afraid, however, that it will be another lean year, as the rice crop has not been a good one. We are certain from time to time to meet with these fluctuations in crops, but we can, I think, confidently look forward to the future bringing us back not only to the level of traffic of 1913, but also to the progressive business which I think we have shown in every year since the Manila Railway Co. was reconstructed. Now I want to speak to you on what is, to my mind, a very much more serious position, and that is the general position of the company. As we are proceeding with our construction work, it is necessary for us from time to time, to raise further capital, and that capital is raised by the sale of bonds guaranteed by the Philippine Government on a basis of 4 per cent. After war was declared, of course, it became absolutely impossible to sell those bonds, for the Treasury regulations prohibited such sale, and we therefore had to consider what was the best course for us to adopt. After very careful consideration, we came to the conclusion that there was only one thing to do—namely, to reduce our construction to a minimum, to for the time go back to our original scheme, which we believe will give us a fairly complete line, and also one which will be able to earn its way satisfactorily. We are naturally bitterly disappointed at having to cut down our construction work, because it means an indefinite postponement of the big scheme which we believe will be very much in the interests of the island of Luzon and also of our shareholders. I think you must agree with me that, under the circumstances, we had to face the thing squarely, and the course which we are now suggesting is the only reasonable one we could adopt. When happier days come we shall have to reconsider the position, and how we can then carry out the entire programme. We are negotiating with the Government as to the best means of carrying out this reduced programme. Many details have to be settled, and I think I may say that, on the whole, the Government are prepared to look into the matter fairly with us and to help us in every way they can.

Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bridge, G.C.B., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## THE "BODEGA" CO.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the members of the "Bodega" Co., Ltd., was held on July 29, at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. Herbert W. Walmisley (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, little did any of us think when we met about this time last year that within a very few days of that event our country would be plunged into the biggest war in the world's history. Business has been very greatly disorganised, so much so that in some cases profits have entirely disappeared, and losses have taken their place. We all earnestly hope and trust that at a not very distant date a great and glorious victory over our enemies may be vouchsafed to the British arms and those of our gallant Allies, and that a prolonged period of peace may take the place of this terrible war, with all its awful consequences. Turning now to the report, it will be observed from the profit and loss account for the year ended March 31 last the profit upon sales of wines, spirits, cigars, &c., being down by over £3,000 as a result of decreased takings. The period under review only embraces eight months of war. If, therefore, the war should last until the end of March, 1916, it is only reasonable to expect a still further shrinkage in our profits under this head.



ing. Taking these facts into consideration, it is all the more a matter of satisfaction to your board to be able to present to you a balance-sheet showing slightly increased net profits for this year compared with those for the year ended March 31, 1914. During the past financial year your directors considered it wise to surrender the sinking fund policy then in existence, and with the proceeds to reduce some of the company's liabilities, and they accordingly did so. I should like to point out that during the period from March, 1911, to March 31, 1915, no less a sum than £40,948 6s. 2d. has been written off the item freehold and leasehold properties, &c. This money represents the proceeds of the various premiums on sinking fund policies debited to profit and loss account in previous years. The item of freehold and leasehold properties, &c., which stands to-day at £347,911 12s. 4d., would have been considerably less had we not extended our business by the purchase of freehold properties and the leasing of others, the cost of which is automatically added to this item. During the year under review your directors have acquired the freehold of one of the most important of its branches in the Midlands, which was held upon lease, and only had a few years to run. The property was purchased on very favourable terms, and part of the money remains on mortgage for a term of years at a less rate of interest than the recent war loan yields. That accounts for the reappearance in the balance-sheet, after its absence for several years, of the item mortgage and interest, which now figures at £6,433 8s. 9d. The balance of the purchase price was obtained by a loan from the company's bankers. But for this the item of loan from bankers, which has been reduced from £26,000 last year to £17,000 this year, would have been considerably less. After this explanation I feel sure that there will be no disappointment on the part of any shareholder at the reappearance in the balance-sheet of the item of mortgage, &c., to which I have just alluded. The favourable terms of the acquisition of the property is the reason for no greater sum than £1,500 for amortisation of the leases being debited out of the profits of the company this year, and this amount for the next two years will be the minimum charged to this item. The affairs of the company have been conducted as economically as possible, having due regard to the efficiency of the business. The recent agitation against the trade and the new regulations concerning the age of spirits now in force have naturally added to our anxieties and our work. This, however, is not the time to offer any criticisms, and they are therefore conspicuous by their absence. The stock of wines, spirits, &c., is, as usual, taken at cost price or under. I am glad to be able to report that the takings at the company's pavilion at the recent Royal Agricultural Show at Nottingham were of a gratifying nature. I am also happy to inform you that the company was successful last week in its case in the Court of Appeal, arising out of a question of licence duty payable to this company, the defendant being ordered to pay the company's costs in addition.

Mr. J. H. Mortimer Scott seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### BIBI EIBAT OIL COMPANY.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the third ordinary general meeting of the Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd., held on August 10 at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., said they were met to consider the accounts for the year ending March 31, 1915, in which were incorporated the results of the Russian company's operations for the year ending January 13, 1914. The latter showed a nett profit of Rs. 150,000, which was applied to the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the shares held by this company in the Russian company, and it was that dividend which was the principal source of this company's income for the year ending March 31, 1915. The equivalent of the Rs. 150,000 just mentioned, taken at what had hitherto been regarded as the normal rate of exchange, was £15,831, and, adding £10,760 received from other sources—principally interest on loans and dividends on investments—their total income for the year under review was £26,591. Their expenses all told were only £3,883, and, after making certain other deductions amounting to £500, there remained a gross profit or surplus of £22,208. The principal set-off against this was £7,000 for the debenture service—namely, £3,695 for interest and £3,305 for redemption—and there was a small loss of £219 on the sale of certain securities which it had been decided to realise. Next they had considered it wise to earmark a sum of £2,500 for taxes, not knowing at the moment the precise amount that might be called for under this heading, and finally, after the various deductions which he had just mentioned, they were left with a balance to credit of profit and loss account of £15,330. Under the provisions of the articles of association £312 had to be applied to the redemption of income notes, and the balance remaining was £12,176, to which must be added the balance of £2,842 brought forward from the previous year, making together £15,018, which sum the directors, under all the circumstances, recommended should be carried forward. He was afraid there must be some little feeling of disappointment that they were not recommending the application of some part of this balance to the payment of a dividend, and no one could regret this more than the directors, who were themselves amongst the largest shareholders. But the directors felt bound, from motives of the most common prudence, to husband the company's present resources to the uttermost in these very disturbing times, when coffers, once depleted, could scarcely be replenished at any cost. After referring at some length to the company's operations in 1914, to the great strike which took place in the summer of that year,

to the price realised for the company's products, to the heavy royalty upon their output exacted by the Russian Government (under which the Government had taken no less than £800,000, whilst the shareholders had received only £130,000), and to the company's interests in the promising new oilfield at Novo Aldi, near Grosny, the Chairman dealt with the financial position of the company, which he regarded as the bright side of the picture. Their capital was very small; shares and debentures together were under £300,000 nominal; their floating liabilities were less than £3,000. Against this they had investments, loans, and cash amounting nominally to £115,000, in addition to their holding of the entire share capital (Rs. 2,500,000, or about £250,000) of the Russian company. Of these resources something like £50,000 might be regarded as liquid, and available for the purposes of their business. As to the future, he could only say that the restoration of but two or three of the wells now under repair would greatly alter the complexion of their affairs, and, with their new deep well No. 11 also in production, they should speedily be back to the output of 1912 or 1913, and in the enjoyment of reasonable prosperity. The only remaining consideration would then be a continuance of fair prices for their output, and if, in addition to this, they obtained the promised reduction of royalty, their prospects would be still further enhanced.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Arthur Herbert Wright, the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

### Answers to Correspondents.

\* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

W. G. (Glasgow).—It does not necessarily follow that the shareholders will suffer loss, but it is not possible to give a definite opinion yet. The new concern should have plenty of opportunities to maintain its profits and extend its business after the war is over, and so the best course is just to accept the transfer and wait events.

G. B. C.—It is not possible to say the market has reached the lowest, but we think a purchase now should prove profitable if you are prepared to hold on.

D. B. F.—It would be simple if you can effect the exchange at the market prices. The difference in the result would be small.

W. A. M.—Not worth the trouble, as the expenses would take more than half the apparent profit.

Nore.—We think so. The rise has been rapid and sensational, and no doubt the company is doing better, but they are speculative at the best, and you should take the opportunity of reducing your commitments.

S. S. S.—No. 1 is good, but fairly high; No. 2 has prospects; and No. 3 is also attractive; (4) Dennistown, Bukit Cloh.

CHADBURN'S (SHIP) TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.—Gross profits for the year ended March 31 showed a satisfactory increase of £3,293 at £24,672, but nearly half of the improvement was swallowed up in heavier expenses. At the same time, the directors deemed it advisable to write off £1,124 more at £4,051 for depreciation, and after providing for administration charges, the nett surplus was £178 down at £7,299. The balance brought in was also much smaller at £2,202, but the dividend on the ordinary shares is again made up to 8 per cent. for the year, and the sum carried forward is halved at £1,101. Property and goodwill account is £3,412 lower at £81,933, but apart from this writing down the company is not putting by anything in the shape of a reserve. Stocks and work in progress come to £29,870, or £6,556 more, and debtors are £3,649 up at £26,220, while sundry creditors have been reduced by £1,060 to £7,193; cash, however, has dropped by £2,609 to £381, and the company has had to borrow £6,187 from its bankers.

NORTH CENTRAL WAGON CO., LTD.—Nett profits for the year ended June 30 were £3,822 down at £23,977, and a dividend of 13½ per cent. is now paid, less tax, compared with 14 per cent., tax free. The transfer to reserve is then reduced from £7,500 to £5,000, leaving £748 more at £968 to be carried forward. The company has 994 wagons less in use, the value of which, together with other investments, shows a decrease of £102,182 at £1,133,858. Debtors owe £9,095 less at £25,398, but stores, &c., have risen £5,848 to £45,095, and cash is entered for £50,556, against nothing. Sundry creditors are £8,065 up at £26,101, but the debenture and loan account has actually been reduced by £53,427 to £994,310.

OLYMPIC PORTLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.—Financial conditions on the North Pacific Coast were worse in the year ended March 31 than in the previous 12 months, and this company was only able to run its factory at full capacity for a few months. The production of finished cement was 12,519 barrels larger at 360,510 barrels, and sales and deliveries rose by 21,624 barrels to 381,003 barrels, but prices were poor, and the nett profits dropped by £3,543 to £12,175. With £5,010 brought in, the surplus was £1,467 better at £17,185, and out of this £4,720, or £1,511 more, is transferred to sinking fund and £7,353 is written off for depreciation, leaving £5,113, or £103 more, to be carried forward.



# The Investors' Review.

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## Passing Events.

Undeniably no small moral courage is required of us this Friday morning to face the Russian war news, but we must exercise that courage and also use our intelligence. What is the object aimed at by Prussia? The destruction of the Russian armies. Has this object been attained? It has not, true, alas! though it now is that Kovno has fallen. It did not fall with the speed and in the manner the Prussian official bulletins asserted, but lost it has been. Its capture, however, has had no other effect than to compel the Russian armies to roll back upon another line further in the interior. They have neither been captured, broken nor demoralised. We must be prepared to see them draw further back everywhere, as the news from Novo Georgiewsk given by the Russians themselves was also ominous of that speedy surrender the Germans also announce, as well as that from several other places north and south. The outer fortifications of Brest-Litovsk have already been "penetrated," and away up north in the Gulf of Riga the Russian fleet has been obliged to shelter itself behind the land fortifications before the enemy's superior force in ships of war. All this is disheartening, and much other than we could wish; but it is by no means unexpected, and in no sense implies that Russia is being forced into a position which will compel her Government to sue for peace. That Government is no more likely to do this now than that of Alexander I. was when it received peace overtures from Napoleon after that conquering hero had taken possession of Moscow. The further the Russians are forced back into the interior of their country the more resolute will they become to die rather than to submit to the loathed foe. From that point of view the triumph of the Kaiser, which he is boasting over and decorating generals for in his usual cock-a-doodle style, is barren.

But this and other incidents of the war, our retardment in the Dardanelles, the comparative rigidity of the enemy's lines in France and Flanders, the absence of Garibaldian triumphs for Italy, and such sinister deeds as the torpedoing of the *Arabic* are, one might say, co-ordinated with supreme historic skill to give scenic effect and emphasis to Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's audaciously aggressive and falsetto

harangue delivered on Thursday at the opening of the Reichstag. It was really a first-class effort in political bluff and humbug, so recklessly defiant that if we had space we should print it. As it is we can only put the report of it on one side to be compared, perhaps a year hence, with the situation then visible. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg boasted that the French had been "kept at bay," the Italians "repulsed," the Turks able to make "an unflinching stand" in the Dardanelles, while in the East "we have freed"—note the word, freed—"almost all Galicia, Poland, Lithuania, and Courland from the Russians. Ivan-gorod, Warsaw, and Kovno have fallen. Far into hostile territory our lines present everywhere a solid wall, and," he added, "we have strong armies free for new blows. Proud and fearless, and relying on our glorious troops, we can regard the future." Is not that first-class braggadocio of its kind? Surely it ought to be a dose strong enough to conjure that other £500,000,000 out of the pockets of an enthusiastic people. It might if the millions were there, but they are not, and the stoppage of the Mittelrheinische Bank—a concern with a paid-up capital of £1,000,000 sterling, which is intimately bound up with the Westphalian and Rhineland metal industries, and whose dividends have ranged from 5 to 7½ per cent. during the last quarter of a century—is not likely to further an abundant rush of subscriptions. We should infer that the controlling holder of this bank, the great Disconto-Gesellschaft itself, probably the wealthiest institution of its kind in all Deutschland, is very far from comfortable in circumstances, otherwise it would hardly have allowed so powerful a subsidiary to founder. Mercifully the Disconto London office is shut, and in Sir William Plender's control, but the greater the difficulty and danger, the nearer the smash, the greater the necessity to assume an attitude of perfect assurance, and to boast and boast and boast with abandon unmatchable in the hope that such an attitude will intimidate the enemy. That is a vain hope.

About the torpedoing of the *Arabic* it is not the time to say much. In some respects it is a repetition of the *Lusitania* crime against humanity, and at first sight it might seem as if the Prussians were deliberately bent upon forcing the United States to join the noble band of their enemies. For the White Star Co., which owns the *Arabic*, is itself American-owned,



though its ships fly the British flag and are on the British register. More likely, however, is the suggestion that the ship was torpedoed because the Prussians thought it carried gold to New York. German agents here are as vigilant as ever in keeping the Berlin officials in touch with our affairs, and the talk about a loan in America and the necessity of sending large sums in gold to New York, as well as the knowledge that gold was leaving the Bank of England for somewhere abroad, may very likely have prompted the perpetration of this heartless crime. We trust gold in quantity did not go by the *Arabic*, but if it did we hope it may prove recoverable or the loss be concealed and the lesson laid to heart. Gold can be got from other quarters than the Bank of England, and arrangements ought to be made so that the South African supply should be placed wholly at the disposal of the British Government—for transmission to whatever destination the exchange position demanded or held in trust till peace comes. And one thing has to be emphasised—the managers of the White Star Line must be warmly congratulated on the success with which those on board the vessel—and there were 423 persons in all, passengers and crew—were saved from drowning. After being struck the ship went down in little more than 10 minutes, and all the passengers got away as well as most of the crew. They faced fate with the calmness of heroes.

When one reads about the tortuous machinations of Germans in the United States, initiated and carried on to befog public opinion in the Republic, to embarrass the Government, even to embroil it with Mexico, to foment strikes, to capture factories, and to obtain control of sources of opinion through the ownership of newspapers or news agencies, one cannot help wondering how much of that sort of thing goes on within the United Kingdom. It is not necessary to suppose, still less to believe, that the newspapers in the Harmsworth syndicate, for example, are German controlled, after the American model, or that their managers have the least consciousness of subjection to German wire-pulling. Nevertheless, much of what is said in these and some other papers continually suggests Teutonic influences in activity. The very placards even issued by these syndicate sheets and one or two other rather notorious journals are often so framed as to stimulate or feed the pessimistic mood among the multitude, and it is from placards more than from reading newspapers that hundreds of thousands of the community draw their faint perception of the facts about the war. If it sets forth an unfavourable view of the war we see continually, in going along the streets, some trivial incident blazoned in large letters on newspaper placards to catch the passing eye. Why is this? Is it patriotism which dictates this kind of prospects-blackening, or is it mere sensation-warped perversity, or is the sly, cunning finger of the insinuating Teuton mixed up with it in some fashion? In another direction what, let us ask again, are we to make of this sudden agitation got up by the Harmsworth syndicate for what is now called "National Service"? Until the other day all the newspapers of the syndicate were furious, not to say anti-patriotic, advocates of conscription, advocates at a time when a voluntary army, now probably exceeding 3,000,000 in number, has been successfully got together with admirable celerity, an army of the finest material any nation ever possessed. That agitation failed miserably, but Lord Northcliffe is not the man to be easily turned from his purpose, which in this instance is apparently to wreck the Ministry, and, above all, to hound Lord Kitchener out of the War Office; so now we have a "National Service League," and the other evening the *Star* newspaper gave us some most interesting particulars about the inception and constitution of this mysterious body. Apparently a member—or is it members?—of Lord Northcliffe's staff has the matter in hand, and by all accounts is quite equal to the job, for he is

an old expert in organising "booms." The *Star* tells us that to his energy we owe the "Standard Bread" campaign, the "flight from Free Trade" agitation, the "sweet pea competition," the "rose prize," and other Harmsworth sensations of the unequalled-sale stimulating order. He is even said to have appeared as Parliamentary candidate on one side, and at a later time as a "boom"-sprinter on the other. Obviously, then, we have here a most expert journalist, who in organising this latest most unseasonable agitation has already contrived to gather together sufficient aristocratic and other do-nothings, nonentities, shirkers, faddists, and lime-light posturers to give it an air of influence and respectability. But the nation is not to be conscripted just yet, and in all goodwill we should advise Lord Northcliffe to look after the reputation of his journals. The public will begin to credit them with being pro-German, if not supported by German money, if he does not check the exuberance. It is a wonder to us many a time it has not done so already.

A most lamentable catastrophe has struck the country in the foundering of the *Royal Edward*, a troopship with over 1,600 men on board. There were 32 military officers and 1,350 troops, besides 220 officers and men of the crew, and the vessel was torpedoed by the enemy in the Ægean, only about 600 lives having been saved. There should be a full inquiry into the why and wherefore of this catastrophe—not that we can blame the enemy, deeds of this kind being accepted as legitimate acts of war—but the nation will be curious to know whether or not the boats of the transport were hung out ready to be launched on a minute's warning, and whether they did anything to help in saving the men. Of the deed itself, however much we may mourn, we cannot complain, but it is wholly otherwise with those airship raids by which men, women and children are again being killed on our East Coast. As some military writer—we think it was Mr. Pollen—pointed out the other day, the Zeppelin form of aircraft is of no real effective use as a fighting engine, as a weapon in war. It has to fly too high to be able to take aim with certainty at any object down below; therefore the bomb-throwing from such aircraft can never be regarded as anything except wilful murder of the most heartless description. We do not believe that any race on earth, not even the head-hunters of Borneo, would be guilty of deliberately massacring innocents after this fashion, above all of glorying in it and continuing to do it. It is the "glory" of the Prussian and the Prussian alone to conceive and persevere in such fiendish deeds. Equally despicable is the emergence of large submarines from the depths of the sea to throw shells upon defenceless towns. A war is not helped forward by deeds of that kind, but the eternal damnation of Prussianism is, we trust, made sure. All the world over mankind will henceforth shrink from intercourse with creatures so God-forsaken.

Expert as the trained Prussian mind is in the art of deceiving, it is hardly to be credited that any amount of lying and subterfuge can persuade those who suffer from the pangs of hunger to believe that they are full fed. The now sinisterly notorious Dr. Delbrueck, Count Reventlow's rival in the advocacy of the German's right to steal everything he covets because he has the power, has told the Budget Committee of the Reichstag that "in consequence of underestimates," the available stocks and stringent economy of the past year have left "an unexpected abundance of potatoes." Who can believe that to be a plain statement of fact? What are potatoes of the crop of 1914 worth to-day even as pig food? Is the starch in them of any great worth? Dr. Delbrueck is Minister of the Interior and speaks with authority, but that only excites him to use the Junker official method of cheering the people up. He added that the Imperial Bureau for the Supply of Potatoes had distributed "over 10,000,000 cwts. to municipalities, starch factories,



dye works and distilleries." Tremendous lot that, is it not? Further supplies, too, are available. As for grain, there are 7,000,000 cwts. left of the previous year's crop, and the new crop of potatoes is estimated at 50,000,000 tons, of which only 15,000,000 tons would be required for human food, 5,000,000 tons remaining for industrial purposes, and 7,000,000 tons for seed, leaving 23,000,000 tons available as fodder. Meat is also in a satisfactory position according to this functionary. There will be no scarcity, and the "normal consumption of sugar" has been secured for the new year. That these statements are in great part romancings or exaggerations, where not deliberate falsehood put out to deceive, as the Prussian manner is, would seem to be proved by some statistics published in Wednesday's *Westminster Gazette*. The writer, basing his recital upon official statistics, declares that, compared with prices before the war, peas are 209 per cent., beans 184 per cent., pearl barley 165 per cent., rice 151 per cent., potatoes 96 per cent., eggs 61 per cent., rye bread 52 per cent., wheat meal 47 per cent., butter 43 per cent., and milk 15 per cent. higher to-day. So dark is the outlook for the mass of the people that the Press, muzzled and spoon-fed though it is, has taken to clamouring for "Government measures" to prevent speculation, which is raging in certain classes of foodstuffs, or to maintain prices at a reasonable level. In Vienna things are worse, and there cannot be any doubt that the economic pressure exercised by the state of siege into which the Teutonic Empires have been driven by the irresistible pressure of the British and Allied Fleets, as well as by the closing of most outlets by land, is bringing about that economic helplessness and starvation of the multitude we have declared in these columns from the outset to be the infallible outcome of the war as organised and pursued by the defenders of liberty. It has taken a longer time than we counted upon, but the end is even as we now begin to see. The Teutons have sold their soul to the devil like their Faustus, and in the end will lose the body. A distinguished American quoted by the *Westminster* writer declares that he has witnessed "frantic scenes" in the market places and food stores. These places are "crowded with hungry women whose despair has driven them mad." They come into collision with the police, and free fights are an ordinary occurrence. The contrast between London and Berlin has never been more striking. Time is thus telling its tale upon Germany.

Mr. R. C. Hawkin, whose knowledge of things African is intimate, has gathered together in a pamphlet (Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd., price 1s.) some letters of his to the *Daily News* together with rejoinders by Sir Harry Johnston (in the *African World*), extracts from articles in the Press all backed up by official documents on "The Belgian proposal to neutralise Central Africa during the European War." His ideal is enticing, but utopian. True it doubtless is that Central Africa can never be "a white man's country," but it does not therefore follow that white men will not continue to rule it. India is in large part no land for the white "settler," but the British have long been its responsible masters. And in Central Africa war had no sooner broken out that the interests of the white man compelled Great Britain to seize all accessible telegraph stations and supply depôts within the regions thus designated. Two questions may be asked: If Prussia were to succeed in retaining Belgium, would it leave the Belgian Congo to its own devices? If Prussians dominated the Congo, would British East Africa or Rhodesia, or Portuguese East and West Africa, let alone the just lost German South-West Africa, be territories whose inhabitants could sleep in peace, confident that they would be immune from all treachery or attack?

In February last a committee of bondholders of the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Co. was appointed to investigate the position following the default on the December coupon, and it has now issued

an exhaustive report which does not make very cheerful reading. It throws a little useful light on the kind of frenzied finance in which Canada has indulged in recent years, and which would certainly have led to serious trouble, war or no war. To understand the position properly it is necessary to state that the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway is one of a group with the Lake Superior Corporation at its head, the other principal members being the Algoma Central Terminals, the Algoma Eastern Railway Co. and the Algoma Steel Corporation. The Lake Superior Corporation, which has itself placed £1,000,000 in 5 per cent. bonds here, has unconditionally guaranteed issues amounting to £6,802,000 by the subsidiaries named, so that it has dipped pretty deeply into British pockets. In November last the Algoma Steel had to arrange for a two years' funding scheme, the Algoma Central, as already stated, defaulted in December, and the Algoma Central Terminals followed suit in February. The Lake Superior guarantee has therefore proved worthless as soon as it was put to the test, and this is not to be wondered at, in view of the facts disclosed by the committee's investigations. It is stated that out of the Lake Superior Co.'s assets, figuring at \$48,750,000, no less than \$47,436,000 is represented by investments of the par value of \$39,484,000, of which \$32,000,000, or about 80 per cent., consists of holdings in the Algoma group. The farcical nature of the guarantee is therefore evident. If the subsidiaries could earn their interest the guarantee was useless; if they did not the Lake Superior Co. would have no funds wherewith to meet its obligations, as, indeed, has proved to be the case. In the circumstances it is difficult to see what the bondholders can do except agree to some scheme of tiding over present difficulties, but some sacrifices appear to be inevitable before all the tangled skein is straightened out.

Considering the circumstances, it would not have been surprising if the balance-sheet of the Russian and English Bank at December 31 last had shown much greater signs of stress than is actually the case. Cash is down Rs. 541,000 at Rs. 3,727,000, while bills, &c., have not unnaturally increased by Rs. 11,462,000 to Rs. 32,802,000, but these movements can easily be accounted for by the war, and a large part of the liability which the latter figure reflects has probably already been liquidated. Acceptances on behalf of customers are Rs. 324,000 higher at Rs. 575,000, which may be regarded as quite satisfactory, and the increase of Rs. 11,907,000 to Rs. 28,497,000 in current and deposit accounts is just what we should expect. Gross profits for the year show an increase of Rs. 577,000 at Rs. 1,836,000, but Rs. 268,000 is written off investments and Rs. 200,000 is placed to reserve for possible losses. General expenses have increased Rs. 110,000.

## THE STATE AND THRIFT

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and the nett profit for the year is Rs. 62,000 lower at just over Rs. 900,000, but the dividend paid is not mentioned. The general reserve is up Rs. 254,000 at Rs. 1,077,000, and the position looks quite satisfactory, so that the bank should be able to command still larger business when the present troubles are settled once and (we hope) for ever.

Following a decline of £51,370 in nett profits last year the accounts of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., for the 12 months to June 30 show a further reduction of £17,320. They still amount, however, to £384,400, and as the balance brought forward was substantially larger the available sum is up £14,100 at £654,840. Consequently the question of reducing the dividend scarcely arises as yet, and the shareholders are to receive the usual 15 per cent., including 5 per cent. bonus. Last year £20,000 was placed to accident and fire insurance fund and £50,000 to reserve, but there are no special appropriations on this occasion, and the carry forward is increased by nearly £87,000 to £357,320. No profit and loss account is given, and the changes in the somewhat meagre balance-sheet are not very important, but sundry creditors are up £55,760 at £385,740, while debtors are £88,730 higher at £465,900, and investments show an increase of £66,450 at £2,743,500. The company has suffered a serious loss through the death of its chairman, Mr. Arthur Keen, an exceptionally able and shrewd business man, and we may endorse the statement in the report that "the position the company enjoys is largely due to his untiring efforts and the able manner in which he directed its policy." The death of Mr. Wm. Evans, general manager of the Dowlais works and collieries, also removes a valuable officer of the company. Nearly 4,000 of the company's employees have joined the colours since the commencement of the war, and we are glad to learn that substantial allowances have been made by the company to the wives, children, and other dependents.

During its year ended June 30 last the Workington Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., added to the cost of its investments in dependent companies £123,625 in shares in the Beckermeth Mining Co. and the Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd. This raises the total cost of that particular investment to £182,093, and the company also holds mortgage debentures of the Harrington Harbour and Dock Board to the value in its books of £38,306, besides £25,000 "B" debentures of the Workington Harbour and Dock Board. Altogether, therefore, its investments are now £245,399, but the nominal value of the mortgage debentures of the Harrington Harbour and Dock Board is £16,198 more than the book value. In their report the directors say that the return from the investments in these concerns "has been remunerative." Nevertheless, the entire profit of the company itself for the past year is £22,562 down at £183,918, and as the balance of £22,611 brought forward was only £653 up, the divisible total of £206,529 is £21,909 lower. Accordingly the dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced by 2 per cent. to 4, but depreciation again gets £50,000, and the reserve £30,000, so that the conservation of the property is not neglected. Thanks to the £50,000 written off the cost of the leasehold, copyhold, customary and freehold properties, blast furnaces, steel works, collieries, iron ore mines in Cumberland, manganese ore mines in India, limestone quarries and fixed plant, the book value of the property at the end of June last was £27,907 down at £1,740,623. This is mainly due to the fact that £60,767 less of additional capital at £22,093 was spent during the year. The company has no debenture debt, and may perhaps be able to work along without being forced to borrow in that manner, although the total of the debts due by it is now £385,915, a sum of £122,340 appearing for the first time in the accounts as "unpaid purchase money in connection with the acquiring of shares in the Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd., partly secured by the

deposit of the shares," so that it presumably represents a loan from the company's bankers. Its other debts are up £45,597 to £263,575, but the moneys due to it are also £26,317 more at £200,532, and its cash is about £18,500 up at almost £41,000. Stocks have also increased £62,883 to £492,129, so that the position appears to be strong, and the dip in profits may be looked upon as small considering how much the war has upset business.

While it must be admitted that the results shown in the preliminary statement issued by the Calico Printers' Association, Ltd., are disappointing, there is a silver lining to the cloud, and at the worst the figures for the year to June 30 are not nearly so bad as at one time it seemed probable they would be. Of course, it is no use trying to pretend that a loss of £179,200, against a profit of £105,500 for 1913-14, and of £375,000 for 1912-13, is satisfactory, but in the special circumstances shareholders must try to look only at the bright side of the picture. It must be remembered that in the first six months of its financial year the company made a loss of £276,600, and it is no mean achievement to have swung round to a profit of £97,400 for the second half-year, leaving the nett loss for the whole year as above stated. This is the first time since 1901 that the operations for the complete 12 months have resulted in a loss, but the profits have fluctuated very widely, dropping as low as £43,000 in 1907-8, and rising to £404,000 in 1910-11. How the directors may decide to deal with the deficit will not be known till the full report is issued, and it is useless to speculate on the subject. As there is a dividend equalisation reserve of £150,000, the preference dividend may be paid in order to maintain the unbroken record of these shares and avoid getting into arrears. On the other hand, the directors may think it of more importance not to dissipate the company's resources. It may be mentioned that during the 12 months exports of printed cotton goods fell off 45 per cent., in addition to which the company's mills in France, though safe and undamaged, have had to be shut down owing to the withdrawal of all the men to serve in the Army. However, there is a considerable amount of enemy trade to be captured in neutral countries, and the association has evidently been bestirring itself in this direction judging by the better results of the last six months. The outlook therefore is by no means hopeless, and the chairman's statement at the forthcoming meeting will be awaited with exceptional interest.

The business of Claudius Ash, Sons and Co., Ltd., suffered very severely in 1914 owing to the fact that it has large interests in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Constantinople, and Brussels, from which it has naturally been impossible to obtain complete returns. Trading results at these branches have consequently been excluded, while the assets and liabilities have been taken as at December 31, 1913. In addition business in other directions was restricted by the abnormal rates of exchange, so that altogether the company was very hard hit. Nett profits showed a reduction of £69,984 at £29,081, and the disposable surplus, including £36,487 brought in, was £63,000 lower. The preference dividend is met, but the ordinary shares have to be content with the interim distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, which the directors, no doubt with good intentions, were rash enough to pay in May last. Nothing can be transferred to reserve compared with £25,000 a year ago, and after writing £1,750 off investments, the balance carried forward is £11,986 lower at £24,501. Stocks in London and at branches are £27,613 smaller at £531,340, and cash is £24,449 down at £50,549, but debtors owe £16,398 more at £334,880. On the other hand liabilities to sundry creditors have been reduced by £16,125, and are comparatively light at £56,915, while £7,819 is carried in suspense for balance of transactions between London and certain of the Continental branches.



The recent weakness of the base metal markets is causing no little discouragement among speculators. Copper statistics for the first half of this month are distinctly bearish again. Supplies were well in excess of deliveries, the figures being 14,013 tons and 12,533 tons respectively; so that the European visible supply shows an increase of 1,480 tons in the fortnight. The total, 41,716 tons, is the largest since April, 1913, and compares with 33,612 tons at the outbreak of war. But the price of standard copper, which on July 31, 1914, stood at £56½, rose to over £81 about six weeks ago, and is now down to £67. The market is dominated by the situation in America, where production is in excess of demand, and consumers are waiting for a further fall in price of refined copper. The price of refined is about £13 above that for standard, whereas the usual difference is about £5. In their anxiety to squeeze consumers producers are only penalising themselves, for if the margin was reduced trade buying would doubtless revive. Lead and tin have also been coming down, and spelter, after its recent meteoric rise to about £120 a ton, has fallen to about half that figure. It is a good thing for the nation, for trade, and for the eventual benefit of producers that the wild speculation in these metals has been checked at last.

One by one Mexican companies are being forced into default by the prolonged state of chaos that has existed in the country. The latest instance is the Vera Cruz Terminal Co., which was formed in 1907 under a concession from the Mexican Government to provide facilities for handling and forwarding traffic to the four railway systems entering Vera Cruz, and the venture was rated so highly that it was able to place £1,000,000 in 4½ per cent. debentures at 96½. Now a meeting of debenture-holders is summoned for next Thursday to consider a resolution providing that the interest due on July 15 be postponed till January 15 next, such postponement not to constitute a default rendering the debentures payable. It is proposed to appoint a committee to confer with the directors, make such recommendations as may appear desirable, and report to a further meeting of the debenture-holders. The company's troubles are purely temporary, and its fortunes must recover when the country is pacified, so the holders have no option but to possess their souls in patience.

"Out of the House of Bondage" is the title of a pamphlet giving the story of the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union established in 1844. It embraces the 71st annual report of this well-known Union for the year 1914-15, and it is a record of much reclaiming and elevating work well and patiently done. The pity of it is that our civilisation should have produced the necessity for such work as this, that there should be an infinity of slum children always growing up, not only in London, but in our other great cities; but while this misery exists there is need that unrelaxing active effort should be made to deal with it. To try and rescue the waifs and train them to be good citizens, this is the work of Lord Shaftesbury's Ragged School Union, whose worthy director is Sir John Kirk, and we hope that until the better social day arises the necessities of war will not dry up the sources from whence the means are drawn to enable the work to be carried on. Altogether the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union seems to have spent nearly £44,000 last year, and to have gathered in nearly enough money to balance the account. But the drain on its funds is continuous, and must tend to multiply, if not just now when the Government is largely dispensing charity or relief and when Government-found work is abundant, but by-and-by when the war is ended and the nation has to fall back upon other means of making a living than the production of murder appliances, alas now so imperative if our life is to be preserved.

Interesting facts are contained in the special note at the beginning of "Cotton Crop Movements, Acreage, Prices, Consumption, &c.," the well-known and in-

dispensable compilation of cotton statistics annually issued by the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. Some of the facts given will be interesting as illustrative of the effects of war on the cotton trade. In the early part of the season estimates regarding the consumption of American cotton ranged as low as 10,000,000 bales, and to January 31 last the world's takings averaged no more than 1,052,000 bales per month, against 1,454,000 bales in 1913-14. Subsequently, however, a considerable increase took place, partly owing to reviving trade, and also, no doubt, to a war demand for the manufacture of explosives, so that the total is within 6 per cent. of last season. At first the spinning trade of England was much upset by the war, the December balance-sheets showing in many cases substantial loss, but for the past half-year the margins have distinctly improved, more especially in the coarser counts of yarn, principally because of the Government demand for khaki cloths. Most of the mills accordingly show moderate profits. Prices, however, have been low compared with a year ago. Owing to the fact that because of the war the Liverpool Cotton Association visible supply figures have not been available, the compilers of this model little book have had recourse to the New York *Financial Chronicle*, whose figures, though depending on estimates for German and Austrian stocks, are with good reason considered approximately correct. To all in the cotton trade the compilation must be invaluable. Table XI. gives the analysis of monthly crop reports issued by the Washington Agricultural Bureau, and, according to that authority, the estimate of crop value has declined during July, but is not appreciably lower than it was at the beginning of August last year. The acreage under cotton, however, has been reduced by nearly 6,000,000 acres.

### Still, Does All Go Well? Surely!

People in this country who may be disposed to accept a depressing view of events have one great advantage: they get the German side of the Russian war news 24 hours ahead of the Russian side. This enables the German manufacturers of information to put the best face on things for themselves, and naturally they make the most of their opportunity. Witness their announcement of the fall of Kovno. That it is a most serious blow to Russia no one could dream of denying, but that it is the smashing disaster indicated in the German shout of triumph we do not believe. According to the Berlin announcement, the "army group of Field-Marshal von Hindenburg" has captured Kovno, "with all its forts and enormous quantities of material, including far more than 400 guns." The fortress was taken by storm in face of the most stubborn resistance on the part of the enemy," the message says. There is, however, one significant omission—no boast of large captures of men is made, and while waiting for the Russian version of the story, we take leave to doubt whether the capture of guns and material has been of that sweeping description indicated. It will be the first occasion on which the advancing Germans have obtained anything but the empty shell of the city or fortification occupied, or, as they put it, stormed. Probably the guns were useless, and the "stores" in great part mythical. Indeed, the later Russian message proves the Germans to have been too previous, lying with a purpose, as usual, in fact. After 11 days' fighting, involving enormous losses, they captured the forts on the left bank of the Niemen, but have still to cross the river and capture those on its right bank. Why this Prussian fury in lying? They want to intimidate us to a peace—the fools.

What will be the effect of this coup? German success? No; it will first of all involve the German and Austrian armies more deeply than ever within the Empire of Russia. The situation was hit off rather neatly in the Gould cartoon of last Wednesday's *Westminster*. It depicts Hindenburg and the Grand Duke Nicholas tightly locked in each other's embrace, and Hindenburg is shouting, "I have crushed him." The Kaiser, standing behind, says, "Then bring him in." "I can't," answers Hindenburg; "he won't let me."



That is only a repetition of the old joke of *Punch*. In the Crimean War a Jack Tar is depicted as in death grips with a Russian. "I have caught a Tartar," he shouts. "Bring him in, then," is the answer. "He won't let me," the sailor had to reply. And that is fairly the situation of the Austro-Germans to-day in Russia. Some of the papers that claim to be enlightened leaders of public opinion talk in the most lugubrious fashion of the Russian resistance being now as good as broken, but even the erratic *Daily Mail* knows better than that, for it reminds us that "after four months of sore trials the glory of the Russian arms stands out undimmed. The Germans have not succeeded in encircling our Ally's forces." Good for you, *Daily Mail*! "No, but they will now divide the Russian armies," says the lugubrious amateur strategist, "preparatory to smashing them in detail," and he forthwith proceeds to recount how great swarming hosts under Mackensen and his subordinates are pushing up from the southwest upon Brest-Litovsk to co-operate with Hindenburg driving in victorious up north in order to place "a wedge" between the Russian armies. But does not the Pripet marsh region do that *tout seul*, and will the Austro-German armies be any nearer the conquest of Russia even if they have pushed forward to Vilna and Petrograd in the north or eastward and north-westward towards Kiev and Moscow in the south. Even if they concentrate their whole energies in a headlong drive upon Petrograd, will the Teutonic hordes be any nearer their triumph? Obviously not, so long as the Grand Duke Nicholas is able to prevent his armies from being defeated or captured. So long also as he can lay the land waste as he retires and continue to harass the enemy by resolutely fought and skilfully organised rearguard combats, preserving his resources intact except for the small wastage of life and material this sort of warfare forces upon him, so long is the game of the Teuton a losing one. How are the invading armies to be fed and munitioned as they bury themselves in Russia? "Through Riga." Well, supposing they get hold of Riga, the town being full of Teutons, will that ensure supplies for a winter campaign?

Consider how absolutely environed by dangers the Prussians are. They have no hope now of averting a dreaded second winter campaign. All they gained by the capture of Warsaw was not worth the cost of one day's military expenses to the German Empire, and all their subsequent gains merely tend to fix them more hopelessly in the quagmires of their own creation, to bury them in Russia. With a steady persistence which promises perfect success the Allies are destroying the Teuto-Turkish forces in the Gallipoli Peninsula; Russian armies are defeating the Turkish troops in the Caucasus; Italy is making resolute headway towards the capture of Trieste by smashing Austrian defences all around it and up amongst the passes and peaks of the Julian Alps; France is beating down the weary troops entrenched against her on the Alsace-Lorraine frontier, and the Belgians and ourselves are busy performing the same work in Flanders, all the while that Russia is sucking in the remaining available hosts and reserves of the foe. Why, the position is full of hope.

Taken all in all, the prospect remains as assured as ever, the end as inevitable. In that faith we stand unshaken, for let it never be forgotten that German resources in men and material have passed their maximum. They may bounce and lie as they please, but the fact remains. Every Austro-German victory, so called, in Russia, every rearguard action fought there, every storming of fortifications, nay, every tramp forward into the Russian wildernesses, eats up men and material that cannot be replaced—certainly the men cannot be replaced. *And the door will close behind the aggressors.* It is the same in Italy, France, and Flanders and in the Gallipoli Peninsula. Reserves are being consumed everywhere in fighting completely barren of results. We therefore have but to hold on steadfast in killing, determined to beat the enemy utterly, and succeed we must. Cannot the pessimists and grumblers who clamour for a delusive peace grasp something of the grand idea so patently governing the

military strategy of the Allies? They are not fighting random battles tumbled into by chance, nor is the retreat of Russia a mere necessity of weakness governed by no considerations affecting the position of other members of the heroic league of Powers battling for human liberty. Our apparent supineness on the West is, must be, part of a wisely organised system, devised for the enemy's discomfiture. And surely there could be no better method of destroying Prussian militarism than to entangle it in the wastes of Russia, just as the first Napoleon was entangled. In spite of themselves the Prussians have been forced to copy his example, just because they have been baulked of their prey all the time. They have never caught and smashed the Russian Army, and probably never will. Napoleonic ideals and strategy have presided over the entire Russian campaign, in spite of Prussian cunning, and the retreats and methods of fighting the Russian generals are carrying into effect may be described as an almost exact copy of that followed by the men who retreated before the "Grand Army" in 1812 and decoyed it to destruction. Will not our victory in the West be rendered easier by this absorbing of many millions, perhaps 5,000,000, of miserable Austro-Germans, food for powder, and only that, in one more mad invasion of Russia? Why should the French and British troops be wasted now in attacks upon elaborately prepared foes in trenches, in whose storming thousands of precious lives would be thrown away? The true method is the one now being systematically pursued—to force the Teutons to attack now here, now there, and to mow them down ruthlessly on each opportunity they give.

Take the larger view of the mighty conflict, and it is impossible to be other than hopeful about its end. We see the French Minister of Munitions has put forward a suggestion that, in imitation of the International War Council—which has presumably elaborated the plan of campaign now being carried out, in spite of hindrances, accidents, reverses, towards a triumphant conclusion—a Central Civil Council, as it might be called, of the Allies might also be formed, which "would elaborate a proper co-ordination in the industrial and economic efforts of the united countries." It is an excellent idea, and deserves to be filed for use as herald of the good that may come as fruit of this devouring conflict in other directions than the successful waging of war. But let us win the war first.

A table in last Wednesday's *Evening Standard* puts the total number of people thus far killed in this country by the enemy's aeroplane raids at 86 and of wounded at 211. Of the total killed, including those slain on Tuesday night last, 36 were men, 34 women, and 16 children. Of the wounded 109 were men, 71 women, and 31 children. Not one of these individuals had anything whatever to do with the war. They were civilians all. Their killing, as we say elsewhere, was cold-blooded murder of the most deliberate kind. What can the Germans expect to get by such exhibitions of brutality? Were their masters men of intelligence, of self-respect, they would shrink from such deeds with instinctive disgust. Being only ignorant, self-asserting dolts, for the most part, they gloat over the performances, count them feats to be proud of. They cannot see—and we are glad they cannot—that each successful murder raid of this description upon unprotected citizens increases the loathing with which everything German and, above all, everything Prussian is held in this country. Those of us who deprecate premature attempts at reconciliation, sugared sentimentality directed to a weakening of the national resolution to carry this war to a satisfactory finish in the best interests of all mankind, may almost be said to welcome, while loathing, these crimes, because their perpetration is the best antidote possible to the diseased, often insincere, always mistaken intrigues and efforts of the so-called pacifists to entangle us in the peace road to ruin. We do not want to transmit our inheritance to a race of slaves, and therefore rejoice that the impish cruelty of the foe inspires him to perpetrate crimes that brace up the national resolution, that cause every one



amongst us worthy of the name of man to clench his hands and set his teeth in stern resolve to have done for ever with Prussian brutality and tyranny, or die.

### Germany's Financial Exhaustion.

From all sides testimony arrives to the effect that the state of mind into which the Prussians have fallen is more and more that of insane arrogance. As the enemy's armies press forward to their doom within the Russian Empire, the raging pride of the Junker increases, until he begins almost to regard the earth as not good enough for him to tread upon. He is assuredly causing the races and nations whom he has made his victims in this devastating war to leave it at a speed never before equalled, and in another few months or another year Germany will be denuded of men capable of renewing its generations. But this very feverishness of pride and o'ervaulting ambition is surely ominous of an approaching crisis that must give pause to, if it does not overwhelm, the brutal aggressor. To us the vauntings, cruelties, purposeless and malignant savagery of the Junker appear to be infallible forerunners of his approaching discomfiture. He is "playing the game" with the abandon of one demented. What object of a military or "world-conquering" end can be achieved by such infamies as the dropping of bombs promiscuously on defenceless citizens? Can behaviour like that tend to further the cause of Teuton supremacy over all the nations of the earth? It can only increase the loathing with which everything German becomes more and more regarded as the tale of abominations piles up, but a feverish energy drives the demon-swayed tyrants on and on. The dominating caste not only flings millions of men into Russia, where they will mostly perish before another spring comes round, but strives by means non-military to cripple or beguile the foe. There is plotting with Bulgaria and Rumania, beguiling of the Turk in or near the theatres of war, and the Press and financial intrigues in the United States probably find their counterpart in every country of the Allies, in the United Kingdom even, where many things go on that suggest the futile cunning of the unresting Teuton. The effect of the low rascality revealed in it all is growing disastrous to the German claim to be civilised.

At home, in Deutschland, visions of coming greatness are conjured up before a people taught to look for a reunited and German-controlled Poland—the Austrian claims there being coolly ignored—a revived "kingdom of Lithuania," with the youngest Hohenzollern as "King" or deputy-tyrant, and to count on a dominance in the Balkans which will ensure Russian discomfiture and the downfall of England in the East. Nothing can be done with or said to people thus lost to all sense of proportion, not to say all contact with reason. They have learned nothing in all the time since the Franco-Prussian war, whether from their clumsy and fatuously stupid misgovernment of Alsace, or from their failures as organisers and rulers of colonies; and, being unteachable, entrenched behind the barrier of their stupendous conceit, all the Allies can do is to organise and brace themselves sternly to fight on and on until that scourge of mankind, the Prussian maniac, has been swept off the face of the earth.

Much of what is conveyed to us through the Press, especially through the German-inspired Press, seems to us to give evidence of anxiety in Berlin, not only about the immediate results of the campaigning, but about the fate that overhangs the whole Empire, and, above all, about the dangers lurking in its finances. The daily expenditure of the Teutonic Empires in the campaign against Russia alone must have exceeded, at least during the last three months, that of the British Empire, and neither Germany nor Austria is in a position squarely to meet one-tenth of it. To keep the campaign going in full fury on all fronts, to go on plunging further and further into ruin in Russia after the manner of the first Napoleon, and at the same time to hold back or make headway against Italy, France, and the United Kingdom—a feat which should

now be impossible—is far beyond the man-and-money power of the two Empires, even were there no fleets in question; but when the resistless pressure of the British, French, and Italian navies is added to the wasting process carried on by the armies of the Allies on land, it must soon become impossible for the aggressor Empires to stand the strain without ruining themselves beyond hope of recovery. So impossible is it that one begins to suspect the bravado and insolence of the Prussian military caste and the vapourings of their mad Kaiser to be indicative of a consciousness that the game is about up. They are at least aware that they must fight in a fury of haste to avert, if possible, a winter in Russia and a second one in Flanders and France. So to that winter agony we must pin them.

Their happy professors, poor hirelings of the State, ignorant as babes of life for the most part, still tell the fever-driven to go on and conquer, and demonstrate, with their usual obliviousness not only to every consideration of humanity, but to all outside what is acclaimed by them as cultured self-interest—with that perfect indifference also to morals which is so thoroughly characteristic—that Germany must keep Belgium, humiliate and dismember France, annex and rule Poland, dominate the Balkans, Constantinople, and Asia Minor, deprive Britain of her empire in order to secure for Germany the "freedom of the seas," which—it is too Teutonically notorious—we have hitherto denied her, and in all ways spread herself over the world with a delirious covetousness for all good things seen or imagined never before developed to such perfection by any great people since the Spain of Philip II. They gurggle and commune together as they imbibe that "this must all be ours, ours, ours," and finance and hunger creep in upon them to baulk this greed, and ensure for an enemy so heartless and inhuman many years, not improbably centuries, of expiation. The German's insolence in defying all law and sympathy, human and Divine, plays unconscious herald of his own discomfiture.

Again and again it has been explained in these columns that German tyranny and cruelty towards those unfortunate enough to fall into their power is essentially part of the bluff with which the war was initiated, and by help of which it is carried on. German finance is equally a thing of bluff. Nominally £1,000,000,000 has been added to the debt of the Hohenzollern Empire since the war began. How much Austria has borrowed, or failed to borrow, within the same interval is unknown, but the public debts and recent borrowings of neither State express the full amount of their added dependence upon their taskmaster, the lender of credit. At the present time there is probably owing by Germany alone at least £1,500,000,000 of new debt, and the war-created deficiency of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is likely enough to be almost, if not quite, two-thirds of that amount. Within one year, therefore, of the commencement of hostilities the two Germanic Empires have probably mortgaged their future—their "conquests," the coming trade they are bent on stealing from us, from France, from Belgium, from Italy and Russia—to the extent of some £2,500,000,000, and now the hour has come for Berlin to issue another

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£500,000,000 loan. In preparation for its emission the docile German Press has begun to beat the drum and play the Panpipes of the financial fair booth-tout to incline the public to subscribe. One of its boasts is that there is still £300,000,000 left unspent of the first two loans. That would not be true even if these two loans had been all paid up in cash handed over for bonds taken at par, whereas they were nothing of the sort. Perhaps the amount actually gathered in by coercion, by seizing deposits in the banks, confiscating moneys due to mercantile and other creditors abroad or other more or less disreputable expedients that only barbarians regardless of consequences could dream of adopting, may be £650,000,000 to £700,000,000. Grant that this did all come in to help the Government in meeting the devouring expenditure on this war, and it must all have been spent long ago. We therefore feel certain that the £500,000,000 now to be asked for cannot be found in honest new cash within the German Empire, even if 6 per cent. were offered for the money. It will, if found at all, be subscribed by creditors of the State—like Krupps, for example—who cannot otherwise obtain so much as a show of getting paid. The rest will be paper money in some form.

Where could £500,000,000 of new money be found? The trade of the Empire has been cut off from its foreign clients for a twelvemonth; the banks, great and small, are at best in a state of suspended animation, at worst in ruins; all the available credit was absorbed by the two previous loans, and the only fresh sources whence new credit could be drawn is just this Government expenditure. Without any doubt the Empire is now bankrupt, and if we keep it shut in long enough its peoples will soon be without the wherewithal to live. Will that prevent the Prussian military swaggerer from continuing the war? Not yet. Disability of this kind represents as yet little beyond the slow tightening of the rope round the neck of the beast that is going to be strangled. So many more months, another year or possibly (though not probably) two, and the ruin of the Germanic Empires will be as complete as that of any Assyrian or Persian despotism that ever committed suicide in obliterating a civilisation. Of that we have no doubt at all, never have had any, and therefore we can regard the rush of the Kaiser's Hindenburgs and Mackensens and Bulows with a mournful and pitying equanimity, knowing that they, and the multitudes they lead or drive, are pressing on to their destruction. It is a great agony to be borne with firmness and resolution to the end, a great agony and a resolute, self-immolating fight, but the victory is sure.

### Home Railway Dividends.

Now that the dividend announcements of the English and Scotch Railways for the past half-year are complete a brief survey of the results may be useful. On the whole, they are pretty much what might have been expected, as under the arrangement by which the Government took over control on the outbreak of the war there is no scope for important variations in the rates of dividend paid. For the second half of last year the Government agreed to hand over to the companies the same amount of nett revenue as they earned in the second half of 1913, subject to a proportionate deduction in cases where the revenue for the first six months of 1914 was less than that for the corresponding period. This arrangement was subsequently modified, the earnings for 1913 being taken as the basis, without any deduction, but the companies in return had to shoulder the cost of the war bonus on wages. Speaking generally, therefore, the nett revenue available is the same as that for 1913, less the amount of the war bonus, and consequently some companies which did badly in the first half of last year now make a better showing, while those which had increases in 1914 get no benefit from the improvement in their fortunes up to the time the war broke out. Perhaps a fairer arrangement to the companies could have been devised, but the present one has the merit of simplicity, and as 1913 was a very good year, taken all round, the shareholders have not much to grumble at. A more important con-

sideration is that no allowance is made for increased capital charges. No doubt new works have now been cut down to the lowest possible limits, but a certain amount of construction and capital expenditure could not be suspended or abandoned, although it would have been well for the companies if they had followed the advice we have frequently tendered for years past to close their capital accounts so far as equipment and lines open for traffic are concerned, and only charge to capital absolutely new construction.

This is not the time to revive these old controversies, but there is one point about which we may be permitted a grumble. Only two big companies—the Great Central and the Great Northern—attempt to give any details of the results for the half-year, all the others being content with a bald announcement of the dividend. We cannot but think that this policy of secretiveness is as foolish as it is unnecessary, and the fact that complete accounts are not available makes it the more desirable that a summary of the broad results should be submitted. There may be reasons why comparisons of gross and nett receipts should not be given and why the amounts receivable from the Government should be withheld, but we cannot conceive any good reason for suppressing the amount of fixed charges, appropriations to reserves, available balances, and carry-forward. The model of the Great Central, at least, might well be followed, and the figures would probably help to infuse some life into the almost moribund Home Railway market, whose good offices will be required again when the war is over, if not before, and nothing is more injurious to investment than a lack of reliable data.

Coming to the actual dividend list, we find that the Barry pays  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., against 10 per cent., but in reality it distributes £30,000 more, so it has not done badly. The Great Eastern gives only  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., against  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., which seems all the more unfortunate as the company was one of the few that had a substantial increase in traffic in the first half of 1914, but there has probably been a considerable reduction in miscellaneous revenue, and the deduction of the war bonus would account for the balance. In the case of the Great Western, the dividend is reduced from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 per cent., owing mainly, perhaps, to the war bonus and increased capital charges, as the company rather scored by reverting to the basis of 1913. We know that the London, Chatham, and Dover had to pay interest on the debenture issue made last year, and the reduction in the dividend on the Arbitration preference stock from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 per cent. is not surprising. North Staffordshire pays only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., against  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., and Taff Vale  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., against 4 per cent., but the knowledge at our disposal does not enable us to guess at the reason for these reductions. These are the only cases in which dividends are lowered, and the following companies pay the same as last year, the figures in brackets indicating the rate per cent. per annum:—Great Northern (3), Hull and Barnsley ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ), London, Brighton, and South Coast ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ), London and North-Western (5), London and South-Western (4), Midland (3), North-Eastern ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ ), Rhymney (8), South-Eastern (1), Caledonian (3), and Great North of Scotland (1). It should be mentioned that the particulars furnished by the Great Northern indicate that increased capital charges and the war bonus reduced the available balance by £12,000 as compared with the first half of 1913, bringing it down to the 1914 level, but the carry-forward is cut down nearly £30,000 to £69,000, so it is probable that larger appropriations have been made to reserves.

In the first half of last year the Great Central lost about £75,000 in gross receipts, owing to the coal strike in Yorkshire, and its nett revenue was reduced by £43,000. Now it reverts to the 1913 level, less war bonus and interest charges, which are offset to some extent by an increase in miscellaneous receipts. The nett revenue is £19,000 below that for 1913, but £24,000 higher than for the six months of last year, so that the company is now able to pay in full on the 1889 preference, against only down to the 1881 pre-



ference a year ago. The Furness had to pass its interim dividend last year, owing to the depression in the iron and steel industry in Cumberland, and the 1913 basis gives it an additional £40,000, which allows of a dividend of 2 per cent., after providing for the war bonus and higher capital charges. Lancashire and Yorkshire pays  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., against 3 per cent., but in this case the directors adopted an over-cautious policy a year ago, and made up the difference at the end of the 12 months, so that for the whole year there is not likely to be any increase in the dividend. Among the Scotch railways, the Glasgow and South-Western raises its dividend from 3 per cent. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and here also the probable explanation is that the directors were too conservative a year ago. On the whole, the figures may be regarded as satisfactory, but shareholders and the public interested in financial matters ought not to have to grope about for explanations that must be largely guesswork when a few figures would set all doubts at rest. We are not very sanguine that they will be provided in future, but the railway companies, like smaller people, are likely to find conditions very much altered after the war, and "a sort of" Junker attitude of mighty superiority may not help them—rather the reverse, in fact.

### Italy's Budget a Year Ago and Now.

Now that Italy also has been sucked into the maelstrom of war, an inspection of her finances, so far as they are disclosed in the report for 1914 by Mr. Herbert G. Dering, Counsellor of his Majesty's Embassy in Rome, ought to prove both interesting and instructive. In the budget revenue and expenditure are classified under four heads: effective revenue and expenditure, such as taxes, Government monopolies, &c., railway construction, financial operations, and, lastly, items of adjustment—i.e., accounts between the different Ministries which do not affect the balance-sheet, but show an equal total on both sides. Less items of adjustment, the original estimates for the year ended June 30, 1914, provided for a revenue of £103,717,000 and an expenditure of £102,275,000, leaving a surplus of £1,442,000, reduced by the Budget Committee to £1,411,000. But, as usual, the estimates had to be modified considerably, in consequence of new measures adopted by the Chamber, which increased the revenue by £15,195,000 and the expenditure by £18,725,000. The surplus was, therefore, replaced by a deficit of £2,119,000, but the actual result for the year ended in a surplus of £1,240,000, revenue, less items of adjustment, amounting to £123,595,000, and expenditure to £122,355,000. Actually, however, the excess was only £758,000, as £482,000 had to be deducted for credits written off, or of doubtful recovery, left over from previous budgets. Of the increase in the revenue, £969,000 was due to the more accurate system of taxation employed in regard to income-tax, while the taxes on railway traffic brought in £123,000 more than the estimates, and excise £673,000 more, due chiefly to the much larger amount received from the sugar tax. Customs varied very slightly in the aggregate, increases of £544,000 and of £109,000 in the corn and coffee duties being offset by a drop of £723,000 in the duty on what is styled "other products."

Turning to the year just ended, we find that the estimates submitted on November 29, 1913, provided for a revenue of £108,064,000, and an expenditure of £107,120,000, in both cases less items of adjustment, the increase in effective revenue as compared with 1913-14 being reckoned at £2,964,000. These estimates were drawn up long before the possibility of an immediate general European war had entered men's minds, and were, therefore, framed according to the progressive increase shown during the preceding years in the various revenue-producing branches. After the outbreak of war several measures were adopted to meet the deficiency in the returns from some sources of revenue. With reference to direct taxation, the Government decided to postpone the increase of taxes referred

to in the previous report, but, seeing that the crisis had no direct influence on the transfer of property, especially in cases of death, it was decided to issue a decree having the force of law, and fixing new rates of secession, into which we cannot now enter. An additional outlay of £437,000 was expected from the increase in the number of men with the colours, but the marine estimates were less than for the previous year, because a sum of £1,177,000 allotted for extraordinary expenditure during 1914-15 was transferred to the budget of 1913-14. The real decrease, however, was reduced to less than £400,000 by the insertion of various sums for construction of warships, general expenditure for the mercantile marine, &c. Moreover, in connection with the budget for 1914-15 the Minister of Marine is authorised to transfer to it, if necessary, a sum of £1,200,000 from the next budget, while the financial measures before Parliament authorise the Marine Department to proceed immediately with the substitution of more modern vessels for the obsolete ships, and to construct annually from 1917-18 one large ship with its auxiliary craft.

All these pre-war measures have naturally been to a large extent upset by the outbreak of hostilities, and in his financial statement to the Chamber last December the Minister of the Treasury alluded to the necessity for having recourse to other means than taxation in order to meet the heavy expenditure now entered on and to make up for the decrease in certain sources of revenue. The Minister said that the effect of the various credit-allotting decrees in favour of the Ministry of War and of Marine would involve an outlay of about £40,000,000. Now the fiscal measures adopted during the year would not bring in more than about £4,000,000, and therefore the Treasury would be compelled to borrow. In close connection with this, Royal decrees were issued authorising the increase of the note circulation to an additional amount of £54,400,000. Of this sum £24,200,000 was to be protected by a metallic reserve of 40 per cent.; £6,200,000 was to enable the three banks of issue—namely, the Banks of Italy, Naples, and Sicily—to increase to £12,400,000 the amount they are bound to advance to the State in an emergency, said £6,200,000 to be covered by a metallic guarantee of one-third of its face value; £12,000,000 was to be applied in loans to the Treasury on the guarantee of State securities and stock to enable it to make loans to savings banks and public pawn offices, and £12,000,000 was to be advanced to the Caisse de Deposits and Loans on the security of Italian Rentes to enable it to grant loans to provincial and municipal administrations for the execution of public works when such work was urgent and unemployment greatest. These two latter sums are not covered by any metallic guarantee. Additional note issues are only permitted when the face value of the notes is covered in full by cash. During the first eight months of 1914-15 the effective revenue has fallen off by £2,748,000 compared with the corresponding period of 1913-14, the import duty on wheat having provided only £648,000 as against £3,340,000. Indirect taxes, apart from the above wheat duty, showed a decrease of £2,726,000, of which £1,948,000 was in Customs and £819,000 in Excise dues.

### MINING OUTPUTS.

Alaska Mexican.—14,700 tons; total production, \$21,500; nett profit, \$1,100.

Alaska Treadwell.—68,700 tons; total production, \$131,500; nett profit, \$13,500.

Alaska United.—Ore crushed, 43,000 tons; concentrates saved, 956 tons; value, \$88,100; nett profit, \$26,000.

Durban-Roodepoort.—14,966 tons, 2,683 ozs.; tailings, 9,747 tons, 619 ozs.; slimes, 4,369 tons, 172 ozs.; total, 3,474 ozs.; profit, £2,290.

Mashonaland Agency.—Kimberley Reefs: 4,400 tons, 807 ozs.; sands, 2,150 tons, 283 ozs.; slimes, 284 ozs.; value, £6,155.

Minna (Nigeria) Tin.—Output,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

North Broken Hill.—1,245 tons concentrates produced, containing 735 tons 3 cwt. lead and 24,900 ozs. silver.

Ray Consolidated Copper.—Output of copper for quarter ended June 30, 14,802,231 lbs.; profits, \$1,367,736; miscellaneous income, rents, &c., \$9,399; total nett income, \$1,377,135.

Ropp Tin.—Output, 32 tons; shipped, 16 tons.



# The Investors' Review.

## The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The Money market continues to be dominated by the American exchange, which became more and more unsettled, and at one time fell as low as 4.65. Further large transfers of gold to New York have been made, but without causing more than a moderate recovery, and the cable rate remains strongly against this country. The decline has not been so pronounced as the rapid movement in the other direction which took place about a year ago, but it is serious enough, especially as the adverse balance of trade is likely to be greatly accentuated during the next few months by the necessity of paying for heavy shipments of grain and cotton. It is therefore inevitable that considerable amounts of gold will have to be provided, and the market is insisting that as a very large proportion of the indebtedness has been incurred on behalf of our Allies, it is time that they were called upon to carry out their promise of coming to our assistance with their large stocks of the metal. Gold is also being sent to New York from Australia on our account, some £400,000 having already been despatched, and shipments from that quarter are expected to reach an important amount. That all the metal required will be forthcoming is undoubted, but it is fully recognised that it is impossible to liquidate the whole of the adverse balance either by gold shipments alone or by these and the sale of securities, and that additional methods will have to be devised. For some time past bankers have been in consultation with the Treasury and with American financial interests as to the best step to be taken to relieve the situation. The result of their deliberations has not been made public yet, and is not likely to be divulged until the arrangements have been definitely completed. Apparently the market favours the idea that the accommodation to be provided will take the form of a short-term loan, say for five or ten years, bearing interest at 5 per cent. and not negotiable on this side. In other words, it is now advocating the suggestion made in these columns some months ago, and it is to be regretted that some such plan was not adopted sooner, when probably better terms could have been obtained than are now possible. Whatever plans may be adopted, it is generally believed that the negotiations are proceeding smoothly, and that good progress has been made towards a solution of the problem. This belief was reflected on Wednesday by a recovery in the cable rate on New York to 4.70, but it has since gone back to 4.67.

The discount market also showed rather more readiness to take bills, but holders are not very anxious to sell owing to the difficulty of refilling their cases, and business has not been large. Most houses quoted  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for three months' maturities, but buyers who really wanted the paper had to make concessions, and business was done at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. A demand has been experienced for Treasury bills, which changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. for Septembers,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for Octobers, and  $4\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. for early Novembers. Apart from a little temporary pressure on Tuesday, when a moderate amount had to be borrowed from the Bank in connection with the instalment of 15 per cent. on the War Loan, which was estimated to take £45,000,000, the Money market has been quiet. Day-to-day loans have been obtainable at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., with balances offered at the close of business down to

3 per cent. The joint-stock banks still charge  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for seven-day fixtures, but there is plenty of credit available in other quarters, for which lenders accepted 4 and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

From the fact that the stocks of coin and bullion in the Bank of England showed an increase of £1,388,000, notwithstanding the export of £3,588,000, it was generally inferred that the public had responded promptly to the request that notes should be used instead of gold. To some extent this was probably the case, but the main cause of the addition was the further transfers by the joint-stock banks of part of their own stocks. Public Deposits were reduced by £39,940,000 to £102,664,000 and Other Deposits rose by £39,560,000 to £124,636,000, although between £40,000,000 and £50,000,000 was paid up on the War Loan, and it was assumed that the amount had either not been paid over to the Treasury within the Bank week or that it had been reborrowed by the joint-stock banks. "Other" Securities were £1,952,000 down, and Government securities £300,000 down. In addition to the gold receipts the note circulation showed a contraction of £505,000, and the reserve was therefore £1,893,000 up at £53,618,000, the proportion to liabilities being  $\frac{2}{3}$  per cent. up at  $23\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

During the week ended on August 14 the Government sold £7,103,000 of Treasury bills, and paid off £5,556,000, leaving the amount outstanding increased on balance by £1,597,000 at £237,919,000.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended August 18 £3,126,164 in £1 notes, £1,152,730 in 10s. notes, and £120,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,182,293 in £1, £493,659 in 10s. notes, and £420,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £2,302,942, leaving a total of £51,086,446 10s. outstanding, made up of £38,254,540 in £1 and £12,831,906 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investments reserve account of £308,162 17s. 3d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £11,635,781 14s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £1,204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £469,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

The exceptional buying of last week having come to an end, the silver market has had to depend on a very moderate amount of support from India and China. Supplies were small, but the price steadily receded by  $\frac{1}{16}$ d. each day until it was down to  $22\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. American offerings were restricted by the low exchange, and as in addition to a good Indian inquiry a Continental inquiry sprang up during the past two days, the price has recovered  $\frac{3}{16}$ d. to  $22\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

No applications were received for Rs. 10,00,000 of India Council drafts offered on Wednesday. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 18, 1915.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 84,626,985	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	66,176,985
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 84,626,985		£ 84,626,985

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 45,615,369
Reserve	3,532,109	Other Securities	146,183,559
Public Deposits (including		Notes	52,669,150
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin	948,717
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts	102,664,486		
Other Deposits	124,635,900		
Seven Day and other Bills	31,300		
	£ 245,416,795		£ 245,416,795

Dated August 19, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.



BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year. Aug. 19.		Aug. 11, 1915.	Aug. 18, 915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,659,665	Rest ..	3,503,490	3,532,109	28,619	—
13,674,470	Pub. Deposits ..	142,604,347	102,664,486	39,939,861	—
10,094,287	Other do.	85,075,819	124,635,900	—	39,560,081
9,170	7 Day Bills ..	38,616	31,300	7,316	—
26,041,152	Assets.	—	—	Decrease.	Increase.
94,726,036	Gov. Securities.	45,915,039	45,615,369	299,670	—
19,223,354	Other do.	148,135,566	146,183,559	1,952,007	—
	Total Reserve ..	51,724,667	53,617,867	—	1,893,200
				41,840,377	41,840,377
				Increase.	Decrease.
37,186,495	Note Circulation	50,762,560	52,669,150	1,806,590	—
37,959,849	Coin and Bullion	65,738,047	67,125,702	1,387,655	—
15½ p.c.	Proportion ..	22½ p.c.	23½ p.c.	½ p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £3,588,000 out.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £5,506,000 of the Treasury Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. There was, however, an increase of £1,597,000, in the amount outstanding, so that the sales of new bills during the period apparently amounted to £7,103,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3½
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 11½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
*165,419,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
237,919,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 30, 1915.	July 23, 1915.	July 16, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	42,597,600	42,809,400	42,694,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	212,800	215,200	207,200
Gold Settlement Fund ..	10,428,000	9,690,000	9,336,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,418,400	5,182,600	5,293,400
Total reserves ..	57,656,800	57,897,200	57,536,000
30-day bills and loans ..	2,413,000	2,391,200	2,429,200
60-day bills and loans ..	2,727,800	2,565,000	2,420,600
90-day bills and loans ..	2,354,800	2,239,200	1,879,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	649,800	691,200	798,400
Total ..	8,145,400	7,884,600	7,528,000
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,584,600	1,584,600	1,584,600
Municipal Warrants ..	3,221,400	3,022,000	2,878,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. ..	1,415,600	1,045,800	1,171,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2,205,800	1,845,400	1,990,600
All other assets ..	1,180,800	953,000	887,200
Total assets ..	75,410,400	74,232,600	73,575,600
Paid-up capital ..	10,836,200	10,834,000	10,827,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	61,236,600	60,212,600	59,523,200
Note circulation—nett.	2,993,000	2,904,200	2,848,400
All other liabilities ..	344,600	281,800	377,000
Total liabilities ..	75,410,400	74,232,600	73,575,600

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday—Foreign Coin ..	£ 350,000	Saturday—Bars ..	£ 394,000
Monday— " ..	250,000	Monday—Foreign Coin ..	1,800,000
Tuesday— " ..	220,000	Tuesday— " ..	1,300,000
Wednesday— " ..	180,000	Wednesday— " ..	1,650,000
Thursday—Bars ..	566,000	Thursday—Straits set aside ..	15,000
Thursday— " ..	136,000	Thursday—Foreign Coin ..	200,000
Nett Efflux ..	3,738,000	Friday— " ..	81,000
	£5,440,000		£5,440,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,090,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 14	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" 21	304,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
" 28	332,781,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000
August 4	260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—
" 11	273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—
" 18	283,050,000	179,421,000	103,629,000	—
Total ..	8,385,945,000	10,669,134,000	—	2,283,189,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 14.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Customs ..	£ 774,000	National Debt Service ..	£ 54,898
Excise ..	564,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	58,163
Estate, &c., Duties ..	592,000	Development & Road Impvt.	164,713
Stamps ..	313,000	Payments to Local Taxation	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	155,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Property and Income Tax ..	—	Charges ..	—
Land Values Duties ..	—	Supply Services ..	23,227,495
Post Office ..	1,000,000	Bullion Advances ..	30,000
Crown Lands ..	—	For Advance for Interest	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Miscellaneous ..	—	Capital Expenditure	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	(Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	1,603,000†
For Exchequer Bonds under	—	For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
the Capital Expenditure	—	under the War Loan Re-	—
(Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	demption Act, 1910 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	15,000,000	For Repayments to Bank of	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—	England ..	201,438
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—	Under Telegraph (Money)	—
1913 ..	—	Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—	Under Post Office (Lon-	—
1897-1903 ..	—	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	60,000
Issue of War Stock and War	—	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Bonds ..	—	Under Military Works Acts,	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	1897-1903 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate	—	Under Public Buildings Ex-	—
Loan repayments ..	—	penses Act, 1903 ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on	—	Deficiency advances repaid	—
account of principal ..	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	repaid ..	5,506,000
China Indemnity ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Ways and Means Advances	5,476,000	balances ..	—
Temporary Advances De-	—		
ficiency ..	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances ..	3,225,707		
	£27,699,707		£27,699,707

† Reduction.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915.	Aug. 5, 1915.	July 29, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 175,694,440	£ 172,890,960	£ 68,883,320	£ 165,173,760
Silver in hand ..	14,716,560	14,713,840	14,734,160	14,720,760
Bills discounted ..	11,118,600	10,789,080	12,185,480	11,199,640
Advances ..	23,563,960	23,787,760	23,812,800	23,993,040
Note circulation ..	515,974,440	513,032,120	509,015,360	503,701,160
Public deposits ..	4,452,120	3,595,640	8,756,160	8,843,880
Private deposits ..	98,502,840	94,619,440	91,123,320	95,195,920
Foreign Bills ..	69,430	69,280	53,840	61,600

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent. against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £252,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £40,759,040, decrease £532,120, and at the branches to £42,219,720, decrease £286,360.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	July 31, 1915	Aug. 15, 1914
Loans ..	£ 520,588,000	£ 519,046,000	£ 504,232,000	£ 424,400,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	91,884,000	88,900,000	89,364,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	26,144,000	26,346,000	26,442,000	76,546,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	5,852,000	6,968,000	7,812,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	512,586,000	510,538,000	508,420,000	382,530,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	29,100,000	28,914,000	28,058,000	—
Circulation ..	7,492,000	7,496,000	7,562,000	14,804,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	35,116,000	33,840,000	35,730,000	9,598,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

\* Deficit.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1914.
Loans ..	£ 117,924,000	£ 117,772,000	£ 117,502,000	£ 114,518,000
Specie ..	9,996,000	9,858,000	9,536,000	8,664,000
Deposits ..	121,938,000	121,674,000	120,994,000	112,986,600
Legal Tenders ..	1,740,000	1,706,000	1,738,000	2,354,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,524,600	£ 122,414,600	£ 122,260,550	£ 79,511,050
Treasury Notes ..	11,748,400	8,334,450	12,869,700	6,337,650
Bills discounted ..	236,422,100	238,146,800	239,229,250	221,299,200
Advances ..	642,100	671,650	852,000	9,049,200
Note circulation ..	269,438,650	272,874,500	276,080,200	194,096,550
Deposits ..	87,776,350	82,279,600	82,508,200	127,588,700

Clearing House returns during July £252,034,605 against £235,431,975 in June.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	July 24, 1915.	Aug. 8, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,300,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 5,723,000
Balance abroad and	—	—	—	—
Foreign Bills ..	5,029,000	4,907,000	4,491,000	5,373,000
Swedish and Foreign	—	—	—	—
Govt. Securities ..	2,770,000	2,782,000	2,665,000	144,000
Discounts and Loans	6,921,000	7,369,000	7,453,000	10,503,000
Notes in circulation	15,253,000	15,344,000	14,575,000	15,662,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,623,000	4,922,000	5,184,000	4,146,000



## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1915.	July 29, 1915.	July 21, 1915	Aug. 4, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 5,553,300	£ 8,823,300	£ 7,328,900	£ 7,593,800
Cash in reserve ..	158,238,200	157,860,400	157,899,100	160,490,700
Gold in reserve abroad	9,008,600	9,007,900	9,368,000	11,676,100
Circulation note issue	394,500,000	392,000,000	387,000,000	240,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,348,400	20,224,700	21,347,000	51,793,300

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	July 22, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 3,408,000	£ 3,420,000	£ 3,603,000	£ 3,091,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,603,000	3,517,000	3,126,000	1,557,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	637,000	636,000	637,000	496,000
Discounts & Loans.	4,161,000	4,252,000	4,234,000	6,468,000
Notes in Circulation	7,856,000	7,912,000	8,325,000	8,369,000
Deposits at notice..	1,482,000	1,392,000	1,270,000	1,004,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915	July 23, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 11,891,652	£ 11,867,688	£ 11,834,172	£ 8,301,396
Bills .. ..	6,193,856	6,291,308	5,830,734	10,469,616
Note circulation ..	15,981,392	16,406,900	15,926,400	17,213,052
Current and deposit accounts .. ..	4,450,180	3,725,596	4,033,780	3,290,660

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	July 31, 1915	July 24, 1915
Gold .. ..	£ 28,285,978	£ 28,157,686	£ 27,925,355	£ 27,899,251
Silver .. ..	29,531,372	29,493,098	29,775,711	29,738,354
Foreign Bills ..	4,831,184	4,781,694	4,950,786	4,988,787
Discounts and Short Bills	26,109,095	26,674,349	26,914,881	26,627,113
Treasury Account, &c.	31,059,333	30,737,343	30,976,708	31,202,386
Notes in Circulation ..	80,898,904	80,956,956	80,035,928	79,901,136
Current Accounts, Deposits	26,495,248	25,951,405	26,549,191	26,801,467
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,686,371	1,496,376	2,250,988	2,300,012
Government Securities	2,207,995	2,759,794	3,697,119	2,833,084

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	August 10, 1915.		August 19, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	12.1	12.2	11.16	11.18*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	11.72	11.75	11.60	11.70
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.30	30.45	30.25	30.35
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	30.00	30.15	30.25	30.35
Lisbon & Oporto..	Cable transfers .. ..	36	35	35*	36*
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
New York .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	4.75½	4.76½	—	—
Do. .. ..	Cheques & mail transfers	4.76	4.76½	—	—
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.75	27.95	28.20	28.30*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	27.30	27.40	27.75	27.85
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	145	147	133½	135
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers .. ..	18.20	18.40	—	—
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	18.50	18.65	18.10	18.25
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	47	46½	46	46½*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	24.80	24.90	25.15	25.25
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.70	25.90	25.60	25.80*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	25.30	25.50	25.10	25.20

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .. ..	chqs.	27.80	27.32½	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	sight	30.10	30.20
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.75	11.65	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres.	90 dys	48½d.	47½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	137½	134½	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York ..	sight	4.75½	4.69	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/3d.	1/3d.
Lisbon .. ..	sight	35½	36	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3d.	2/3d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	24.90	25	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0d.	2/0d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	Per cent. 4½	Per cent. 4½
Three months ..	4½	4½
Four months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	5	5
Three months fire inland bills	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
Bank of England minimum discount rate	Per cent. 5	Per cent. 5
" " short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3½	3½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4—4	4—4
" " for call loans	3—4	3—4

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Stock markets keep as firm as can be expected, and there is a fair amount of small business going on, bringing enough movement in prices to indicate now and then some revival of public interest. There undoubtedly appears to be plenty of money to invest still both here and in India—witness the remarkable success of the Indian 4 per cent. Rupee loan, which, offered at par, was subscribed for nearly one and a-half times over. Its amount was 4½ crores of rupees, or say £3,000,000, and that it should all have been swept up at once shows that there is plenty of available wealth in the Empire still. We do not need to shout to assure ourselves of that. During the week, however, a certain disturbance has been caused in the American sections of the market, both United States and Canadian, by the disorderly behaviour of the New York exchange. Good, however, will come out of that trouble likewise, because it will force the Treasury to take measures perfectly within its power, as we have from the first insisted, to restore equanimity to the agitated market, and to prevent loss to traders and investors. The industrial market has been a sluggish one, and prices have receded both in them and in some of the smaller miscellaneous groups, although to no serious extent. Take it altogether, the home markets have been free of incident or agitation, and in colonial and foreign securities there has been very little business done all week. We cannot, therefore, emphasise a tendency or call special attention to any promised field of investment. There has been first strength and then weakness in American railroad shares, which leave off rather depressed, but not enough to prompt us to advise buying, any more than the rise in foreign railway securities would move us to advise holders to sell. We are glad, however, to see that Argentine railways are beginning to attract attention and to rise in price. There may, perhaps, be justification also for the rally in Mexican railway stocks, although no decision has been come to calculated to restore tranquillity to that much-distressed country. None seems likely to be reached, at any rate until the next electioneering contest for the Presidency begins in earnest.

No appreciable improvement can be discerned in Stock Exchange business, but it is perhaps encouraging that there have been occasional displays of interest in groups outside the War Loan and other Government securities. There was a fair accumulation of business on Monday after the Saturday holiday, and the number of transactions exceeded 2,000 for the first time for several weeks. Dealings in the War Loan are still much more numerous than in any other individual stock, and conversion operations are also a good deal in evidence, but sellers have predominated, and the price has yielded a little. Scarcely a change has been marked in Colonial Government and Corporation loans, and business in them has been very meagre. In the Foreign market the tone has been irregular, with no decided tendency in either direction. The Spanish-American group were in some request, especially Uruguay and Colombia, but the former slipped back. Mexicans were weak, but Brazilians were better on the improvement in the exchange. Chinese received some support, but Japanese were dull. Russians gave way a little on the reported fall of Kovno, and Greeks were weak on the uncertainty of the political outlook.

Home Railways showed a fair amount of strength during most of the week, but the final tendency was weak. Great Northern deferred was well supported, and the heavies also were in demand on the success of the North-Western preference issue, which went to ½ pm. Little Chathams and Metropolitan were in request, but Great Easterns came on offer. Underground Electric income bonds at one time rose a point, but subsequently lost it. American Railroads have on the whole been buoyant, but the market has reacted a little on fears of a sudden spurt in the exchange if a large credit is established in New York, and the sinking of the *Arabic* tended to increase the depression, especially when it became known that American lives had been lost. Canadian Pacific were strong and active in sympathy with Yankees, and Grand Trunks participated in the more cheerful feeling. Mexicans were in demand on hopes that some means will be found of settling the internal troubles. The Argentine group enjoyed a smart spurt on the more favourable outlook, and as there is very little stock about a little buying quickly drives up prices.

In the Miscellaneous sections a fair amount of interest developed in various directions, but on the whole business was poor. Canadian Cars provided some excitement in the early part of the week, and the price advanced smartly, but there has since been a sharp reaction, and dealings have fallen off.



Other Canadian Industrials were affected by the break in Lake Superiors on the disclosures in the Algoma Central Committee's report. Hudson's Bays were very flat. Shipping shares were firm, Royal Maids being particularly favoured. Marconis were dull, and inclined to sag. Brazilian Tractions have been slipping back, and there was rather a sharp fall in Mexican Light and Power. Liptons gave way on the unsatisfactory report, but close above the worst, and Lyons have been on offer. Armament shares were steady, without much change. Textiles were easier, and Calico Printers fell on the annual statement. Bank

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	
66 1/2	65	65	—	N.S.W. 4 1/2 % 5 yr. bds.	98 1/2	98 1/2
69 1/2	69 1/2	69 1/2	—	" 4 1/2 % 1922-7..	94 1/2	94 1/2
80 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	95	New Zealand 4 1/2 % ..	95	95
—	92 1/2	92 1/2	92	Queensland 4 1/2 % ..	92	92
—	1 1/2 dis	1 1/2 dis	—	" 4 1/2 % new	97	97
92	92	92	—	Union of S. Africa	—	—
92	95 1/2	95 1/2	—	4 1/2 % 1920-5 .....	96 1/2	96 1/2
92	95	95	—	Victoria 4 1/2 % 1920-5	97 1/2	97 1/2
66	66 1/2	66 1/2	—	French Rentes .....	68 1/2	68 1/2
—	63	63	82 1/2	Japan 4 1/2 % (1st) ...	87 1/2	84 1/2
—	68 1/2	69	83	" (2nd) .....	83 1/2	83 1/2
—	94 1/2	94 1/2	—	Russia 4 1/2 % .....	73	73
—	82	82	—	" 4 1/2 % .....	74 1/2	74
—	85	85	—	" 5 % .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	51	51 1/2	London and S.W. dfd. ..	22 1/2	22 1/2	
Caledonian defd. ....	8 1/2	8 1/2	Do. new pf. ....	98	96 1/2	
Chatham ord. ....	7 1/2	7 1/2	Metropolitan .....	23 1/2	23 1/2	
Gt. Central pf. ....	14	13 1/2	Do. 5 % New pf. ....	98	96	
Do. dfd. ....	7	7	Met. District .....	13 1/2	14 1/2	
Gt. Eastern ..	36 1/2	36	Midland dfd. ....	58	58 1/2	
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	38	39	Nth. British dfd. ....	14 1/2	14 1/2	
Gt. Western ..	97 1/2	98 1/2	Nth.-Eastern ..	104	104 1/2	
Lanes. and Yorks. ....	69	69	Nth.-Western ..	102 1/2	102	
Canadian Pacific .....	162 1/2	161 1/2	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	22 1/2	22 1/2	
Do. 6 % Notes .....	106 1/2	107 1/2	Chesapeake .....	47	47 1/2	
E. Indian Guar. 4 1/2 % debts.	93 1/2	93 1/2	Erie .....	30 1/2	30 1/2	
Grand Trunk ord. ....	98	99	Milwaukee .....	87 1/2	87 1/2	
Do. 3rd pf. ....	22 1/2	23 1/2	N. Y. Central .....	95 1/2	96 1/2	
Do. 5 1/2 % 3-yr. Notes ..	96 1/2	96 1/2	Southern .....	15 1/2	16 1/2	
Do. 5 1/2 % 5-yr. „ ..	95 1/2	95 1/2	Southern Pacific .....	95	94 1/2	
Atchafson .....	108	108 1/2	Union Pacific .....	138 1/2	139 1/2	
Baltimore .....	86 1/2	87 1/2	U. S. Steel .....	77 1/2	81 1/2	
Antofagasta dfd. ....	114	116	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	75	79	
Do. 6 % Notes ..	100	100	Do. 5 % Notes ..	98 1/2	99	
Brazil Common .....	—	6	Do. 6 % „ ..	102	102	
B. A. & Pacific .....	43	46	Leopoldina .....	30 1/2	33	
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	73 1/2	79	Mexican ord. ....	16 1/2	20 1/2	
B. A. Western .....	72 1/2	85	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	161	159	
Bank of Australasia .....	110	107	United of Havana ..	69	72	
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	7 1/2	7 1/2	London City & Midland ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	
Do. "B" .....	10	9 1/2	London County & West ..	15	14 1/2	
Capital & Counties .....	20 1/2	20	London Joint Stock .....	19 1/2	19 1/2	
Chartered of India .....	51	51	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pf.)	24	24	
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	72 1/2	72 1/2	Do. (£12 pf.) ..	28	27	
Lloyds .....	22 1/2	23 1/2	Parr's .....	27	26 1/2	
London & Provincial ..	10 1/2	11 1/2	Standard of S.A. ....	10	10 1/2	
London & S.W. ....	12 1/2	11 1/2	Union & Smiths .....	22 1/2	22 1/2	
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestral Land .....	32/6	33/	
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	36/	35/3	Furness, Withy .....	29/	29/	
Associated Cement .....	2 1/2	2 1/2	Hudson's Bay .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Birmingham Small Arms	58/	58/3	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22/6	22/6	
Borax dfd. ....	20/6	20/9	Do. = dfd. 'A' ..	38/	38/	
Bovril .....	19/6 1/2	19/6 1/2	Kynochs .....	27/	29/	
Brazil Traction .....	49 1/2	48 1/2	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/6	20/6	
British Amer. Tobacco ..	67/	67/	Lyons, J. ....	4	4	
Brown (John), & Co. ....	24/6	24/6	Marconi .....	2	1 1/2	
Brunner, Mond .....	3 1/2	3 1/2	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	22/3	22/3	
Cammell-Laird .....	5	5	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Castner-Kellner .....	61/	61/	National Steam Car ..	11/9	11/9	
Coats .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nobel Dynamite .....	10 1/2	10 1/2	
Cunard .....	2 1/2	2 1/2	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2	
Dennis Bros. ....	26/3	27/3	P. & O. dfd. ....	265	265	
Dorman, Long .....	20/6	20/6	Royal Mail .....	73	75 1/2	
Eastmans .....	7/3	7/3	South Durham Steel ..	26/6	26/6	
English Sewing Cotton ..	30/	30/6	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	74	75	
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24/3	24/	Vickers .....	32 1/2	31/9 1/2	
Anglo-Egyptian "B" .....	4/	4/	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Baku (ros.) .....	3/1 1/2	3/3	North Caucasian .....	26/6	26/6	
Burmah .....	3 1/2	3 1/2	Roumanian Cons. ....	13/6	13/6	
Lobitos .....	28/	28/	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43 1/2	43 1/2	
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3/6	3/6	Shell .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Maikop Pipeline .....	4/	4/	Spies (10/-) .....	15/3	15/	
Mexican Eagle .....	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ural Caspian .....	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Anglo-Malay .....	8/9	8/9	Linggi .....	14/	14/	
Batu Caves .....	12 1/2	12 1/2	London Asiatic .....	6/	6/	
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/6 1/2	2/7 1/2	Malacca .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/6	2/7 1/2	Malayalam .....	21/6	21/3	
Damansara .....	2 1/2	2 1/2	Merlimau .....	4/	4/	
Gula Kalumpang .....	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	11/1 1/2	11/	
Highlands .....	2 1/2	2 1/2	United Serdang .....	9/1 1/2	9/	
Johore Rubber Lands ..	13/	13/6	Vallambrosa .....	13/3 1/2	13/1 1/2	
Abbottiakoon .....	7/9	7/9	De Beers dfd. ....	9 1/2	9 1/2	
Brakpan .....	2 1/2	2 1/2	East Rand .....	12 1/2	12 1/2	
Broken Hill Prop. ....	42/6	42/6	Gt. Boulder .....	14/6	14/7 1/2	
Cam & Motor .....	12/6	12/6	Meyer & Charlton .....	5 1/2	5 1/2	
Central Mining .....	6 1/2	6 1/2	Modder "B" .....	48 1/2	48 1/2	
Chartered .....	10/1 1/2	9/10 1/2	Do. Deep .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	
City Deep .....	3 1/2	3 1/2	New Modder .....	14 1/2	14 1/2	
Cons. Gold Fields .....	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Cons. Langlaagte .....	2	2	Rio Tinto .....	5 1/2	5 1/2	
Crown Mines .....	4 1/2	4 1/2	Van Ryn Deep .....	24 1/2	24 1/2	

shares have eased off where they have moved at all, but there was a moderate inquiry for a few Brewery issues.

Rubber shares have been moderately active as things go, and the steadiness of the raw material has encouraged a little buying, especially from the provinces. Movements as a rule, however, have been very trifling, and the market is waiting to get some stimulus from the half-yearly dividend declarations which will be coming out shortly. Oils have been a very quiet market, and the tendency has consequently been dull. Only a few of the leaders have been mentioned, but there may be a better chance for the market as the autumn advances, and the American section is already paving the way for an improvement.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was a fair amount of business stirring in this market, and with no pressure on the part of holders values were kept at a steady level. Supplies of Government kinds remain at a low ebb. Of home refined makes Tate's cubes, No. 1, sold at 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; pieces, 21s. to 25s. 6d., as to make. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals 26s. 6d. White Java outports sold at 27s. to 27s. 3d. Argentine moleada, spot, London, at 26s. 6d. to 26s. 7 1/2 d. Trinidad, crystallised, done, 24s. 7 1/2 d. to 26s. 6d. for low brownish to fine yellow. Cuban receipts for all ports last week 13,000 tons, against 14,000 at same time in 1914. Centrals at work 5, as compared with 3. Weather in Cuba unsettled. In auction, fair supplies went steadily, 1,101 bags Demerara crystallised, sold, mid to very fine yellow, 25s. 6d. to 27s.; choice, 27s. 6d. to 27s. 9d. 2,539 bags Trinidad, partly sold, low brownish, 24s. 9d.; mid yellow, 25s. 6d.; very fine colory, 27s. 1,200 bags St. Lucia, sold, mid yellow, 25s. 6d. 24 bags Mozambique sold, low brownish, crystallised at 24s. 3d. 767 mats Mauritius syrups, partly found buyers, fair to good brownish, 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.; fine yellow, 19s. 6d. 454 bags Guatemala syrups, sold, good bright brownish, 19s. 3d. 70 bags Peruvian syrups sold, mid to fine greyish and yellow, 18s. to 19s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—At public sale moderate supplies were offered, and passed off steadily. East India, Neigherry, bold, 71s. 6d. to 74s.; mid, 66s. to 68s.; peas, 69s. 6d. Costa Rica, common to good bold, 58s. 6d. to 76s. 6d.; mid, 72s. to 74s. 6d.; small, 65s. 6d.; peas, 67s. 6d. to 77s. Colombian, fair bold, mixed, 60s.; good soft colory, 69s. 6d.; peas, 71s. 6d. Futures continued inactive. December sold, 34s. 3d.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies were offered in auction, and experienced a slow demand, prices showing a decline of 2s. to 4s. per cwt. Ceylon sold, fine, 86s. Trinidad, fine, 81s. Jamaica, fine, 77s. to 77s. 6d. Puerto Cabello (in bond), clayed, 90s. 6d. Bahia (in bond), good to superior, 67s. 6d. to 76s. 6d. Samoa, fair to fine, 76s. to 82s. 6d. 201 bags Trinidad, being part of the gift of the colony Trinidad to our Navy and Army, sold at 79s. 6d. to 80s. 6d. By private treaty Trinidad, fine red, sold, 81s. Jamaica, fair to good red, 74s. to 76s. 6d. Ceylon, fair to good estate, 78s. to 81s.; good to fine native, 72s. to 78s.; and Costa Rica at 71s. to 72s. 6d.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met a good demand for the better qualities at fully steady prices, but the lower grades were moderate support, and prices again ruled in buyers' favour. Ceylon auctions attracted good attention respecting good to fine qualities at steady rates, but commoner and low medium descriptions were 1d. to 1 1/2 d. per lb. lower. Java offerings met with a moderate demand at generally easier prices.

**SPICE.**—Pepper inactive, but values generally steady. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sellers, 5 1/2 d.; Tellicherry, 5 1/2 d., buyers; Lampong, 5 1/2 d., sellers. Fair white Singapore, sellers, 8 1/2 d.; Muntok, 9 1/2 d. To arrive, black Singapore, August-October shipment, sellers, 5 1/2 d.; Lampong, ditto, 5 1/2 d.; white Singapore, August-October, sellers, 8 1/2 d.; Muntok, ditto, 9d., buyers; Penang, sellers, 7 1/2 d., c.f. and i. Cloves in very quiet request. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6 1/2 d.

**RICE.**—Market remained firm. A cargo 6,000 tons No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, August-September, sold at about 14s. 6d., c.f. and i. Rotterdam, Rangoon, two stars, on spot, done 13s. 4 1/2 d. Rangoon beans, September-October, sold, 18 1/2 s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**JUTE.**—Firm, and sellers reserved, but closed easier. Native first marks, September, sold, 24 1/2 s. to 24 1/2 s.; ditto, August, sellers, 24 1/2 s. 6d.; Daisee 2, afloat, sold, 23 1/2 s.; Natives, spot, London, at 23 1/2 s.; and afloat, Dundee, 23 1/2 s.

**HEMP.**—Manila descriptions continued inactive, but no particular change occurred in prices. New graded, fair, August-September and September-October, sellers, 38s.; medium, ditto, 34s.; coarse, 29s.; and coarse brown, 27s. c.f. and i. New Zealand steady, but quiet. G.F., August-September, sellers, 33s.; H.P.F., ditto, 32s.; and fair, 31s. c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot market very quiet. Fair T.N. orange, sold, 62s. to 62s. 6d.; ditto, October-December shipment, sellers, 63s. 6d., c.f. and i. Futures ruled dull. August delivery, sold, 61s. 6d.; and December quoted 65s.

**GAMBIER.**—Firm but quiet. Good marks, August-September shipment, quoted 32s. 3d., c.f. and i.

**RUBBER.**—Firm, with a fair demand at the opening of the week but subsequently the improvement was lost. Plantation crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 4 1/2 d., 2s. 4 1/2 d., and 2s. 4 1/2 d.; August, 2s. 4 1/2 d., 2s. 4 1/2 d., and 2s. 4 1/2 d.; September, 2s. 4 1/2 d., 2s. 4 1/2 d., and 2s. 4 1/2 d.; October, 2s. 4 1/2 d. to 2s. 4 1/2 d.; October-December, 2s. 4 1/2 d., 2s. 4 1/2 d., and 2s. 4 1/2 d.; January-June, 2s. 3 1/2 d. to 2s. 3 1/2 d. Smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 4 1/2 d., 2s. 4 1/2 d., and 2s. 4 1/2 d.; August, 2s. 4 1/2 d.; September, 2s. 4 1/2 d. to 2s. 4 1/2 d.; September, 2s. 4 1/2 d. to 2s. 4 1/2 d.; October-December, sellers, 2s. 4 1/2 d.; January-June, 2s. 3 1/2 d. Fine hard Para, spot, quoted 2s. 4 1/2 d.; August, sold, 2s. 4 1/2 d.; September-October, 2s. 4 1/2 d.; October-November, 2s. 4 1/2 d. Soft fine, spot and near, sellers, 2s. 2d. Scrappy, spot, 1s. 8d.; and ball, 1s. 9d. per lb.

**COPRA.**—Market dull and values easier. To London: Ceylon, August-September, values, 24 1/2 s.; Malabar ditto, 25s.; F.M.S., Singapore ditto, 23 1/2 s. 6d.; South Sea Islands, 22 1/2 s. 6d.; F.M., Straits to Marseilles, August-September, 23 1/2 s. Cebu, ditto, 23 1/2 s. 6d., buyers. Manila, ditto, quoted 23s. c.f. and i.

**TALLOW.**—Market quiet, but steady. At public sale, 2,368 casks were brought forward, and 1,281 sold, prices being unchanged. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 36s.; dark to dull, 30s. to 34s. 6d.; hard, 36s. 6d. Beef: fine, 35s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 34s. 9d.; dark to dull, 30s. to



32s. 3d.; sweet, 37s. per cwt. Market letter unaltered. Town tallow, 34s. 6d.; melted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6½d. per 8 lbs.

OILS.—Linseed dull, but closed firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £24 15s.; barrels, £25 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 10s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 10s. to £38; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), June-July, £29 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £28; refined pale, spot (pipes), £30 15s.; sweet (barrels), £35 to £36. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £42 to £43. Cochon, spot, £45 to £48. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, July-August, £22, c.f. and i. Turpentine quiet. American spirits,

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	111 0	111 0	As australian	1 3½-2 6	1 3½-2 6
Ditto, No. 2	110 6	110 6	Scoured Merino	1 0½-2 3	1 0½-2 3
Fine granulated	1 10 0	1 8 0	Scoured Cr'sabr'd	0 8-1 2½	0 8-1 2½
Lytle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	Greasy Merino	1 0-1 8	1 0-1 8
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 7-2 7	1 7-2 7
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	0 9½-1 6	0 9½-1 6
French Cube prompt	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 0-2 5	2 0-2 5
Crystallised, West India	24 6-28 6	24 0-28 6	Cape snow white	2 0-2 5	2 0-2 5
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Indian rubber</b> p. lb.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.			Plantation	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
Indian Pekoe	1 0-1 2	0 10½-1 2	Crepe	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
Broken	0 11½-1 3½	0 10½-1 4½	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Orange	0 11½-1 5	0 10½-1 5½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	1 0-1 8½	0 11-1 0	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 1	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11½-1 0½	0 10½-1 0½	Steam, best	21 0-22 0	1 1 0
Orange	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 1½	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Broken	0 11-1 2	0 10½-1 1½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 1½	0 10-1 1	English Pig	22 0 0	22 5 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft, Sept.	20 15 0	21 7 6
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0-85 0	78 0-83 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	18 5 0	18 5 0
Grenada	75 0-80 0	73 0-78 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
West Africa	75s.	75s.	English Ingots	£152-£153	150-151
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-90 0	72 0-90 0	Do. bars	£153-£154	151-152
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0-95 0	92 0-95 0	Standard cash	£149 10	£148 2 6
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 1½d. per lb.			Tin Plates, per box	18 6-18 9	18 3-18 6
East India	66 0-100 0	62 0-98 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	49 0-118 0	47 0-118 0	English, Tough	£81-£82	£78-£79
Costa Rica	60 0-86 0	57 0-83 0	Best Selected	£79½-£80½	£76-£77
<b>Provisions</b> —			Sheets	£98	£98
Butter, per cwt.			Standard	£67 0 0	£65 0 0
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	154/-160/-	156/-162/-	Native firsts for shipmt. Sept.	£23 10 0	£24 0 0
Dutch ditto	132/-136/-	134/-136/-	<b>Oils</b> —		
Russian finest	120/-140/-	120/-148/-	Linseed, per ton	£24½-£25	£23½-£26
Normandy baskets	170/-174/-	169/-172/-	Rape, ref. English, casks	£37-£39	£36½-£38
Danish finest	14 0-16 6	14 0-16 6	Brown English, naked	£35-£38	£34-£35
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£28 15 0	£28 0 0
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Ditto, refined	£31-£37	£30½-£36
Irish	97 0-101 0	101 0-105 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9d.	9d.
Continental	90 0-99 0	93 0-105 0	Water White	10d.	10d.
Canadian	76 0-88 0	80 0-90 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
American	66s.	64 0-76 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Aug.-Sept.	2 14 3	2 14 9
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Rape, Guzerat Sept.-Oct.	2 16 6	2 17 0
Irish	106 0-124	108 0-124 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Canadian	74 0-80 0	74 0-80 0	Cleveland Cash	3 5 11	3 5 11
American	48 0-76 0	44 0-76 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured, 3/8, 4/1½ per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio, per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Edam	78 0-82 0	80 0-82 0	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Canadian	74 0-76 0	70 0-76 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda	74 0-76 0	74 0-78 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
English Cheddar	82 0-90 0	78 0-94 0	Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
New Zealand	74 0-76 0	70 0-75 0	Cigars, duty 7½ lb.	2 0	2 0
<b>Sisal</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150	130/-150
Basselin	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak	280/-600/-	280/-600/-
Saigon c. f. and i.	nom.	nom.	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Town households	45/-	45/-
Dutch	14 6-17 0	15 0-17 0	official	45/-	45/-
Russian	10 0-11 0	nom.	American, 1st patents	45½ upds	45½ upds.
Danish	14 0-16 6	14 9-17 6			

on spot, 33s. 9d. Petroleum: American, 9d.; water-white, 10d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet, but steady. Calcutta, spot, 54s. 3d.; afloat, 54s. 3d.; August-September, 54s. 3d.; September-October, 54s. 9d.; La Plata, July-August, 51s. 6d.; August-September, 51s. 9d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (3 per cent.), 57s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 52s. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, spot, £9 16s. 3d.; August, £9 16s. 3d.; October, £9 10s.

METALS.—Copper: Renewed realisations in the speculative markets of early maturities, and further forward offerings from time to time have imparted additional ease this week, the tendency being unsettled, while standard cash delivery by Thursday left off at £65 12s. 6d., and three months £66 17s. 6d. Electrolytic, £79 to £80. Tin continued irregular, and prices moved in a lower direction under selling pressure, dealings being limited, spot standard by Thursday fluctuating down to £148 10s., with three

months to £149 15s. Lead rather steadier. Foreign, August to November, £21 2s. 6d. to £21 5s. Spelter again easier. G.O.B., August, £62; October, £52. Iron lower.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Dulness was the principal characteristic at market this week, and few changes occurred in the list of prices, the tone being occasionally irregular and easier. Wheat (English): Whites, delivered up, nominal; picked whites being quoted at 60s. 6d.; and reds of similar quality 60s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Of imported sorts, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 58s. 3d.; and No. 3, 57s. 3d.; Indian, 55s. to 55s. 6d., all ex ship. Plate, 56s. 3d. landed. Flour: Minneapolis top patents, 45s. to 47s.; Manitoba patents, 41s. 6d. upwards, both landed. Grinding barley: Plate, ex quay, 39s. 6d., and new ex ship to arrive, 37s. 6d. Japanese, 40s., quay terms. Maize: Plate, 31s. 6d.; ex ship, 32s. 9d., landed. White flat South African, 34s. to 35s., according to sample. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 26s. 9d. upwards, landed. American, white clipped, No. 2, nominally, 34s., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced another week of small sales and generally unsatisfactory conditions in the market. There is scarcely a ray of hope for producers at the present time, and it is extremely difficult to secure prices which are at all remunerative. Fluctuations have occurred in raw material rates, and as is usual at the time of the year rather diverse reports have been received as to the progress of the crops in America and Egypt. There has been a good deal of discussion with regard to the reports as to the intention of the Government to restrict shipments of piece goods, and it is understood that a complete ban is about to take place upon the export of all fabrics which may be used for aircraft purposes. The inquiry in piece goods has run on small lots, and speculative buying seems to be quite out of the question. India has again given retail support. Some sorting up lots have been put through for China, but on the whole demand appears to be rather quieter than a few weeks ago. Some attempts have been made at transactions for Egypt, but fresh business is hampered owing to the difficulty in getting goods dyed on the other side. Printing cloths have been in fair request for South America, notably the River Plate. For the time of the year the home trade is doing fairly well, and it is said that some houses are taking deliveries against old contracts on an encouraging scale. The depression in the weaving towns in Lancashire is very acute, and a wretched position of affairs exists in Blackburn. In home American yarns a steady tone has prevailed, but buying has been restricted, and it is only in the lower numbers that demand worth mentioning has shown itself. More satisfactory reports are being given by shippers of yarn to the Continent as to the way in which licences are being received, and rather more buying has transpired for Holland. In Egyptian yarns the tone has been decidedly slow, and prices ruling are very unremunerative, especially in the finer numbers.

## FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—White goods sold to a good extent at unaltered price. Cane sorts keep comparatively slow. In auction, Jamaica crystallised sold, 24s. 9d. to 25s.; Demerara, 25s. 3d. to 25s. 6d.; and Trinidad, 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.

COFFEE.—A small quantity suitable for home trade needs cleared at steady prices. Futures firmer. September delivery changed hands at 33s. 3d.

JUTE quiet, but steady in value. Native first marks, old crop, for shipment, sellers, at £23; new crop, August, £24 15s.; and September, buyers, £24.

HEMP.—Market quiet, unaltered in all cases.

SPICE.—Pepper slow, and Muntok, August-September, sold, 8½d.

SHELLAC in quiet request, but market steady.

RUBBER.—In better demand, and rates improved. Crepe, spot, and also August, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d., and buyers; September, 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d., buyers. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 4½d. Hard fine Para, spot and also in forward positions, sellers, at 2s. 4½d.

METALS.—Tin easier. Standard, cash, sold, £148 5s. to £148 2s. 6d., and three months at £148 10s. to £148 5s., closing £148 2s. 6d. and £149 5s. respectively. Settlement price, £148. Copper further gave way. Standard, cash, sold finally £65, and three months at £66 10s. to £66, closing £65 cash and £66 2s. 6d. three months. Settlement price, £65. Electros, £78 to £79. Tough, £78 to £79. Best selected, £76 to £77. Strong sheets, £95. Lead firm. English, £22 5s.; foreign, August, done and buyers, £21 5s. Spelter lower. G.O.B. officially quoted £60 to £50. Tin plates, I.C. cokes, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d., basis f.o.b., Wales. Iron lower. Cleveland, cash, 64s.; one month, 64s. 4½d.; and three months, £65s. 3d. Quicksilver, £18 5s.

OILS.—Linseed firmer. Spot (pipes), landed, £25 5s.; barrels, £26. Hull, spot, £24 5s. SEEDS.—Linseed firm. London-Calcutta, spot and near, 54s. 6d. La Plata, August-September and September-October, 52s.

European Oilfields.—Production week 15th inst. 93,200 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown 49 kopecks per pood.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened a branch at Luderitzbucht, in the territory hitherto known as German South-West Africa.

Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co.—Nett earnings, including those of the Rand Mines Power Supply, for quarter ended June 30 amounted to £170,465.

Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—Nett earnings for June, after deducting operating expenses, \$250,706; increase, \$0.26; aggregate nett earnings from July 1, \$3,212,818; increase, \$145,744.



### Lipton, Ltd.

At the outset we must emphasise the opinion that Sir Thomas Lipton has behaved like a gentleman in dealing with the mess which his company, Lipton, Ltd., has tumbled into. Something has quite evidently been wrong for long back, and after Mr. Robertson Lawson, the well-known chartered accountant, came upon the board in April last along with Mr. Henry L. Peters, these two gentlemen made an exhaustive examination into the company's affairs. It resulted in the discovery of discrepancies in certain stocks and losses realised on certain investments. Costs incurred in connection with "various matters which formed the subject of litigation" also contributed to widen the gap between the actual assets and the nominal capital. "A substantial amount of working capital was diverted from the ordinary requirements of the business," says the report. Directly this was found out Sir Thomas Lipton made arrangements to relieve the company from the loss. As he explains in a brief circular addressed to the shareholders and sent out with the report, he has "voluntarily taken upon himself the personal responsibility for the amount necessary to replace the capital reported to be lost." He has done it "solely in the interests of the shareholders," which is very creditable of him, and we trust that his contribution will not only prove sufficient, but so strengthen the company as to justify Sir Thomas's further statement that the business, in his opinion, is "now in a thoroughly sound condition," with prospects as good as ever for the future. Shareholders, however, do not escape scatheless, for the directors have thought it necessary, in addition to the sum of £41,875 charged against profit and loss for depreciation, to make special provision beyond that amount to meet depreciation on plant, machinery, and deposits, and accordingly recommend the withdrawal of £220,889 from the premium on shares account to devote to this purpose, thereby wiping that account out. The whole of the internal management is now in process of being reorganised, and the present board is confident that when the arrangements are completed the company will be in a stronger position to meet competition and earn better profits than it has been for some time.

Profit on trading fell off £40,582 to £269,952, and the entire income of £272,182 is £42,767 down, because £2,002 less came in from interest. Expenses rose £2,053 to £123,542, and bad debts written off and the amount assigned as reserve for doubtful debts show together an increase of £16,048 at £19,795. The above-mentioned amount, also written off for depreciation out of profits, shows an increase of £18,674, so that the final result is a decrease of £79,489 in the trading profit for the year, bringing it down to £80,797. Happily the £46,988 brought forward was £15,286 up, so that the clear balance of £127,786 is only £64,203 down, and after meeting the debenture stock interest and the full dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares there is £57,786 left, or £10,797 more than a year ago. But this time it is all carried forward, the ordinary shareholders, who have had 6 per cent. annually since 1910, receiving no dividend.

During the year capital expenditure to the amount of £7,451 was incurred, but £20,189 was written off for depreciation and lease redemption, or £15,210 more than for the preceding year, consequently the capitalised value of the business, including goodwill, leaseholds, and estates in Ceylon, is £12,738 down at £1,840,223. Without doubt in that globular mass of capital lies the essential vulnerability of the business, its main handicap in competition. Plant, machinery, and fixtures have been written down by £168,591 to £399,019, which makes the total £163,477 less than at March 13, 1915, the date when the annual accounts are made up. Stock-in-trade is also reduced by £297,399 to £786,939, and there are reductions of £45,606 in the value of investments, bringing it down to £54,287, as also of £4,934 in Savings Bank investments now standing at £27,838. Cash, too, is £2,524 smaller at £79,805, but sundry debtors' owed the company on March 13 £218,387 more than the year before at £548,017, and we trust all these debts are good and recoverable. It will thus be seen

that the reductions in what may be called the permanent and working assets of the company have been fairly drastic during the year. Against the large increase in the amount due to the company we have an increase of £99,581 in the sums due by it to sundry creditors, which include directors' fees, bringing up that aggregate to £306,876. Bills payable, though, are down £122,394 to £175,243, and the overdraft from the bank is £42,252 less at £117,476, while Savings Bank deposits and interest due thereon have diminished £6,744 to £155,207. On this side also, therefore, the burden has been materially lightened, and altogether the total of the balance-sheet is £319,445 less than it was a year ago at £3,744,544. Although the premium account reserve has disappeared there is still an ordinary reserve of £145,000, and we hope when the time comes to resume payment of dividend on the ordinary shares it will be kept at a moderate figure, say 4 or 5 per cent., until such time as the reserve has been sensibly increased.

### American Business Notes.

We hope that an agreement has been come to with the United States over this question of cotton. It is understood that the five Allied Powers on this side—Belgium, France, Italy, Russia, and the United Kingdom—have reached an accord on the method of applying blockade rules in order that cotton should be treated as contraband. Perhaps we should have come to this resolution and agreement sooner, but, knowing what the troubles of the Government have been, comprehending also its desire to act with consideration, and, as far as possible, with equity, towards neutrals, we cannot feel that this is the time to criticise, still less to blame. If cotton is made contraband now, and if the neutral States of Scandinavia and Holland quietly submit to the inevitable, then Germany will have to show her skill in making high explosives out of pulped wood. But the practical difficulties are not small even now, and accord and acquiescence assumed. The latest telegrams from Washington lead us to infer that the Government there is becoming reconciled to the inevitable, and that also means the removal of a grave source of anxiety to the Governments of the five allied Powers and most of all to our own Government. In all probability the agitation against England which has been got up in the Southern States has been German inspired and financed, and we may hope that now the people of the United States have been made aware, through the revelations in the *New York World* and other independent newspapers, of the unscrupulous manner in which German diplomats and paid agents of all kinds have sought, not only to mislead the opinion of the nation, but to betray it into questionable paths of action, far less outcry will be made. Matters have reached such a pass in the way of Press subornation and diplomatic intrigue within the Republic as to make the people suspect every attempt to arraign the Government and raise a disturbance.

It is also reported that bankers in London have arranged to raise a loan of £100,000,000 for us in New York in order to steady the exchange on London. We have always insisted that this course was the obvious one to follow, the one least objectionable from any point of view and the most effective. To ship large amounts of gold from Europe to New York is perhaps practicable enough in view of our command of the ocean, but, were the news to reach Germany, as it probably would—for both France and England are still beset by spies—it is conceivable enough that a daring effort would be made to sink one or more of the treasure ships. But even if no danger existed, New York does not at present want the gold—the United States is gorged with the metal now—and it would therefore be far more profitable for the people there to invest their money, say, in British short-term bonds at 5 per cent. than to hoard up gold absolutely useless for any purposes of trade or currency in present circumstances.

An interesting discussion has been started in the United States about the action of the Federal banks in



forcing paper money into circulation. It seems that the Governor, Benjamin Strong, Jr., of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, has been explaining the action of his particular bank, and to his view the New York *Commercial Chronicle* takes exception, we think with very good reason. Originally the Federal Law was framed with a view to the provision of cheap credit, credit at a "flat" rate, to all who needed to borrow. The small farmer in the distant West or beyond the mountains was to be able to get his paper discounted as easily as the wealthy merchant in Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Chicago, or New York. By an ingenious contrivance the bills were to be turned into Federal notes which would have currency until the mercantile paper taken as security for them became due, when, on the bills being met, paid off, the notes would be withdrawn. Mr. Strong says this is not the way to look at the matter, and he seems to be bent upon turning the law outside in—as was to be expected. Under the idea of the framers of the law, Federal notes outstanding might at one time be \$250,000,000 and at another \$1,000,000,000—all depended on the demand for discount, on the amount of paper created to move produce, to effect payments; but Mr. Strong puts out notes and keeps them in circulation merely with a view to accumulate gold, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the end of July had \$47,720,000 in notes outstanding, against which it held \$47,520,000 in gold coin or gold certificates, and only \$200,000 in commercial paper, bills discounted. It seems to us obvious that the pursuit of this method of misinterpreting the law might easily enough and up to a point effect the accumulation of a large stock of gold, which gold would be comparatively unattainable for use in governing international exchange; as the *Chronicle* insists, it would be at the call of the wealthy. As it is, out of \$266,192,000 gold held by the Federal reserve banks at the end of July \$128,114,000 was contributed by the Reserve Bank in New York, and the splitting up of the system of reserve banks into 12 segments has only served to advertise the weakness of the remoter districts. Only the great centres can force notes into circulation and get gold to hold against them. The notes being forced into circulation, says this critic, and an immoderate supply, will it not be open to anybody to gather them up—trust companies, State banks, private bankers—and present them to the Federal Reserve Bank for redemption, forcing the latter in turn to go to the Reserve Agent and get the gold back, which gold they will not be able to retain if this should happen, and it conceivably might? At a time of crisis the impounded gold might be an instrument of oppression to the community and not a protection or means of deliverance. But what a curious preliminary all this seems to the assumption of dominant position as world-banker which the Yankee dreams of assuming, *vice* London, kicked aside.

Most of the United States railroads make up their balance-sheets for the 12 months ended June 30, and the first of these to appear is that of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It did, on the whole, well last year in spite of the many troubles and some increase in working expenses. The gross income of \$42,526,000 was \$355,000 better, and there was a saving of \$141,000 in working expenses, consequently the nett revenue was nearly \$500,000 better, and the company paid the customary 10 per cent. dividend on its preferred and common stocks with \$262,000 left over. That surplus is \$737,000 smaller than the one shown at the end of the preceding year, but there does not seem any warrant in the figures for saying that the board ought to have reduced the dividend. Expenditure on maintenance of way, &c., was somewhat less, but there was a much larger increase in the outlay on upkeep of equipment, and the company's revenue from sources outside its own business seems to have been fairly well maintained, allowance made for the loss of the dividend on the Temple Iron Works stock. The margin, however, is narrow, and it will be interesting to see the accounts in full.

Preliminary figures for the same twelvemonth have been issued by the directors of the Union Pacific Railroad Co., and these are not too comfortable. Revenue

in the year ended June 30 last fell off \$5,157,000 to \$86,958,000, and working expenses were only \$1,446,000 less at \$30,180,000. A saving of \$945,000, however, was secured in fixed charges, so that the clear income of \$16,428,000 was only \$314,000 down. That is the income from the railway, and besides that the company drew \$11,964,000 from its investments. That was nearly \$3,400,000 less than in the previous year and \$8,250,000 less than the revenue for 1911-12, so the common stock got dividends amounting to 8 per cent. only as against 9 per cent. paid for each of the two previous years and 10 per cent. before that. The surplus left was \$6,627,000. Here likewise the accounts when they come should reward study.

The preliminary statement of the Southern Railway Co. shows a most serious decline in earnings, a much weakened position. Gross receipts were \$8,551,000 worse at \$62,200,000, but the management contrived to reduce working expenses by \$5,586,000 to \$46,175,000, and there was a slight reduction in the burden of taxation, which still, however, amounted to \$2,596,000. After allowing for income from outside sources, which was also somewhat smaller, and meeting interest on the mortgage debenture, which alone took \$11,152,000, or \$212,000 more than in the previous year, deducting also \$3,827,000, whose allocation is not shown in the summary, we get a total expenditure of within \$1,591,000 of the total nett income. A year ago the balance was \$4,840,000, which was enough to meet the dividend on the company's preferred stock, and after charging \$92,000 to additions and betterments left \$2,048,000 to carry forward. This time no dividend is paid on the preferred stock, and only \$77,000 is allotted to cost of additions and betterments, and yet the balance carried forward is only \$1,514,000.

### Insurance News.

The Bill to regulate insurance business, which was read a first time in the Commonwealth House of Representatives in December, 1912, but not then proceeded with, has been reintroduced and read a first time in the Senate. According to the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, as before, the Bill covers various classes of insurance business, exclusive of marine. The portion which relates to life insurance, including industrial life, is a very extensive one. When the Bill was first introduced several representative bodies carefully considered its terms and made numerous valuable suggestions for amendment, of which apparently little notice has been taken, for the Bill as now presented is practically unaltered. This is to be regretted, as mistakes, obviously errors in drafting, have been allowed to remain undisturbed. A deposit from all companies transacting insurance business is demanded, the maximum sum from those institutions doing life business only being £100,000. Foreign and domestic companies are treated on the same basis in this respect, although domestic companies are not necessarily to be compelled to deposit so much as £10,000 per annum if the Commissioner is satisfied that this requirement would press unduly on the resources of the company. Although fire and accident companies generally are not opposed to the passing of an Act for the better regulation of the business in which they are engaged, some disappointment appears to have been felt at its inclusion in a Bill relating mainly to life insurance, instead of being brought forward as a separate measure. The administration of the Act is to be placed in the hands of a Commissioner of Insurance, and very wide power to make regulations is conferred on the responsible official.

What the superintendent of the New York Insurance Department describes as the most noteworthy occurrence in the insurance world during the past year was the transformation from joint stock to "mutual" form, that is vesting the ownership of the assets and control of two of the largest life companies of the country in the policy-holders. The companies concerned were the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. of New York and the Prudential Insurance Co. of



America, and the change affects the ownership of some £160,000,000 of assets. Only a small fraction of the stock of the last-named company has yet to be presented for liquidation, so that to all intents and purposes the undertaking is now a mutual company. Plans are under consideration for applying the same principle to another of the big offices.

As the total of the fire losses in Canada and the United States during July came to little more than half the amount recorded in the corresponding month last year, the figure being £1,801,000 against £3,508,000, the aggregate losses for the first seven months of the current year are nearly 10 millions below those for the corresponding period, namely, £10,281,000 against £30,108,000, a result which will gladden the hearts of many underwriters who have had to face the effects of several years of unfavourable experience.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In spite of the submarine "blockade" imports and exports of rubber do not seem to be much interfered with. During the seven months to the end of July we imported 109,880,000 lbs., valued at £11,835,000, as against 90,770,000 lbs., valued at £9,493,500 in the corresponding pre-war period. Much the largest supply came from the Straits Settlements, which sent us 42,000,000 lbs. against 25,070,000 lbs. Brazil came next with 18,710,000 lbs. against 20,380,000 lbs., not so serious a falling off as might have been expected considering the comparatively low prices ruling. Ceylon follows closely with 18,630,000 lbs., or almost exactly double last year's figures, and the Federated Malay States sent 16,140,000 lbs. against 12,810,000 lbs. There was a heavy decrease in imports from unclassified countries, the receipts from such sources being only 2,750,000 lbs. against 20,980,000 lbs. Exports for the seven months totalled 92,100,000 lbs. against 73,520,000 lbs., the respective values being £10,145,000 and £8,258,000. By far the largest consumer is the United States, which took 62 per cent. of the total, viz., 57,100,000 lbs. against 31,340,000 lbs. last year. It is interesting to note that Germany received 15,190,000 lbs. in the first seven months of 1914, but has got none this year, and she could not have obtained a great deal through neutral countries, which took 11,370,000 lbs. against 5,480,000 lbs., but no doubt a considerable quantity went direct through Holland. The amount retained for home consumption was 17,800,000 lbs. against 17,250,000 lbs. last year, a much smaller increase than might have been expected. This week the price of rubber has fluctuated very little, and the quotation for standard crêpe remains at 2s. 4½. per lb.

A drop of £20,386 is shown in the profits of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Ltd., for the year ended December 31 last. This brings the earnings down to £44,538, but the balance of £22,108 brought forward was £2,945 better, so that the £66,646 available is only £17,441 down. That is a heavy enough decline, but considering the times in which we live not an unexpected one. Still, it compels the board to restrict the dividend to 2 per cent. for the year, less tax, or half that declared for 1914. This dividend, moreover, will be payable only on January 1 next. By keeping down the dividend the board is able to strengthen the reserve by £25,000, or £9,000 more than was put to it last year, and the balance then left to carry forward will only be £3,452 down at £18,656. The balance-sheet shows that the loans against security due by the company have been reduced by £17,500 to £28,500, and there is a new entry of £16,000 called "reserve account in respect of experimental plantings of tobacco and sugar and teak exploitation." The property of the company in shares and its advances to the Maatschappij ter Exploitatie der Pamanoecken en Tjiassemlanden aggregate £1,184,621, and the advances alone come to £478,136, or £56,118 more than at the end of 1913, but the aggregate is very little more than that of the

share capital outstanding, and there is no floating debt worth speaking about. The company's investments in British and Colonial securities, &c., have fallen off £17,915 to £55,169, and its cash is £1,564 lower at £8,950, but its possibilities and actual resources are very extensive. Since the company was formed in 1910, 11,315 acres have been cleared and planted at a cost of £252,093. It grows tea, chinchona, coffee, and various kinds of rubber, the total planted area being 18,800 acres, which shows an increase of 372 acres on the preceding year, but against that chinchona was uprooted on 469 acres, so that there is actually a decrease of 97 acres in the cultivated area. So far the rubber output is small, and it was 26,048 lbs. down last year at 63,912 lbs. About 98 acres were planted with tobacco last year as an experiment, but this year the space is reduced to 44 acres. Official notice has been given by the Netherlands Indian Government of its intention to expropriate certain portions of the lands in which the native interests are concerned, but the directors have repeatedly received assurance that the private interests of the company will be scrupulously respected. A brief table is given setting forth the total expenditure upon capital and revenue during the three years ended December 31, 1914. It amounted to £724,681, and the total receipts, presumably also of capital and revenue, came to £697,318, but what this exhibit actually portends we cannot explain. All we can gather is that the enterprise is a very important one, which ought to be increasingly profitable when favourable times return.

We much regret to find that an error crept into our note on the report of Rubber Securities, Ltd., last week which had the effect of making the financial position look much worse than it actually is. In comparing the balance-sheet with that of the previous year a slip was made, with the result that the writer of the note stated that the liabilities were nearly £8,000 up. This figure should have been £1,523, an increase of £4,723 in sundry creditors having been offset by a decrease of £3,200 in bills payable, which was unfortunately treated as an increase.

It is satisfactory to record that the Russian Petroleum Co., Ltd., is gradually getting into a stronger position, in spite of the fact that last year to December 31 o/s was not a particularly prosperous one. Profits were all but £40,000 less at £53,248, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges there is a balance of £29,280 (subject to taxes), which it is proposed to add to the reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes. During the year, however, four years' arrears of debenture interest, amounting to £72,000, were paid off, debentures for £21,925 were redeemed, reducing the amount outstanding to £277,000, and the balance of £12,870 due to the Russian Government is in process of repayment from the resources of the Baku office. These reductions in liabilities will be of great advantage to the company when better times arrive. Owing mainly to the strike at Baku production fell off by 1,057,000 poods to 4,294,550 poods, and the weekly average output dropped from 117,400 to 75,810 poods. The long stoppage of work caused a rise in the water level, in reducing which great difficulty is still being experienced. It was found also that the casings in many of the best wells had collapsed, and the necessary heavy repairs are retarded by the scarcity of skilled labour and suitable material. For similar reasons the completion of four deep wells, on which the future of the company largely depends, has also been greatly retarded. The average price obtained for crude oil was 35.75 kopecks per pood, and a new contract has been concluded for the sale of the year's output at average monthly Bourse prices plus ⅔ kopeck per pood. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £43,640, and cash in hand has been reduced £29,120 to £8,456; otherwise the changes in the balance-sheet are not of much significance.

Although the directors of the European Oilfields Corporation, Ltd., in view of the difficulty of obtaining remittances from Russia, have very prudently decided not to pay a dividend, there is much in the report



for the year to April 13 last that is quite encouraging. Owing mainly to the strike at Baku, which lasted six weeks, and afterwards to large numbers of men being called to service in the Russian army, gross production was reduced by 548,000 to 4,555,000 poods, the weekly average being 99,022, against 102,345 poods. There was, however, a very substantial economy in the amount used for fuel, the figures for the last three years having been 877,000 poods, 516,000 poods, and 255,000 poods respectively. The average price realised was 2 kopecks less at 34.05 kopecks, but expenses were reduced and the profit per pood was only .69 less at 13.28 kopecks. Profits on trading were £10,270 less at £57,439, but miscellaneous receipts were £3,480 higher, and after providing for debenture service, &c., the nett profit is £9,280 down at £43,050. Reserve for depreciation, &c., gets £10,000 less at £25,000, raising the fund to £110,000, and after providing £3,610, against nil, for redemption of profit-sharing notes, £14,439, or £2,890 less, remains to be carried forward. During the year debentures for £7,043 were redeemed, at a cost of £4,980, and sundry creditors have been reduced by £16,480 to £28,340, while £18,520 has been spent on the properties, and still cash in hand is £18,690 higher at £28,038. The Council of State has not yet confirmed the recommendation made by the Government Commission three years ago to grant the company boring rights on a plot held with surface rights only, but, on the other hand, an arrangement has been made for sinking a well on a property in which the company owns a one-third interest. It is stated that, owing to the decreased demand for oil in California, the production from the Midway properties, in which the company is interested, has been reduced to about one-fourth of the normal output. There seems every reason to hope that the company will do much better when general conditions improve, and shareholders must exercise patience a little longer.

### The Week in Mines.

Rather more activity has been noticeable in the Mining markets this week, and the tone has accordingly been fairly cheerful, because what the Stock Exchange stands mostly in need of now is business. The outstanding incident has been a marked recovery in Russian mining shares, which had been unduly depressed owing to the news of the Russian retreat from Warsaw. However, the encouraging reports of progress in the Dardanelles, which caused a marked improvement in the Russian exchange, stimulated buying of these shares, because every downward movement in the exchange facilitates the transfer of money from Russia to England for dividend purposes. But it is unlikely that the companies will do so yet awhile, because the sterling value of the rouble is still so low that remittances can only be made at a heavy loss.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Interest in South African shares has been confined mainly to Eastern Rand descriptions, which, though not active, have been in steady request, and show advances on the week after allowing for the dividends which have now been deducted from prices. Modder Deeps have been prominent, the price rising 3-32 to 4½, and Springs Mines at 24s. and Geduld at 30s. 3d. have risen 2s. and 1s. 3d. respectively. Van Ryn Deeps at 2½, African Farms at 8s., Cloverfield at 4s. 6d., Meyer and Charlton at 5½, Ferreira Deeps at 2½, City Deeps at 33-32, and Village Deeps at 125-32 have been in demand, while Wolhuters have recovered to 12s. and West Rand Consols have risen to 6s. 6d. on an improved development report. Gold Fields have been on offer at 1½, and Modders were easier at 14½, after touching 14½, buyers. Diamond descriptions have been more active and firmer. Jagersfonteins rose ¼ to 2½, De Beers deferred have advanced ¼ to 9½, and Premier deferred ¼ to 4½. Among Rhodesian shares Shamvas improved rather sharply to 1½, after touching 1½, and Giants were better at 5s. 9d. In the West African section Ashanti Goldfields and

Amalgamated Gold Coast have attracted some support at the former prices of 15s. 6d. and 13s. 3d. respectively.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The reaction in the metal markets has had a rather depressing influence on base metal shares. American shares rose sharply at the beginning of the week on New York buying, but weakened later owing to a fresh fall in the price of the metal and the rise in the exchange. Utahs rose ½ to 14½, and Anacondas ⅙ to 7½, but the former relapsed afterwards to 14½, and Rio Tintos fell sharply from 54½ to 53½. Anacondas, however, rose further to 7½ on Wall Street support. Amalgamateds, which have ceased to be dealt in in New York, changed hands on this market on Wednesday for the first time since July 30, the markings being 74½ and 74. Mount Lyells further declined 1s. to 21s. Russian shares have made a good recovery on the improvement in the exchange. Kyshtims recovered from 1½ to 1½, Tanalyks from 1½ to 1½, and Russo-Asiatics from 3½ to 4½. The Sissert Co.'s report is just out.

Tin shares have moved irregularly. Siamese Dredgings and Tronohs have risen slightly to 2½ and 1½, and Gopengs have been well supported at 1½. But Tekkas at 2½, and Kamuntings at 1½ have been easier. The Broken Hill group has weakened on the dulness of spelter and lead. Proprietarys declined 6d. to 42s. 6d., British 1-32 to 1, and South Silver ¾ to 6½. The liquidation in Indian mines has ceased, and Mysore have recovered ⅙ to 3½. Among West Australian shares, Sons of Gwalia rose 6d. to 16s. 6d. on the dividend announcement. Camp Birds have advanced, the ordinary to 5s. 6d. and the preference to 9s., on the progress report. Orovilles have been easier at 14s. 9d., but Nechi preferences have been bought at 12s. and over. The Alaska dividends were issued this week, but as no statement has been made by the Alaska Mexican, it is presumed that no distribution will be made owing to the recent poor returns.

### MINING NEWS.

**ROBINSON GROUP ORE RESERVES.**—In the first six months of the year the ore reserves of the Randfontein Central, the great Robinson amalgamation, increased by 429,851 tons to 9,350,236 tons, equal to about four years' supply for the mill. The profit for the half-year was £302,347, or 5s. per ton crushed. At the Langlaagte Estate mine the reserves of ore have been increased by 127,046 tons to 1,693,274 tons, equal to about three years' supply for the mill. Profits for the half-year amounted to £85,309, or 5s. 8d. per ton crushed.

**GOLDEN KOPJE PROPRIETARY.**—This Rhodesian mining company began crushing in June last year, but milling the grade of ore proved disappointing, and operations in the period down to March 31 resulted in a loss of £4,545. To overcome the difficulties met with the capacity of the plant is being increased from 10,000 tons to 12,500 tons per month, by which means it is hoped to reduce working costs from 18s. 6d. to 17s. 6d., and to show a profit of about £3,000 monthly. Owing to the loss on preliminary operations and to the necessary additions to plant, a further loan of £25,000 has been incurred, which it is hoped to repay in the current year out of profits. Reserves of ore show a reduction of 20,552 tons at 290,194 tons, the value being 7.6 dwts. as against 8 dwts. per ton.

**BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.**—The nett profits for the half-year ended May 31 amounted to £106,227 after deducting £27,084 for depreciation, £16,064 for debenture interest, and £15,000 for the sinking fund. Owing to high prices ruling for lead and zinc the period has been a profitable one, for in the preceding six months the profits were £125,611, and for the half-year ended May 31, 1914, £150,714.

**WHIM WELL COPPER MINES.**—This Australian copper mining company is to be reconstructed. It is proposed to form a new company with a capital of £225,000, divided into shares of £1 each. The assets are valued at £235,250 for the purposes of the scheme, and this will be satisfied by the allotment of 225,000 shares credited as 15s. paid to existing shareholders on the basis of share for share, amounting to £168,750. In addition £52,000 of 7 per cent. debentures are to be issued in place of existing debentures, £7,000 of 6 per cent. non-cumulative income debenture stock will be issued to unsecured creditors, and £7,500 is to be provided in cash, making the total £235,250. The balance of 5s. per share will be called up at intervals. The carrying through of the scheme will depend upon the Treasury sanctioning the issue.

**RUSSIAN COPPER PRODUCTION.**—The effect of the war in reducing the output of copper in Russia is clearly shown in statistics just to hand. It is particularly unfortunate that the disorganisation caused by the war should have had this effect, for the output at the best of times is not sufficient to meet home requirements, and a larger output was needed last year to provide the



raw material for munitions of war. Instead of there being an increase of 15 million pounds as had been expected, there was a decrease of 2,879,158 lbs., the total being 71,088,312 lbs. against 73,967,471 lbs. in 1913, 74,485,216 lbs. in 1912, and 56,476,401 lbs. in 1911. The decrease last year is attributed to the war, which caused the shut down of the Dzansul plant of the Caucasus Copper Co., prevented resumption by the Kwarzchana Works of Siemens' Successors, and reduced the labour available. Consumption of copper in Russia last year amounted to 74,831,402 lbs., an increase of 383,271 lbs. on 1913, and 9,956,916 lbs. more than in 1912. This year the production is expected to reach 78,177,350 lbs., an increase of 7,089,334 lbs.; the largest proportion will be furnished by the Kyshtim works.

**AUSTRALIAN COPPER ORE TREATMENT.**—Representatives of the various metal companies have again conferred with Mr. Hughes, the Federal Attorney-General, with the object of arranging for the local smelting and refining of the whole Australian copper ore output, and also for the local manufacture of copper goods. With regard to the Commonwealth Metal Exchange, which is to be established to wrest the control of Australian metals from German firms, Mr. Hughes said the Imperial Government, as a large buyer, may be represented directly on the exchange if it is desired.

**DIAMOND EXPORTS FROM HOLLAND.**—The exports of polished diamonds from Holland to the United States in the week ended August 7 amounted to £73,016, as compared with £18,282 in the previous week, and £29,102 in the corresponding week of last year. Exports of rough diamonds amounted to £772, as compared with nil.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### SAMUEL FOX AND CO., LTD.

Evidently this company did extremely well in the year to June 30 last. Nett profits were £20,670 higher at £65,822, a very useful improvement even allowing for the fact that there was a drop of £10,400 in the previous 12 months. No increase, however, is made in the dividend, which remains at 10 per cent., and this is a prudent policy. During the year 68,000 ordinary shares were subscribed out of 150,000 offered, but 80,000 6 per cent. preference shares were applied for more than three times over. The premiums received, amounting to £17,179, together with £12,821 from profits (against £10,000) are placed to reserve fund, raising it to £140,000, and the balance carried forward is increased by £12,890 to £28,739. Sundry creditors are up £20,000, but sundry debtors owe £75,960 more, stocks are £106,720 higher, plant, machinery, &c., is £15,390 up, and cash in hand has gained £6,290. It is stated that the new bar mill commenced working last month, and is fully answering expectations, so that it will add considerably to the output of the works. The company's business fluctuates greatly, as we have shown, but it is in a strong position, and we cannot understand why it should not submit a proper profit and loss account.

### SHEFFIELD FORGE AND ROLLING MILLS CO., LTD.

Like several other firms in the steel trade, this company did very well in the year to June 30 last. Gross profits were £9,940 higher at £31,612, and the nett profit increased £7,590 to £27,320. After doubling the appropriation to reserve at £10,000, and setting aside £3,000 as before for depreciation, the dividend of 12½ per cent. is repeated, and £8,015 or £1,820 more is carried forward. The expansion of the business is reflected in an increase of £27,000 to £56,585 due to sundry creditors, while sundry debtors are up £6,320 at £46,695, stocks have increased by £26,610 to £63,400, and cash in hand has gained £4,360 at £11,975. The new electric sheet mill has been completed, and was put into commission last March with satisfactory results.

### J. AND J. CUNNINGHAM, LTD.

This company manufactures sulphuric acid, artificial manures, &c., and if it has lost anything on the swings it has more than made good on the roundabouts. Nett profits for the year to June 30 amounted to £43,906, an increase of no less than £37,250, out of which £10,000 against nil is placed to reserve fund (raising it to £45,000), and the dividend is raised from 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent., which still leaves £6,900 more at £26,000 to be carried forward. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £5,590, but the depreciation fund has been increased by £6,620, so that the nett cost of plant, &c., is a little lower. Stocks have been reduced by £10,110 at £76,974, and debtors by £10,940 at £118,785, but cash has increased no less than £72,000 to £86,474, while £22,150 more at £40,290 is owing to sundry creditors. The directors have decided to invest £20,000 in the new War Loan, and they have ample liquid resources for the purpose without unduly curtailing their free working capital.

### YORKSHIRE DYEWARE AND CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

Full advantage seems to have been taken by this company of the absence of German competition, and for the year to June 30 nett profits show an increase of no less than £28,870 at £37,423. The dividend is accordingly raised from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., and a bonus of 7½ per cent. is added, which will absorb £13,594. It is proposed to place £15,000 to reserve, raising the fund to £26,000, and there still remains £4,677 to be carried forward, as against £470 brought in. Moreover, the directors have set aside out of profits £1,000 for various war funds, and they will surely have the full approval of the shareholders in so doing. Ample provision has been made in the

value of stock against any possible fall in market prices, and in spite of increased trade, stocks show a decline of £5,740 at £67,070. Creditors are up £12,190 at £36,497, and debtors, &c., have increased by £45,000 to £83,076. It is fine to be a dyer in these days, in spite of the State-aided competition that is threatened.

### MIDLAND RAILWAY CARRIAGE AND WAGON CO., LTD.

This company has been greatly and injuriously affected in its business during the past year ended June 30 by the war. A large number of its employees have been taken away, wages have had to be raised, and the prices of all materials are higher. In spite of these drawbacks profit rose £3,532 to £28,440, or to £34,065 if the £5,625 brought forward is added. The directors put aside £8,000, as against £5,000, for depreciation, and after meeting debenture interest and putting aside some smaller amounts pay a dividend on the 6 per cent. preference shares in full, tax free. The carry forward is £714 up at £6,339.

### BROOKS AND DOXEY.

A pitiful report is submitted for the year ended June 30. Against a profit of £3,890 for the previous 12 months there is now a loss of £11,018, and the balance of £26,356 brought forward is reduced to £15,338. It seems just as well in the circumstances that the proposal to pay a dividend on the preference shares a year ago was withdrawn, although the amount involved was only £2,500. For 1912,13 there was a loss of £15,020, and the explanation that the unsatisfactory result of the past year's working is entirely due to the war scarcely seems to meet the case. The balance-sheet shows that book debts, &c., are up £11,690 at £119,490, while cash in hand has been reduced by £21,620 to £3,782.

### WOLSELEY SHEEP SHEARING MACHINE CO., LTD.

Business in 1914 would appear to have been better with this company than the directors had anticipated, as they not only make up the dividend on the ordinary shares to 5 per cent., as against 2½ per cent., for the previous year, but set aside large sums for special purposes out of the undivided surplus in hand. After providing for depreciation, including an amount for stocks in Austria, the profits were only £1,626 down at £7,744, and as a much larger balance of £53,192 was brought in, the available total was £5,244 better at £60,936. Of this £6,708 is written off for Austrian debts and £23,000 is applied to extinguish the item of patents and goodwill, and as the dividend absorbs £5,000, the sum carried forward is reduced by £26,965 to £26,228. Except for the elimination of patents and goodwill, the changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance.

## New Zealand.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

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New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

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Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country, New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by  
**THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,**  
13, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.



**BULLOCH, LADE AND CO., LTD.**

The past distilling season is said by the directors of this Glasgow concern to have been unprofitable, but the general trading results were, from their point of view, very satisfactory. Business evidently expanded very considerably, as the nett profits for the year ended July 31 showed an increase of no less than £12,598 at £44,558, or nearly 40 per cent. Adding £8,118 brought in, the available balance of £52,676 was £15,488 up, and advantage is taken of the improvement to write £9,500 off the distilleries, compared with only £1,000 a year ago. The dividend on the ordinary shares, which was reduced from 6½ per cent. to 5 per cent. last time, is now raised to 7½ per cent., but is paid less tax instead of tax free, and £1,948 more at £10,066 is carried forward. Property and goodwill account now stands at £250,000, and against this there is a reserve of £150,000, all, however, in the business. Stocks are £26,770 smaller at £420,339, but debtors owe £21,605 more at £77,024, and cash is £6,226 up at £13,077. On the other hand, bank loans have been reduced by £8,500 to £50,000, and other loans by £7,000 to £37,453, while current liabilities are exceedingly light at £4,013.

**HANCOCK AND CO. (NEW ZEALAND), LTD.**

For the year to March 31 last the nett profits were £29,597, or £3,350 less than for the previous 12 months, which, however, showed a gain of £5,780 over the year before that. About £1,000 more was brought forward, and the directors are able to repeat the 10 per cent. dividend, to write off the balance of goodwill (£4,355, against £5,000 placed to reserve last year), and to carry forward £8,534, or only £560 less than last time. The principal changes in the balance-sheet are increases of £8,720 in the stock of beer, wines, spirits, &c., and of £9,700 in cash. Sir Joseph Lyons has joined the board as chairman in succession to the late Mr. A. M. Marks.

**COMMERCIAL GAS CO.**

In the half-year to June 30 last this company does not seem to have suffered as much as some of its neighbours. Thanks doubtless to the increase in the price from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 8d. per thousand feet as from Lady Day, the sales of gas increased by £13,530 to £209,397, and rentals went up £1,800, but curiously enough residuals showed a slight falling off at £51,957. Manufacture of gas cost only £4,370 more, while £1,600 was saved on distribution, and the nett result is that the profit is up £13,210 at £63,640. Unfortunately the amount brought forward was £32,240 lower, and the final surplus for dividend purposes is £19,820 less at £116,040. Owing to the operation of the sliding scale the dividend on the 4 per cent. stock has to be reduced from £5 8s. 4d. per cent. to £4 18s. 8d. per cent. per annum, and that on the 3½ per cent. stock from £5 6s. 8d. per cent. to £4 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum. The capital account is now overdrawn £64,580, an increase of £9,300, and the other changes in the balance-sheet are quite unimportant in relation to the size of the figures, but it is perhaps significant of the times that the accounts due to the company show an increase of £13,600 at £88,900.

**BALANCE SHEET FACTS.**

**CROYDON GAS CO.**—In the half-year ended June 30 last the sales of gas exceeded those of the corresponding period of 1914 by 0.35 per cent., the number of consumers was 435 larger, and the total increase in gas-stoves sold and on hire amounted to 1,728. Last March, owing to the large increase in the cost of coal and residuals, the directors raised the price of gas by 3d. per 1,000 ft. In March, also, £25,000 "D" stock was issued by tender on satisfactory terms. After providing for all fixed charges, there is a divisible balance of £34,519, or £8,051 less than at the same date a year ago. Out of this the "A" stock is to get 14½ per cent., and the "B" and "C" stocks 11½ per cent., or in each case ½ per cent. less, but the "D" and "E" stocks will receive 5 and 10 per cent. respectively, as before. These payments will absorb £23,790, leaving £10,729, or £8,203 less, to be carried forward. At the date of the balance-sheet 211 employees of the company had enlisted or been called up for service with his Majesty's Forces.

**W. AND H. M. GOULDING.**—For the year ended June 30 the nett profits amounted to £48,000, an increase of £8,140, and with £4,000 brought forward there is an available total of £52,000. It is proposed to set aside £7,000 to cover estimated discounts, to place £10,000 against £2,000 to reserve, and to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the same as last time, leaving £3,875 or £125 less to be carried forward. Sundry creditors are down £16,350 at £73,330, and sundry debtors are £43,270 lower at £226,744, but cash is up £23,435 at £53,769. In the previous year £6,100 was spent on plant, but the nett addition to property, plant, &c., this time is only £1,016. Half the dividend is payable forthwith and the remaining half on December 31.

**NEW DARVEL BAY (BORNEO) TOBACCO PLANTATIONS, LTD.**—A very poor display is made for the year ended December 31, when the 1913 crop was dealt with. The total only amounted to 3,806 bales, or a decrease of 1,811 bales, and the average price was disappointing at 1s. 2½d. per half-kilo, or a reduction of 6d. As the result of this the trading account showed a loss of £29,493 as against a profit of £11,571 in the previous 12 months, and after providing for administration charges, interest, &c., there was a debit of £33,166 compared with a surplus of £9,404. This loss has been reduced to £20,369 by the balance brought forward, and since the closing of the accounts the directors have appropriated the reserve of £17,000 as a further offset. The 1914 crop was decidedly better at 5,456 bales,

but prices have again declined, and the last sales were made at the low figure of 45.71 cents per half-kilo. Expenditure on the rubber estate amounted to £3,036, making a total of £13,757, and it is reported that about 8,000 trees are now ready for tapping, which will be commenced as soon as the necessary hand machines are delivered.

**DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.****MISCELLANEOUS.**

- Alaska Treadwell.**—75 cents per share, against \$1.  
**Alaska United.**—40 cents per share, against 20 cents.  
**Bradford Dyers.**—On the ordinary for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable 1st prox., same as a year ago.  
**British and Benington's.**—Interim of 3d. per share on the ordinary, payable 1st prox.  
**Crossley Bros.**—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary. First dividend on the ordinary since 1912.  
**Dominion Bank (Canada).**—Usual quarterly of 3 per cent., payable Sept. 1.  
**Godfrey Phillips.**—Interim of 5 per cent. (1s. per share) on the ordinary for 1915. This is the first payment since 1910, when 4 per cent. was paid.  
**John Moir.**—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. For the whole of the preceding year the dividend was 7½ per cent., but no interim payment was made.  
**John Spencer and Sons.**—Final on the ordinary at 3½ per cent., making 6 per cent. for the past year, the same as for 1913-14.  
**Linen Thread.**—Interim of 3 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary and 3 per cent., less tax, on the preferred, same as last year.  
**London and Edinburgh Shipping.**—10 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary for the year, same as last year.  
**Peter Robinson.**—Interim for half-year ended July 31, 1915, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as last year.  
**Planters' Stores and Agency.**—20 per cent. per annum (10 per cent. actual) for half-year ended March 31, against 10 per cent. a year ago.  
**Sir J. L. Hulett and Sons.**—8 per cent. for the year ended June 30, against 5 per cent.  
**Sons of Gwalia.**—Interim at the rate of 6d. per share, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.  
**Stewarts and Lloyds.**—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary for half-year ended June 30. A year ago the distribution was the same, and 6d. per share was paid on the deferred.  
**Straker-Squire (1913).**—Interim of 1s. per share (5 per cent.), less tax, payable 31st inst., on account of current year ending Dec. 31, against 4 per cent.  
**Tyneside Electrical Development.**—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary and 5 per cent. on the amount paid up on the deferred ordinary for half-year ended July 31.  
**Waste Heat and Gas Electrical Generating Stations.**—Interim of 2½ per cent. in respect of half-year ended July 31, payable (less tax) on Aug. 31.  
**Zungon Tin.**—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30 last.

**Answers to Correspondents.**

**\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

**A. B. C.**—There will be such a lot of money wanted to repair the damages that we do not think you should average now. There will be plenty of time. Just hold your bonds and wait.

**Edina.**—(1) Yes, this is not a bad purchase at the current price, as the outlook of the company is favourable. (2) At present this concern is in a bad fix, owing to the loss of its German business, and in this case we think you should wait. Do not sell the shares you have, because there is a good prospect that things will mend by-and-by, but prices are quite likely to recede further.

**M. D.**—It seems a pity to sell at a loss, for the shares will probably advance again by-and-by. The immediate prospect, however, is not good, and if the loss is small, it might be better to realise before prices slip further back.

**H. P. D.**—We think you should take advantage of the present price, as you can reinvest on better terms.

**Erom.**—We see no objection to a further purchase.

**S. A. N.**—Either of the first two might be purchased if you are prepared to wait. Prices will probably fluctuate. The third we do not think you should touch.

**C. E. M.**—We think it would; better leave it alone.

**National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., London.**—A branch has been opened at Luderitzbucht, in the territory hitherto known as German South-West Africa.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## RUBBER SECURITIES.

The ordinary general meeting of Rubber Securities, Ltd., was held on Tuesday, at the registered offices of the company, 7, Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. W. A. Addinsell (chairman of the company) presiding.

The representative of the secretaries (Messrs. Bright and Galbraith, Ltd.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The result of the company's operations for the year shows that a net profit of £844 has been made, which compares with an adverse balance of £450 for the previous year. The item of general expenses, which includes discount and interest charges exceeding £800, secretarial fees and office rent, and other general expenses, shows a decrease of £355 compared with last year. You will also notice that the directors' fees show a decrease of £291. In order to reduce the expenses of the company as much as possible, the directors have each decided to forego £50 of their fees to June 30, 1915, and the amount debited in the profit and loss account is still unpaid. Sundry creditors show an increase of £4,723. This increase is mainly due to the amounts which have since been called up on our investments, and which were outstanding at June 30. The 1914 balance-sheet showed that the contingent liability on our shares was £4,407, whereas at June 30 last it stood at £877 only. The bills payable are £3,200 less than last year. On the assets side of the balance-sheet investments, after transferring £18,584 to "depreciation suspense account," stand at £47,623. The amount advanced for upkeep of our property in Ceylon has been reduced by £205, the cash received from sale of produce being in excess of expenditure. Although only 161 acres of the total area of 1,245 acres owned by this company are in bearing, this portion is now self-supporting, and it is anticipated that the amount already advanced for upkeep will be gradually eliminated. The crop for last year was 12,618 lbs. The produce was sold locally, and the average nett price obtained was 1s. 10½d. per lb. That deals with the items on the accounts with the exception of the figure of £18,584, which, you see, the directors have transferred to the depreciation suspense account. I am not here to defend the underwriting of the Kifulu company. It needs no defence. If that had been a huge success we should have received your congratulations, and because it has turned out unsuccessful there is nothing for the directors to be ashamed of, or for the shareholders to be afraid of. You will remember—those of you who were shareholders then—that the slump after the rubber boom had commenced when we brought out the Kifulu company, and, as stated in the report, we met with nothing like the response that was anticipated. We hope it will still prove of considerable interest to us. Still, we do not wish shareholders to think they have an asset which is not represented by real and substantial effects, and therefore, although we are extremely sorry, and the matter has been a source of considerable anxiety to the board for some time, we feel bound to treat it in the way we have. With regard to our remaining investments, it may be of interest to you to know that the list in your hand represents 29 investments, of which 15 only are at the present time dividend-payers, these representing 57 per cent. of our holding. The other 14 are non-dividend payers, and represent 43 per cent. of our holding. Assuming that the price of rubber is fairly well maintained at something in the neighbourhood of its present figure, and if producing companies by forward contracts do not interfere with the selling price and reduce it unduly, I think we may get a very excellent result from our investments. It is with every confidence that I ask for your continued patience, and I hope that within the next year or two Rubber Securities, Ltd., will be placed in the dividend-paying list again.

Mr. T. A. Gallie seconded the resolution, which, after some discussion, was carried.

**WALLER AND SON, LTD.**—For the year ended June 30 the nett profits amounted to £18,004, a decrease of £957, but £776 more was brought forward, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 7 per cent. After again placing £5,000 to reserve (raising it to £60,000), £5,198 or £580 less remains to be carried forward. Sundry loans amounting to £8,000 have been paid off during the year; otherwise the changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant.

**MANCHESTER DOCK AND WAREHOUSE EXTENSION CO., LTD.**—Profit for the year closed June 24 last was £34,601 after meeting expenses and debenture interest. This is £3,036 more than in the previous year, but charges, including the first instalment on the sinking fund of the preference share capital, took away all but £838 of this increase. The directors, however, think themselves warranted in adding ¼ per cent. to the dividend paid on the ordinary shares, making it 5½ per cent. for the year. That will leave £213 more at £982 to be carried forward, subject to the quite modest directors' fees. Last year £72,288 additional in capital was spent upon the new sheds, grain elevator, &c., that addition including £15,952 of expenses connected with the issue of preference shares. The total outlay to date, including engineering charges, is thus brought up to £314,700, that being over and above the £500,000 set down as cost of the dock and transit sheds, together with the £15,000 of formation expenses still carried as an asset. Cash rose last year by £9,159 to £33,662, but loans to municipal corporations fell by £55,652 to £43,473.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and August 14, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 14, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to August 15, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,893,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
<b>REVENUE.</b>		<b>83,450,952</b>	<b>10,434,519</b>
Customs .....	37,450,000	14,214,000	12,721,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	18,964,000	12,641,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	13,623,000	11,053,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	2,332,000	3,345,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	13,900,000	7,076,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	41,000	50,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	9,900,000	10,740,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	160,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	189,933	784,466
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,007,218	788,291
<b>Revenue .....</b>	<b>267,232,000</b>	<b>74,661,151</b>	<b>59,628,757</b>
<b>Total, including Balance .....</b>		<b>158,112,103</b>	<b>70,063,276</b>
<b>OTHER RECEIPTS.</b>			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		280,000	525,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	100,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		348,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £213,218,000 in 1915-16 and £1,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		214,218,000	15,720,000
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>756,652,448</b>	<b>87,158,276</b>
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 14, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to August 15, 1914.
<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	11,910,171	8,860,775
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	521,800	—
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,431,000	694,395	486,321
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	1,862,640	1,813,447
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,000	774,078	677,787
Supply Services .....	740,496,000	407,288,793	70,908,544
<b>Expenditure .....</b>	<b>804,476,000</b>	<b>423,051,877</b>	<b>82,746,274</b>
<b>OTHER ISSUES.</b>			
For Advances for Bullion .....		475,000	750,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		21,912,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		830,000	1,150,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		60,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-12—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		50,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	53,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (Treasury Bills) .....		30,562,000	—
<b>Balances in Exchequer—</b>	<b>1915. Aug. 14.</b>	<b>1914. Aug. 15.</b>	
Bank of England .....	101,245,815	1,544,589	102,050,534
Bank of Ireland .....	804,719	765,899	2,310,488
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>756,652,448</b>	<b>87,158,276</b>

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 14, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	£165,419,000
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£237,919,000</b>

\* Includes £25,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August 16, 1915

Barclay and Co. (Bankers).—At an extraordinary general meeting, held on Thursday, the resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on July 29, altering Clause 3 of the memorandum of association, by which the "objects" of the company are enlarged, was unanimously confirmed as a special resolution.

It is pointed out by the London Office of the Italian State Railways that, contrary to the general impression, practically the whole of Italy is accessible to tourists at the present time, including the North-Eastern part of the country, where, in Venice for instance, there are numerous visitors, including many English and French people. On the Lido, also, all the hotels are open, and the bathing facilities are well patronised. The same conditions also prevail on the Lakes, in the Italian Alps, and at the other Italian summer resorts.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Aug. 13	£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 13	3,948	+ 20	121,093	+ 10,574
Grand Canal ..	" 13	1,249	— 171	6,924	— 780
Great Northern ..	" 13	24,860	— 3,540	733,810	+ 19,960
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 13	36,069	— 610	1,037,317	+ 88,597
Midland Great Western ..	" 13	12,831	+ 130	403,246	+ 11,796

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	June *	£	£	£	£
Beira ..	June *	30,095	— 14,638	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	July 31	391,100	— 87,300	1,206,100	— 338,200
Canadian Pacific ..	Aug. 14	1,815,000	— 347,000	11,049,000	— 383,000
Egyptian Delta ..	July 20	4,142	— 1,961	43,372	— 21,499
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Aug. 14	162,670	— 15,195	4,867,185	— 475,405
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	30,308	— 493	906,123	— 10,129
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	13,408	+ 2,476	313,445	+ 14,781
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc.	" 14	11,933	— 2,076	68,100	— 34,260
Mashonaland ..	June *	45,720	— 14,891	184,435	— 141,979
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	July *	4,913	— 4,545	98,694	— 48,528
New Cape Central ..	" 24	1,759	+ 235	54,726	— 1,217
Rhodesia ..	June *	69,940	— 14,563	360,158	— 152,454
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Aug. 7	850,239	—	—	—

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. † April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	July 10	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 10	1,36,000	+ 12,049	19,31,079	+ 56,645
Barsi Light ..	" 10	15,300	— 21,000	3,28,100	— 1,32,000
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 17	3,29,740	+ 32,255	60,70,218	+ 8,44,979
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 17	7,95,000	+ 162,000	1,24,12,000	+ 1,86,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 14	8,13,000	+ 1,25,000	2,88,11,000	+ 8,40,000
Burma ..	July 10	3,41,670	— 44,799	58,21,718	— 10,27,516
Delhi Umballa ..	Aug. 7	52,900	— 2,478	12,21,262	+ 1,69,192
East Indian ..	" 14	17,74,000	— 1,03,000	4,11,61,000	+ 4,89,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	July 7	1,16,61,000	+ 109,000	2,91,97,769	+ 9,46,671
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 17	33,638	+ 5,308	6,35,378	— 33,134
Madras and S. ..	" 17	8,35,000	— 29,275	1,46,84,520	+ 2,05,889
Mahratta ..	" 17	1,02,390	— 5,528	18,15,889	+ 1,40,662
Nizam's Guarantee'd	" 17	29,542	+ 146	5,92,500	+ 3,079
Rohilkhand and ..	" 17	5,32,478	— 27,295	88,19,123	+ 4,70,786
Kumaon ..	Mar. 8	6,89,429	— 1,15,571	37,46,996	+ 6,23,212
Southern Punjab ..	" 17	—	—	—	—

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Aug. 7	£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 7	751,000	+ 33,000	4,356,000	+ 374,000
Chicago G.W. ..	July 31	361,000	+ 2,000	1,164,000	+ 22,000
Colorado & South'n ..	Aug. 7	245,000	— 10,000	714,000	— 16,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug. 7	470,000	+ 19,000	2,435,000	+ 19,000
Louisv'e & Nashv't ..	July 31	1,528,000	+ 75,000	4,452,000	+ 351,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	July 21	516,000	— 14,000	1,523,000	+ 107,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Aug. 7	586,000	+ 17,000	3,107,000	+ 212,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Aug. 7	1,125,000	+ 4,000	5,834,000	+ 546,000
Southern ..	July 31	1,731,000	— 159,000	5,123,000	+ 582,000

† 10 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé ..	June	2,950,000	+ 376,000	12	36,051,000	+ 3,937,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	412,000	— 63,000	12	7,042,000	+ 2,016,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,203,000	+ 1,719,000	12	27,891,000	+ 1,130,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	335,300	— 128,000	12	4,828,700	+ 1,523,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	2,678,000	— 657,000	12	33,575,000	+ 8,851,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,080,000	+ 187,000	12	11,793,000	+ 811,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,859,000	+ 301,000	12	22,252,000	+ 490,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	1,640,000	+ 431,000	11	28,499,000	+ 205,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	203,000	+ 15,000	11	3,092,000	+ 51,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	2,823,000	+ 566,000	12	24,717,000	+ 1,900,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	May	804,000	+ 348,000	11	12,985,000	+ 902,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	169,000	+ 45,000	11	3,313,000	+ 749,000
Cuba ..	June *	457,571	+ 25,387	12	5,266,714	+ 42,943
Do. ..	"	185,040	+ 28,864	12	1,873,684	+ 232,779
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	667,000	+ 1,000	6	3,531,000	+ 493,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	May	593,000	+ 93,000	11	5,864,000	+ 233,000
Erie ..	June	1,545,000	+ 27,000	6	6,332,000	+ 577,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£275,100	+ £15,900	6	£1,031,750	+ £22,350
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£26,700	+ £21,900	6	£19,700	+ £27,400
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	£6,300	+ £10,100	6	£20,100	+ £27,450
Gt. Northern ..	"	1,686,000	+ 214,000	12	29,373,000	+ 1,351,000
Illinois Central ..	"	486,000	— 382,000	12	10,879,000	+ 365,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	139,000	— 197,000	12	2,983,000	+ 509,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	3,680,000	+ 284,000	12	12,579,000	+ 496,000
Louisville & Nashv'l ..	May	829,000	+ 227,000	11	9,218,000	+ 2,274,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	337,000	— 63,000	11	7,599,000	+ 104,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	358,000	— 199,000	12	8,320,000	+ 1,831,000
Missouri Pacific ..	May	778,000	— 118,000	11	11,962,000	+ 1,027,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	4,854,000	+ 1,679,000	6	18,331,000	+ 6,632,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	1,738,000	+ 478,000	11	15,859,000	+ 2,525,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	185,000	— 90,000	12	3,141,000	+ 40,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,559,000	+ 424,000	12	13,229,000	+ 334,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,104,000	— 202,000	12	21,559,000	+ 783,100
Pennsylvania East ..	"	8,456,000	+ 1,041,000	6	28,749,000	+ 2,102,000
Reading ..	May	556,091	+ 114	11	6,119,201	+ 57,204
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	946,000	+ 700,000	11	11,819,000	+ 1,744,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	473,000	+ 73,000	11	4,890,000	+ 1,516,000
Southern ..	June	1,139,000	+ 368,000	12	13,400,000	+ 2,911,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	3,598,000	+ 568,000	12	35,689,000	+ 2,005,000
Union Pacific ..	"	2,826,000	+ 266,000	12	30,180,000	+ 1,446,000
Wabash ..	May	295,000	+ 17,000	11	5,692,000	+ 320,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production week Aug. 12 :—225,050 poods (or 3,630 tons).

New Schibaeff Petroleum.—Production week Aug. 15 :—Gross 92,350 poods (or 1,490 tons). Nett 55,710 poods (or 899 tons).

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened an agency at Macleantown, near King William's Town, Cape Province.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 14	Ps. 8,000	— Ps. 5,000	Ps. 412,200	— Ps. 30,250	
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 15	26,890	+ 4,660	742,595	— 413,619	
Arauco ..	June *	5,250	— 712	41,875	— 10,374	
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 14	7,106	+ 2,236	39,924	+ 6,534	
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	July *	3,655	— 70	26,573	+ 5,921	
Bolivar ..	"	7,000	+ 505	7,000	+ 505	
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	— M239,757	M12,681,000	— M787,340	
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Feb. *	M18,28,250	+ M6,250	M55,750	— M10,250	
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 14	85,000	+ 30,000	531,000	+ 59,000	
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 15	85,000	+ 27,000	515,968	+ 5,967	
Do. Western ..	" 15	45,000	+ 18,000	283,000	+ 29,000	
Central Argentine ..	" 14	106,200	+ 26,200	743,200	+ 72,200	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 14	10,225	+ 1,679	67,225	+ 6,843	
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 14	3,337	+ 797	21,729	+ 3,995	
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 14	1,957	+ 290	11,847	+ 1,106	
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 14	1,236	+ 139	8,663	+ 758	
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	— 500	37,900	+ 1,733	
Cordoba Central ..	Aug. 14	36,150	+ 705	241,600	+ 6,430	
Costa Rica ..	July 17	4,903	— 3,355	11,624	— 9,999	
Cuban Central ..	Aug. 7	6,632	— 113	40,719	+ 3,223	
Dorada Extension ..	July *	5,500	— 2,500	53,000	+ 6,600	
Entre Rios ..	Aug. 14	8,700	+ 1,500	56,500	+ 1,800	
Gt. South. of Spain ..	" 7	Ps. 66,665	+ Ps. 3,554	Ps. 1,836,240	— Ps. 394,545	
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 14	6,700	— 500	321,700	+ 104,300	
Havana Central ..	" 14	5,528	— 64	33,095	+ 1,120	
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	June *	17,261	— 3,025	128,878	+ 5,112	
La Guaira and Car. ..	July *	6,750	— 2,250	49,000	+ 19,500	
Leopoldina ..	Aug. 14	27,652	+ 9,802	922,019	+ 102,503	
Manila ..	" 14	3,397	+ 1,550	183,051	+ 37,112	
Midland Uruguay ..	July *	10,213	+ 511	10,213	+ 511	
Mogiana ..	Apl. *	M1,313,000	— M125,225	M6,570,000	+ M517,804	
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	22,300	— 333	232,228	— 66,325	
Nitrate ..	Aug. 15	16,485	— 1,942	192,371	+ 249,959	
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	— 12,627	8,634	— 12,627	
Paraguay Central ..	Aug. 14	44,480	+ 222,000	2,524,000	+ 888,000	
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	— M59,123	M7,330,000	+ M330,662	
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	July *	724,838	— 262,661	724,838	— 262,221	
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	May *	3,737	— 513	19,858	— 1,392	
Salvador ..	Aug. 14	18,500	+ 2,166	222,043	+ 10,476	
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 8	42,606	+ 15,536	440,000	+ 176,687	
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	— M132,722	M5,440,000	+ M94,558	
Taital ..	June *	10,500	+ 14,720	12,386	+ 176,687	
United of Havana ..	Aug. 14	22,992	+ 3,861	154,499	+ 24,218	
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 6	64,400	+ 6,200	403,900	+ 54,300	
Uruguay Northern ..	July *	1,787	+ 232	1,787	+ 232	
West'n of Havana ..	Aug. 7	5,274	— 928	28,631	+ 4,866	
Zafra and Huelva ..	June *	7,061	— 6,058	43,248	+ 42,578	

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. † c Nett. † 15 days.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	—	£	£
Bath Electric ..	Aug. 14	10,406	+	1,514	+	305,238
Bristol ..	Aug. 13	6,215	+	—	+	195,566
British Elec. Fed. ..	Aug. 12	1,621	+	294	+	27,703
Dublin United ..	" 12	1,042	—	60	+	17,456
Gearless Motor Bus ..	" 11	1,739	+	160	+	55,045
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 11	4,518	+	1,864	—	812,227
Isle of Thanet ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire United ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
London Cnty. Cncl. ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
London General ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
London United ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Elec. ..	"	—	—	—	—	—
Nat. Steam Car ..	Aug. 14	2,855	+	568	+	96,640
Provincial ..	Aug. 4	813	+	33	40	22,446
South Metropolitan ..	Aug. 4	813	+	33	40	22,446
Sunderland District ..	Aug. 4	813	+	33	40	22,446
Tramways (M.E.T.) ..	Aug. 15	1,608	+	28	33	52,165
Yorks. (Wst. Rdnq.) ..	Aug. 15	1,608	+	28	33	52,165



# The Investors' Review.

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## Passing Events.

It is a pity that exigencies of space forbid the reproduction of Sir Edward Grey's letter in reply to the German Chancellor, but it has been published in all daily papers throughout the Kingdom, and will, as he intimates, be supported in due time by the publication of further official documents. It is a letter great beyond praise in its calm dignity and lucid presentment of facts. One sentence in it just at the end is the complete expression of the views about the war continually insisted upon in this journal. "The speeches of the German Chancellor and Finance Minister," says Sir Edward, "make it appear that Germany is fighting for supremacy and tribute. If that is so, and as long as it is so, our Allies and we are fighting and must fight for the right to live, not under German supremacy, but in real freedom and safety." That is the obligation the German aggressor lays upon us all, and it means continued willingness on our part to make sacrifices of all kinds until the objects for which we buckled on our armour have been attained. They will, they must be.

Great events draw near. The next two months will probably witness the supreme agony of the war in France and Belgium, but the Allies there and in Italy and Russia are braced up, armed and ready for the ordeal, ready to support each other at the given signal with all their might. And the news this Friday morning is essentially good. Sir Edward Grey's manly letter is followed by the Tsar's equally noble message to France, sent through M. Jean Cruppi, ex-French Minister of Justice. "The peasants say thee and thou to me," said the Emperor Nicholas. "Every day I receive addresses from them—'Go forward and be firm; we are always behind thee.' And his final words were these: 'I have always present in my mind the firm language which the President of the Republic addressed to me on July 22 at the moment he was leaving Russia. France may rely upon my unshakable will to fight on until victory crowns our efforts.' Hard on the heels of this brave message came the news that the great fortress of Brest-Litovsk had fallen into the hands of the Prussians. Well, it was expected by them to do so more than a fortnight ago. Its occupation now must have cost them many thousands of troops and millions of pounds sterling, and its value to them is just nil.

The Reichstag is said to have gone wild over the news as it was given them—"The fortress stormed; 60 miles' pursuit of the fleeing Russians," &c. It is welcome to its joy, and the financial necessities of the Kaiser's Government compel his functionaries to flare ever higher and higher in the audacity of their misrepresentation in order, if possible, to conjure that new war loan out of the exhausted Empire. The truth doubtless is that the Russians left the fortress when it no longer suited them to hold on to it, and neither there nor at Kovno, or Ivangorod, or Novo-Georgievsk, nowhere, in fact, can the "conquerors" claim the capture of large garrisons. They boasted in regard to Novo-Georgievsk the taking of more than twice the entire number of troops left by the Russian generals to defend it. And most of what they say about the booty in guns and material seized by them is equally astray from the truth. But there is no help for it; they must lie with an intensified fury, and misrepresent the results of the fighting and manœuvring on every battle front, because they must. However bravely they fight, too, the Germans are pressing on to their destruction. As regards Russia, take this reminder given by the Petrograd correspondent of the *Morning Post*:—"Russia has been retiring steadily for months, yet every army, every corps, division, brigade, and regiment remain properly incorporated. No fighting force in all the history of the world's wars, I will not say of such magnitude, for, of course, no armies of so many millions have ever taken the field before, but no fighting force representing any nation has ever carried out such a steady retirement, for so long and so far, without losing in the slightest degree its corporate organisation as a fighting force. It is only in the German war news that the suggestion has been made somewhat broadly that the Russians are not retiring, but running away in an increasing state of confusion. We are rather pleased here that the Germans should think so, but those Germans who really matter, namely, the German armies, have good cause to know better."

It is to be hoped that German agents here will show diligence in transmitting the latest Exchequer returns to their newspapers. The figures should console them much, for, taken in the gross, they show an apparent expenditure of £819,000,000 since April 1 last. Nearly half this sum is product of cross entries, but that need not hinder the wonderful Dr. Helfferich from demon-



strating to his sympathetic audience, Socialist and other, in the Reichstag, that we are ruining ourselves much faster than Germany is. Last week's expenditure alone apparently somewhat exceeds Germany's at £46,965,000 merely on supply services. These supply services have cost us in all £454,254,000 since the beginning of the present financial year, or £378,245,000 more than in the corresponding period of last year, which contained little more than three weeks of war, and of the total at least £400,000,000 is war costs. It is a stupendous outlay, and it will go on for some considerable time, not, perhaps, quite at this pace, but in magnitude sufficient to impress upon every citizen the necessity of exercising self-denial. Weeks ago we said that we should have to *give* next time the Government came for money, rather than lend. But at last we are receiving some help from the extra taxation, whereas one of the most significant statements in Dr. Helfferich's speech to the Reichstag was the admission that new taxes could not be imposed; all the war outlay had to be borrowed. Germany will soon have nothing left to tax, whereas in the current year up to last Saturday, the latest date for which we have figures, additional taxation gave the Exchequer £17,521,000 more than last year, and there is still wealth in the country waiting to be taxed. Our nett expenditure to date has been just about £3,000,000 per diem, and it may not be much less for the remainder of the war. But we must have patience and allow nothing, not even considerations of money waste, to deflect us in the slightest from our purpose.

Dr. Helfferich, the Finance Minister of the German Empire, gave a few statistics when he presented his Bill for £500,000,000 of fresh war credits to the Reichstag. He is to try to get this money by a public loan bearing 5 per cent. interest, to be offered at 99 to 99½, as compared with 97½ and 98½, the issue prices of the two previous loans. Why did he not make it par when about it? It will be a forced loan in any case, and bounce of the Teutonic type should not stumble over fractions. Up to date it seems, as stated last week, Germany will have raised, and has probably already spent, £1,500,000,000, although Dr. Helfferich said that the actual expenditure had so far been only £675,000,000. By no stretch of charity can we accept that as the truth, and this functionary rather gave himself the lie by admitting that the present monthly cost is about £100,000,000—or probably between three-fifths and three-quarters of the entire monthly expenditure of all the four leagued Powers taken together. He also admitted—so far as we can gather from the summaries of his speech sent over or translated for the *Daily Mail* by Mr. Wile—that Germany was poorer than either England or France, but claimed that within the first year of war the Savings Bank deposits had increased by £1,000,000,000. That also is German bounce—just a plain falsehood. The nominal figure may have expanded to that extent—although even that is most improbable—but of what do the so-called “deposits” consist? They cannot consist of cash saved and laid by, because there have been few sources available whence savings could be drawn except those connected with the war expenditure or the Junker fleecing of the working classes. But war costs have been met by sleights and seizures of credit amongst which the seizing of Savings Bank deposits was one. It is therefore fair to infer that this £1,000,000,000 of new deposits is Teutonic bluff. However, the learned doctor, being an expert banker, is able to console his countrymen by exaggerating or imagining the plight of the enemies the all-highest and holiest Kaiser has raised up. Great Britain is spending £4,000,000 a day, he told them, and he puts the total expenditure of all the Allies leagued against the barbarian at £350,000,000 a month, which is probably only £100,000,000 to £120,000,000 beyond the mark. To add to this poor consolation, moreover, he dangled before the German ass the carrot of “indemnities” to be exacted from the beaten foe. “If God grants us the victory and permits us to formulate a peace according to our wishes, we shall then not forget

the question of what our war costs have been.” Ay, Dr. Helfferich, but the Allies have also a God who is neither Wodin nor Thor—and they too have memories. The speaker, however, merely imitated Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg and other functionaries of the Prussian autocracy. “We shall make the countries we have attacked and endeavoured to destroy pay us back the costs of our war of aggression,” they keep repeating, and the stupid people purr with anticipatory satisfaction, counting in imagination the coin they behold flowing in from the beaten foe. As mere matter of policy this brigand language is indiscreet. If there were any flinching amongst the Allies of freedom—happily there is none, but, on the contrary, a daily increase in their harmony of purpose—the intimation that they were to be further ravaged if they laid down their arms and sought a peace would brace them to go on fighting until a Teutonic victory became an impossibility. It is not far from being that now. All the more reason for posturing, lying and promising the impossible in order to get the loan sold. Can buyers be found? No, not outside Germany—not even in Holland.

What authority a Munich newspaper has for its assertions we may not imagine, but its statements look not improbable, and therefore deserve quotation. It says that the terms of the third German War Loan have now been settled, and that it will be a 5 per cent. loan, issued at 99. The Government is ready to take all it can get, no limit being fixed, because liabilities to the amount of £675,000,000 “must be paid off before any portion of the new loan will be available for current war expenses.” That confession, if true, explains much, and might induce sanguine views about the early conclusion of the war were the Germans less firmly rooted in their own conceit. The public is urged to sell out foreign securities and invest the proceeds in the new loan, which also is interesting, seeing that all foreign markets, except those of the United States, and possibly Amsterdam, are closed to the happy Fatherland. Small investors are specially coaxed and urged to contribute to the utmost extent of their means. No doubt they will, and they can pawn the securities they already hold, including the previous war loans, to make a stunning show. One way or another we may be sure that the loan will be well staged, and even the Kaiser may sink part of his Krupp profits in it. But why is not the price raised to par? Has not the “success” of the German fleet which visited the Gulf of Riga in scuttling its own ships to block the entrance channel, shutting itself in, which seems to be the proper interpretation of the Berlin official news, prompted Dr. Helfferich to show with more emphasis how strong the empire is? The “point” conceded would not be enough to tempt us, but you cannot account for German sentimentality.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had to intervene in the conscription hustle of the Harmsworths, that, of course. A long letter of his was published in Monday's *Daily Chronicle*, in which he suggested a “compromise,” although nobody particularly asked him to. To worry Lord Kitchener and gratify his own spites, Lord Northcliffe has ordered the splurgists or whipped-soda-water “experts” on his *Times* and *Daily Mail* staffs to advocate conscription, now named “National Service.” In doing so he ignores the fact that by voluntary enlistment Lord Kitchener has assembled in less than one year the largest and most finely organised army any nation ever got together. So many men have flocked to the colours that the munition factories available have not yet been able to equip them all. Moreover, wherever any portion of this new army has had to take the field and encounter the foe, it has acquitted itself magnificently. No army could possibly have done better. These do not seem good grounds on which to found a yapping pro-German demand for the complete change in our military system, for the adoption of compulsory service in any form, but all that is nothing to the Harmsworthy peer. The only argument in favour of the change we have seen that would bear a moment's



consideration is not his, but the one bluntly confessed to by the *Spectator*—it would be "cheaper" than the voluntary army. But in the first instance it would cause an enormous increase in the military expenses, and also inextricable confusion. The whole agitation, indeed, is so wantonly unpatriotic that, in our opinion, the Government would not exceed its powers or do any permanent injury to the liberty of the Press were it to warn Lord Northcliffe that unless he stopped this pernicious hubbub his liberty to publish his newspapers would be suspended for a shorter or longer period, according to his persistence in the offence.

It is, however, just such a display of the malign spirit that attracts men of the type of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and he comes forward in that long letter of his to suggest the creation of local recruiting committees in parishes or groups of parishes. To these committees he would assign the job of the inquisitor, the suborner, the petty tyrant. They would call everybody before them and examine them as to their capacity to march and be killed, and, of course, stand ready to proclaim the infamy of those who felt disinclined to go to the front. The letter is a pitiful exhibition of ignorance, but only such as we daily find in the Press. Nothing has amused us more than to see such a procession of celebrated—more and less—writers of tales coming forward to teach the nation strategy and tactics. There was one novelist the other day—never mind his name—who discoursed upon the stupidity of those people who could imagine that the experience of 1812 could be repeated in 1915. As far as we could make out, the core of his argument lay in the statement that, unfortunately, Napoleon happens to be dead. So it was quite in the order of events that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle should early volunteer to teach the Government how to manage its recruiting. Happily, a man of sense saw the letter, and wrote the following reply, which ought to put an end to this sort of nonsense; would do so, only that a certain class of mind must write and write without knowledge just because it must. Mr. J. M. Bulloch is an able journalist and an earnest student, and his letter is so good that we print it:—"Sir A. Conan Doyle's alternative for 'conscription' is simply a variant on an old friend, the 'Comprehending Act' of 1778 (18 Geo. III., cap. 53). Under it, 'all able-bodied idle and indifferent persons who cannot upon examination prove themselves to exercise and industriously follow some lawful trade or employment, or to have some substance sufficient for their support and maintenance' could be impressed. The officials charged with enforcing the measure were various: local authorities, churchwardens, and specially appointed constables had power to search for and apprehend the victims and bring them before a Justice of the Peace. But, though squires and churchwardens and others in authority were much more powerful than now, the Act soon proved a complete failure, and became a dead letter. Indeed, all compulsory measures introduced to help us to raise soldiers against France ultimately had to be abandoned, and in due course the Militia ballot, never popular, had to go. As for 'bribes,' of which we hear so much, some people may be astonished to learn that £20 was quite a common bounty for a recruit, and the figure ran up frequently to twice that amount. What a pity people will not study this problem from the basis of our past experience!" That should be enough for Sir A. C. Doyle, but Lord Northcliffe is another story.

What a pity it is that sub-editors of daily papers do not have time to instruct themselves a little now and then. Some days ago a paragraph went the round of the Press to the effect that Australia, which enjoys conscription, is prepared to furnish 1,250,000 men if need be, to fight the battle of the Empire in Europe. That kind of story is calculated to do the Colonies infinite mischief by raising in the minds of the ignorant who read newspapers to increase their ignorance an idea that the numbers actually sent are far short of Australia's capacity. As a matter of fact, the entire

population of Australasia is only about 6,000,000 men, women and children. Of that total less than 3,250,000 are males of all ages, and this means that a contribution of 1,250,000 fighting men to the ranks would involve the stripping of Australasia, that is to say, of Australia and New Zealand, of all males between 18 and 60 years of age. There would be no men left, in fact, in those States, marriageable or other, and in order to repeople them, we might have to arrange for the deportation to Australasia of a million or two of people from the countries of the defeated Huns and their Allies. Surely newspaper editors do not wish to bring about a catastrophe of that description. Did they get the paragraph from a German news agency, and put it in without question? Australia and New Zealand have covered themselves with ineffaceable fame by the way they have helped us in our fight, by their magnificent conduct in the Dardanelles conflict. Is this yarn about providing 1,250,000 men cunningly designed to tarnish that fame?

One success German diplomacy has had—it has forced Italy to declare war against Turkey. That step has seemed inevitable from the time when Italy declared war against Austria, but the German-prompted intrigues of the Turks in Libia, as well as their abominable treatment of Italians within the Turkish Empire, forced the hands of the Rome Government, and probably made it take the final plunge earlier than it otherwise would. What the immediate consequences will be we do not know, but it is likely enough that such vessels of her navy as Italy can spare will be sent to help the French and ourselves in the Dardanelles, and possibly some troops may be spared to assist in the Gallipoli Peninsula warfare as well, although the arduousness of Italy's own task in the North should make us unwilling to accept that help if it can be done without. Looking further ahead, however, it is plain that this declaration of war puts the crown upon Italy's claim to the hegemony, not only of the Adriatic, but of the Ægean. That follows, not only because the Italian Government has thus definitely placed itself alongside its Allies in the world war against the brigand empire, and in a field outside its own immediate objective, but because that other diplomatic, or family, success of the Kaiser's, the intimidation of Greece, has, along with the covetous shilly-shallying of Bulgaria, reduced the Balkan States as a group to impotence, and deprived them of the power to take their legitimate share in the struggle for freedom. Is this an inviting prospect? We think so, because the more we study the Italian people and Italian public policy, the more are we disposed to trust them. Italy is not going to follow the footsteps of the tyrannical Habsburgs, and Italian hegemony will therefore mean liberty to all within limits securing each from the danger of outside aggression. As a strong and progressive power Italy's dominance is thus distinctly a gain for all those nationalities and fragments of nationalities that impinge upon, or cling to, the Eastern side of the Adriatic and the Ægean with the adjacent island. Perhaps, too, this step on the part of Italy will hasten the formation of a new Balkan league of concord, especially with M. Venizelos once more at the head of affairs in Greece, and presumably free to carry out a definite policy of loyal alliance with the four Allied Powers. Bulgaria remains the centre of anxiety and trouble, but even Bulgaria may be induced to moderate its claims when its rulers see that Italy means to have a determining voice in all that relates to the interstate policy of the Balkan communities.

Several obscure points in the report of Lipton, Ltd., with which we dealt fully last week, were satisfactorily cleared up in the exceedingly frank statement made by Mr. Robertson Lawson, who presided at the annual meeting in the unavoidable absence of Sir Thomas Lipton through ill-health. It is more than ever evident that in the past there has been shocking muddle and mismanagement in the company's affairs, and up to a point we were inclined to sympathise with a shareholder's demand for a committee of investigation. But that is



the last refuge of forlorn hopes under existing conditions, and after Mr. Lawson's explanations we are glad that the suggestion was not pressed. We are now informed—and it might just as well have been made clear in the report—that the large increase of £218,000 odd in sundry debtors was due to the arrangement by which Sir Thomas Lipton is to make good losses to the extent of £248,000, this being a free gift and not a loan, as might have been supposed. The money has not yet been handed over, but the first instalment of £100,000 will be paid in a week or two, and as a definite arrangement had been arrived at, there is no reason to quibble about the amount being taken into the accounts at the end of the financial year, only the omission to state the exact facts rather tended to create a false impression. In the circumstances it would be futile and ungenerous to harp on past mistakes, especially as there seems excellent reason for hoping that they will be remedied in the future. We may put it on record, however, that the losses and insufficient allowance for depreciation were distributed as follows:—Plant, machinery, carts, horses, &c., £132,300; stock-in-trade, £52,500; leases premium account, £14,600; investments, £14,300; Australian advertising contracts, £7,200. These make a total of £220,900, which has been written off share premium account, and the remaining reserve fund of £145,000 is not particularly generous, in view of the amount of capital involved. Mr. Lawson disclosed the fact that the goodwill still stands at the original (and we must add, extravagant) figure of £1,445,620, but he promised that the writing down of this item would be taken in hand as soon as circumstances allowed. As it represents nearly 80 per cent. of the amount at which properties, &c., stand in the books, the necessity for dealing with the item must have impressed itself even on the old supine board long ago; but the shareholders have themselves to blame, as they were too intent on pocketing dividends to worry, and it is no use grumbling at this stage. There is still a magnificent business, and the new management must be given a free hand to try and restore it to the past condition of prosperity.

Much less war-induced damage has been done to the business of that well-known Lancashire company, Tootal Broadhurst Lee, Ltd., than might have been looked for; in fact, its profits for the year closed June 30 last show an increase of £9,449 at £85,725, and had there been no drawback there might have been scope for much satisfaction. As it is, however, the directors have deemed it necessary to take £42,000 out of the year's profits to be placed to a special reserve set aside to meet dividend and loss on debts owing in foreign countries affected by the war. That deduction brings down the year's profits to £32,551 less than they were a year ago, making them £43,725. Happily the amount of £71,609 brought forward was £43,348 higher than two years ago, so that the available total of £115,334 is £10,797 up, and after paying the preference dividend, the directors are able again to give the ordinary shares a return at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, all less tax, with £70,964 left to carry forward, or only £645 less than was brought in. That seems to show careful guidance, and there is nothing in the balance-sheet to temper the judgement. Cash, to be sure, is down about £2,800, but the total is still £85,633, and the balance-sheet now shows investments to the amount of £40,805, including the company's interest in British Dyes, Ltd., upon which there is an uncalled liability of £18,750. We still wait, by-the-by, to hear of the prosperous initiation of that enterprise about which our doubts mingle with our good wishes. Debts to sundry creditors are £50,394 lower at £333,125, but the trade debtors, stocks, &c., possessed by the company represent an asset £50,476 up at £1,273,939, and it might be well in future years to separate the amounts due by customers from the value of stocks, materials, and stores. It would help to a clearer understanding of the company's position without conveying any information useful to a rival. The value of property, less

depreciation, has risen £13,826 during the year to £361,106, but then last year the company completed the equipment of the new weaving sheds at the Bolton Mills, and made some additions to the machinery both in the spinning and weaving mills. Besides the special reserve above mentioned, the company has a general reserve, and some other small sums put aside, the total of which is £175,805.

Publications such as those owned by George Newnes, Ltd., which depend on their advertisement revenue for the greater part of their profit, have naturally suffered very severely during the past year. Sales, however, kept up well, and the directors seem to be very confident that the set-back is only temporary. Profits for the twelve months ended June 30 showed a shrinkage of £31,028 at £50,134, which brings them back almost to the level of 1912-13. The directors, however, had anticipated that the year would be a very difficult one, and to some extent made provision against it by reducing the dividend on the ordinary shares for 1913-14 from 15 per cent. to 10 and carrying forward £11,162 more at £12,001, so that the surplus now available is only £19,866 down at £62,135. Nothing can be put to the dividend equalisation fund, compared with £25,000 in each of the two previous years, but, on the other hand, it is possible, without having recourse to that fund, to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent. and still leave the balance carried out £5,134 larger at £17,135. Excluding £9,750 in the War Loans, the investments stand in the books at £41,173, and in view of the prevailing uncertainty as to market values the directors have decided to transfer £10,000 from the dividend equalisation fund to an investment depreciation account. Stock on hand has risen by £22,865 to £52,659, while debtors owe £30,403 less at £66,885. Cash, too, is £31,376 down at £69,737, but against this current liabilities have been reduced by £35,401 to £64,322. Shares in other companies show a small increase of £1,000 at £110,815, which is probably in connection with the purchase of sundry fashion papers which was completed in conjunction with C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd.

For the first time in its existence we have received the report of the Banco Popular Argentino, which was founded in 1867. Although purely an Argentine institution, the report and accounts are in French, the Argentine paper peso being converted into francs at the rate of Fr.2.20. The date of the accounts is April 30, so that the year then ended embraced nine months of our European war, and that it affected the banks of Argentina is only too evident from what the directors say. The Government, in fact, had to intervene with the decree of a twelve days' moratorium to enable banks to fend off the payment of depositors. Happily the banks were sufficiently strong in Argentina to dispense with this help, and this popular bank required neither moratorium nor rediscount of bills, nor anything at all by way of relief, to enable it to meet all the demands made upon it. That is surely a satisfactory record. Local difficulties attained their maximum during the first two months of the war. After that the welcome exportation of the country's products at good prices rapidly eased the economic situation, and when the remaining difficulties have been surmounted, it is probable that at the end of the war the country will be better off than before it began. At any rate this bank managed to make a profit of Fr.2,038,875, and after adding in the balance of Fr.69,380 brought forward, and deducting Fr.269,882 from the dividend guarantee fund, the directors were able to give the shareholders a dividend of 9 per cent., as also to assign various sums aggregating Fr.244,665 to the dividend guarantee fund, the benevolent fund, and to the president and council of administration. Since it was established this bank has, with one exception, paid a dividend every year, and for the three years preceding the one ended April 30 last, the distribution was at the rate of 13 per cent. The total of the balance-sheet is Fr.175,114,000, and the



largest amount of the commitments is in mortgages and advances of various descriptions, the aggregate of which is Fr.78,174,000. There is a reserve fund of Fr.11,549,000 alongside a paid-up capital of Fr.23,098,000.

Conditions last year were anything but favourable for the business of F. Steiner and Co., Turkey red dyers, and it is not surprising to find that the net profits for the twelve months ended July 31 showed a further decline. The decrease, however, is less serious than might have been expected, net profits being only £6,654 down at £24,762, after providing £30,445, or £5,734 less, for repairs and depreciation and writing £5,640 off investments against nothing last time. A much smaller balance of £11,280 was brought forward, and in order to meet the debenture interest and preference dividend £20,000 is taken from the reserve, which leaves £4,263 more at £15,542 to be carried forward. Property and goodwill account shows a decrease of £10,261 at £820,113 and investments are £1,890 down at £67,698. Sundry debtors have risen by £33,242 to £104,493, but stocks are £9,467 smaller at £633,671, and the bank balance of £35,238 shown a year ago has given place to an overdraft of £5,549, while cash is £2,808 down at £1,495. Against these the current liabilities have been reduced by £16,211 to £61,402.

What to say about Sandow's Cocoa and Chocolate Co., Ltd., we hardly know. It is always a thankless business to trounce a board of directors, because very often the men you thwack whose names are on the board are not the individuals who committed the indiscretion, or crime as it may be. From the first, however, this concern has been of the bubble company order, and when one discovers that the balance-sheet contains what may be called wind or waste assets to the nominal amount of about £310,000, it can cause no surprise that the business should stand in imminent risk of extinction. So bad is it that the directors say £10,000 must be found, else the inevitable result will be foreclosure by the debenture-holders and a total loss. Up to date the loss is put at £32,636, although it is claimed that there was a profit of £1,510 in hand last year after meeting debenture interest, whereas in the previous year there was an accumulated loss of £33,239. This, however, may not have been anything more than a feat of skilful bookkeeping, because the gross profit on sales was £9,721 down at £32,052. That is the result for the year ended April 30. Altogether the company's share capital is £350,000, of which one-half consists of 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and these naturally enough have never got any dividend. There is still £9,837 of preliminary expenses to pay off besides £5,500 due as commission on issue of debenture stock and £33,978 of "extraordinary" expenses. These items are carried on year after year, and goodwill stands in the balance-sheet at £176,861 gs. 1d. It might be worth the odd penny. What good can be done by raking together another £10,000 to be poured into this sink? We can see none, not even for the debenture creditors, and think the shareholders would be very much wiser to cut their loss and let the whole thing be wound up. Their only other chance is to get together as much money as might pay off the debenture stock and the mortgage on the Hayes property; but that would take not £10,000, but some £87,000, and nothing in the position of the business would warrant the getting together of any such amount of money. To create, however, as proposed, a pre-preference share endowed with the right to take 99 per cent. of the company's profits is only to prolong the agony just until all that money is spent. We cannot see the good of that.

A melancholy interest attaches to the second annual report of the Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Co., Ltd., covering the year 1914. Its president and financial organiser, Dr. F. S. Pearson, went down in the *Lusitania* along with his wife in May last. His report on the subsidiaries out of which this Brazilian Traction, Light and

Power Co. was evolved, was found in his pocket when the body was recovered, and the directors speak of his loss with the utmost regret, "feel it poignantly," because Dr. Pearson was a man whom they esteemed highly for his attractive personal qualities as well as for his sagacity and ability in dealing with the large affairs entrusted to his care. In the present circumstances, that regret may well be deeply felt, for the company suffered considerably last year through the confusion in Brazilian finance, and also through the effects of the war. So hurtful were the adverse influences that the exchange value of the milreis dropped as low as 10½d. in the last week of September. Business of all kinds was hung up, and in order to overcome the obstructions to the broader flow of remittances, the company purchased and shipped from Rio and Santos 278,400 bags of coffee, all of which has since been sold in New York at prices averaging an exchange value of 13 5-64-4d. per milreis. The transaction was therefore a good and profitable one, and in the mere matter of returns from the various enterprises the year was not so gloomy. This over-riding company is in control of three subsidiaries, the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Co., Ltd., the Sao Paulo Tramway, Light and Power Co., Ltd., and the Sao Paulo Electric Co., Ltd. It has also interests in other undertakings, and from all sources its income last year amounted to \$8,059,000 Canadian. Adding in the \$3,113,000 brought forward, there was altogether \$11,072,000 to be dealt with, and after meeting general charges and interest on floating loans, the board was able to give both the cumulative preference and the ordinary shares their 6 per cent. dividend paid quarterly, with \$3,822,000 left over. In the early part of last year new capital to the amount of £3,000,000 was authorised, two-thirds for the Rio company and one-third for the Sao Paulo company, and a portion has been used by both undertakings as collateral security. Certain of the company's securities and



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## HOLIDAYS IN THE COUNTRY

A holiday away from home is impracticable for many people this year, but a period of relaxation in the fresh air and sunshine is more than usually essential.

The needs of holiday-makers in this direction are met by the motor-buses which now run daily trips into the country. The full list is as follows:—

### Route No.

- 10A. Elephant & Castle and Loughton
- 10B. Elephant & Castle and Epping Town
- 21. Wood Green and Sidcup
- 27. Highgate and Twickenham
- 33. Liverpool Street and Richmond
- 37A. Herne Hill and Teddington
- 47. Shoreditch and Farnborough
- 84. Golders Green and St. Albans
- 85. Putney Bridge Station and Kingston
- 105. Ealing and Surbiton
- 107. Clapham Common and Epsom
- 136. Bromley and Westerham Hill
- 142. Kilburn Park Station and Watford
- 143. South Harrow Station & Bushey Heath
- 152. Stockwell and Caterham
- 160. Stockwell and Reigate

There are many more country services in operation on Sunday.



The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd., Electric Railway House, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



proceeds of coffee sales have also been pledged to secure bank loans and advances amounting to \$4,818,000. In addition to this, on December 31 last, \$973,000 was due on bills payable, and \$916,000 on current account liabilities, including unclaimed dividends. Amongst the assets, coffee in store and in transit is valued at \$2,810,000, and costs of shares and controlling rights in other companies as well as advances to subsidiaries, have increased by \$6,372,000 to a total of \$116,514. It will be seen from these figures that the undertaking is a very important one, and as it serves two of the greatest cities, or urban regions, in Brazil its prosperity ought to be assured if only the finances of that Republic could be put in order. As we have often insisted, they are not likely to be under the present Rothschild system of keeping up a show of solvency by continually adding to the public debt. Still, the businesses of this company are of a most substantial description, and evidently well managed. Dr. Pearson has been succeeded as president by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, of Toronto—presumably a son of Sir William Mackenzie, the company's chairman—and he is at present in Brazil looking after its affairs and those of the subsidiary companies.

An interesting scheme for the abolition of its preference shares has been propounded by the Anglo-French Exploration Co. These preference shares amount to £500,000 in £1 shares, carrying a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. It is proposed to give the holders in exchange £200,000 in cash and £300,000 in 4½ per cent. debentures to be redeemed at the rate of £15,000 a year. The reasons for the scheme are that the directors wish to reduce the capital, and that the payment of the preference dividend is sometimes a strain on the company. From the preference shareholder's point of view the scheme is not an unattractive one, for he will receive in cash two-fifths of his holding at par, and for the balance a better security, yielding a lower rate of interest, which, however, will not be dependent upon a valuation of the company's assets, as his dividends have hitherto been. Of course, the scheme will appeal to the ordinary shareholders, because the reduction of prior charges will improve to a corresponding extent their dividend prospects. Meetings of the two classes of shareholders will be held on September 15 to consider the scheme.

Contrary to expectations, there was some opposition at the meeting of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust, Ltd., to consider the proposals, which we have already outlined, for the liquidation of the company. The dissentients desired to adjourn the meeting in order to allow a committee of shareholders to examine the agreements, but it transpired that only one shareholder had taken the trouble to go to the offices of the company to look at the documents, and the obvious inference is that the great majority were quite content with the outline of the scheme furnished in the recent circular. This was confirmed by the voting, the resolutions being carried by 44,000 votes, while the opposition could only muster 176 all told. We are of opinion that the company is well out of its German entanglements on the terms arranged, and the directors showed an unusual amount of self-denial in agreeing to cut down their compensation from £23,000 to £10,000. So all ends happily, and we hope there will be no troublesome hitches in the final liquidation.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened branches at Windhuk, the capital of the territory hitherto known as German South-West Africa and at Swakopmund.

The "Wireless Press" announces that it has made arrangements for the regular reception of Italian official communiqués by wireless telegraphy direct from Italy in the original language. These will be translated, censored, and passed to the Press in the regular way. The advantages derived from reception in Italian are obvious.

The New South Wales revenue for the past financial year, amounting to £18,927,536, was £628,945 more than in 1913-14. Expenditure out of revenue was £18,071,561, an increase of only £117,251. The surplus on these returns would be £855,975. The cash surplus on the year's working would total £430,000.

## Heroic Russia and Dogged War.

Immeasurable was the relief, not only to us in the United Kingdom, and to France and Italy, but to the whole civilised world, when Monday morning brought us the news that the German fleet had been defeated in the Gulf of Riga and what was left of it obliged to make for home. At the end of last week the tension was excessive—not because there was any dread of a German victory real enough to paralyse our Ally, but because Russia seemed to be so hard-bested as to be in danger of having to retreat even to Moscow, and perhaps to evacuate Petrograd. A Russian official message was partly to blame for the depth of the anxiety. It was so curt, and suggested so gloomy a view of the position in the Gulf of Riga, that everybody inferred a defeat of the Russian fleet there. We thought that the channels leading into the Gulf from the Baltic had been forced by an overwhelming German fleet, and that the Russian one was not strong enough to make headway against it. When the full news came it was found that the German vessels had crept into the Gulf beneath a curtain of mist, that there had been no fighting in order to get in, but that when they had penetrated they were met by an enemy strong and resolute who soon gave them more than they reckoned on. Perhaps the greatest of all source of rejoicing was this revelation of the prowess of the Russian seaman. Not that we have despised that seaman, far from it, but the incidents in the Russo-Japanese war had led the whole world, and we, to regard him as a being sacrificed to corruption and incompetence in high places. That conception has proved to be altogether wrong in present circumstances. Russia's bitter experience in her last war has taught her much, and to-day even her Baltic fleet, which is comparatively small, because she has not had time to build it up to its full strength after the Japanese war, is ship for ship and man for man obviously much more than a match for the German one, and deeds of heroism have been performed by her seamen that make them worthy to stand side by side with those of France and Great Britain at their best. Could anything have been more heroic than the behaviour of the captain and crew of the "Sivutch," who fought on decks red-hot until their ship went down. Proud must our men be that they could help such fighters. It is "comrades all" henceforth, we hope, and a march forward in unison towards higher ideals and a broader civilisation when this war is over.

"But when will it be over?" Not this year, we are thankful to say. "Why thankful, you who predicted so long its early termination?" We did that, and also we did not; but the reason for the thankfulness is plain enough. The demon of brutal aggression, the lust of plunder, which has been revealed to us as possessing the population of the Germanic Empires, or the great majority thereof, has to be exorcised, and there is no other method of exorcism now available but that of killing them off. Germany dreads another winter campaign, we hear—and rejoice to hear it, because another winter campaign she is destined to go through with enormous loss of life. Our greatest dread with regard to Germany's progress in Russia was not that her troops might capture more fortresses and penetrate further into the country, but that they might succeed in out-manceuvring and surrounding some large portion of the Russian armies in the field, such a portion or portions as might have enabled the German staff to withdraw for a time all its troops except those required to hold certain posts, and either winter them in Germany, or send them to quarters more or less comfortable on the French and Belgian frontier. If the Germans had been able to capture Riga and to land troops there and at Pernau, they would have secured bases from which advances might have been made towards Petrograd or towards Dunaburg, and along the Duna River even to Smolensk, in this way paralysing the armies which have fought so splendidly in holding back the German onset from the West. Having failed in this feat, there seems no danger now of any such success of the Kaiser's troops in Russia as will



enable his generals to attend to the comfort of their armies or provide men enough to meet determined onsets by the Italians, the French, and ourselves, still less to allow Austria-Hungary, with German help, to form an army sufficiently numerous and well-equipped to force its way down through the Balkans to the Dardanelles. All that strain and demoniac haste to secure Russian fortresses has been in vain, the mere German statement of prisoners captured proves that, and we doubt if the glamour of making "victories" and Kaiserlich effusion and God-patronage will last even long enough to help the sale of the new loan.

More than a week ago now we were told that the Russians had been, or were about to be, compelled to surrender Brest-Litovsk. It was just about to fall as Kovno had fallen, as Novo-Georgievsk had fallen, and as Riga was expected to fall. But the Germans have not yet become possessed of the great Brest fortress, and their progress eastward becomes slower and more difficult every day. With a sublimity of self-sacrifice of which we can give no idea, the Russians are not only barring the way to the Germans at every point where they choose to make a stand, but so devastating the country which they forsake in their retreat as to increase the difficulties of the enemy, and render the misery of his progress and of his occupation of Russian lands excruciatingly great. That valuable correspondent the *Morning Post* has in Budapest—one of the best and most trustworthy of them all—gave the other day a description taken from the lips of an officer who had just returned from the Russian front of the manner in which the Russians were contesting the ground as they fell back, and of the devastation they left behind them. Speaking of the fighting round Grubieszov, where the Russian attacks were particularly severe, this officer observed:—"Every bit of ground had to be contested most heroically, and one may truly say that every square yard cost more men, in dead, than square miles in other places. Especially was this the case around Krylow, where the strategic retreat of the Russians began. At last we succeeded in throwing the Russians behind the Bug. The direction of their retreat was Wladimir-Wolhynski-Kovel, and its final objective Brest-Litovsk and the territory between the triangle. The Russian plan was quite clear at this point, namely, to shorten and thicken their line and to ensure communication with the second line of fortresses. The retreat itself was a piece of terrifying, but systematic devastation, recalling the retreat of 1812. An immense sea of flame indicated the line of the Russian retreat. The roads were lit with burning houses for miles and miles ahead. Near Sokel, in the vicinity of the St. Bernhard Convent, 200 blackened chimneys show where a Russian barrack hospital formerly stood. They took the sick with them, and burned the hospital. The army of General Mischenko was followed everywhere by well-organised Cossack detachments, whose task it was to burn everything behind the army. They did their work thoroughly. When the Hungarian Honvéds marched into Krylow, whole streets were burning, and the heat was too dangerous to allow them to pass. We left the town by passing around it, and found Wladimir-Wolhynski in the same state. Passing across this place, we could see the next town, Verba, in front of us burning; then followed seven other villages, and this sea of flames stretched deep into the plains of Wolhymo. Towards Kovel all the villages were burning. No shelter was to be found anywhere for days. The roads are the worst I ever saw, our trains came up 36 hours later than expected, and hunger almost drove us to despair. The wagons were sunk in mud to their axles, and it took 50 men to push them along for 100 yards at a time, although the men themselves trod in it up to their knees. The railway line between Sokel and Wolhynski is being built already by thousands and thousands of men, for if these are not ready in time, there is disaster ahead of us. The inhabitants who were not swept in front of the Russian Army are in a state of awe and terror."

Does this kind of retreat bode victory for the invader? No; it bodes destruction of the Teutonic

armies, and through that the deliverance of mankind from the greatest peril to its civilisation it has ever encountered. Ah! heroic Russia has not forgotten 1812, still less her magnificent capacity for self-sacrifice. How many forces the Germans and Austrians may have engaged in this suicidal raid into a country capable of swallowing 20,000,000 of men, time given, without seeming a penny the worse we do not know, but estimates of a more or less official description were published in Wednesday's *Times* and *Daily Mail*, both papers giving them as from authority, but who the authority is they do not reveal, and we doubt the figures. They seem to us an underestimate, both as to the total numbers engaged and the total numbers killed, wounded, and missing. For what they are worth, however, they may be put on record here. Altogether, there are said to be 3,200,000 Germans in the "fighting line," of which 1,800,000 are pitted against the three Allies in France and Belgium and 1,400,000 in course of engulfment in Russia. In addition, there is said to be 1,120,000 Austro-Hungarians also traversing Russia to die, making the total number pitted against Russia 2,520,000 men. These numbers, however, cannot include a large number of troops engaged in keeping the lines of communication open, in holding forts on the route, and such like. Out of the total number thus alleged to be engaged in the war, 306,123 are put down as killed, 15,808 as having died of disease, 809,790 as being wounded, and 540,723 classed as prisoners, missing, and maimed. The *Mail* puts the estimated effective loss up to the end of June last at 1,000,000, but no account is taken of the Austro-Hungarian loss, and the number put down as dead from disease appears to us to be ridiculously small. No doubt in the West the Germans have looked after sanitation as carefully as the Allies, but in the East, sanitation or no sanitation, the hardships to which the poor wretched pawns have been subjected, the toilsome marches they have had to make, their want of rest and frequent shortness of food must have raised the death roll from disease among them to an appalling figure. In any case, be the numbers as stated or be they double, the Russian armies can deal with all. They are taking the best course to ensure the ultimate triumph of the Allies of the *Entente*, and with it the deliverance of mankind from barbarism worse than Assyrian. From a winter campaign in Russia there can now be no escape for the Kaiser. Why does he disappoint himself of a Warsaw spectacle while yet there is time? He has not yet reached the luxury of a gloat over Novo-Georgievsk.

Because German "victories" lead nowhere, open no outlets, secure no conquests, and because of the trucu-

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lent insolence displayed by Bethmann-Hollweg, we look for another attempt to be made soon to divide the Allies and secure a delusive peace. Bethmann-Hollweg's ragings and assertions were those of a baffled bully at bay, and when a bully reaches the point when he can only tell lies and use foul language to his opponents, he is very near collapsing point. This week, too, we have had a yarn, said to have originated in Switzerland, of a "secret meeting" in Berlin of Prussian functionaries, at which undraped truths were uttered by the Finance Minister, who talked of imminent bankruptcy, by Von Moltke, and others, demanding peace, the purport of which seems to be to persuade us that Germany was so near exhaustion that it would be really a charitable thing on the part of her enemies to let her have peace. Probably no meeting of the kind ever occurred, but the invented tale is very possibly part of that futile Press befuddlement in which the Berlin officials are adepts. Being fools in all that relates to knowledge of the mind and temper of the Allies, they may have imagined that a story of this kind would further the end sought, just as they expected the world-advertised demonstrations about war bread to persuade us to relax the vigilance of our blockade. They would be quite amusing dogs in any other line than that of assassin. As it is, they may be quite sure that we likewise have decided to eschew sentimentality, and that we are of the German Chancellor's opinion—"Those who will not bend must break."

### Canadian Pacific Railway.

Severe though the recoil in the business of this company was for its year ended June 30 last, it has, as was explained by us when dealing with the preliminary statement of its accounts, come out wonderfully well. Thanks to a saving of over \$22,000,000 in working expenses, the decline of \$30,950,000 in the railway's gross earnings, which brought them down to \$98,865,000, was reduced to a loss of only \$8,851,000 in the nett earnings. These were \$33,575,000. Fixed charges went up \$219,000 to \$10,447,000, and in consequence the nett income of \$23,128,000 shows a reduction of \$9,070,000. Various adjustments having been made, the principal being the usual tiny contribution of \$125,000 to the pension fund and the deduction of the nett earnings of the Pacific Coast steamships, commercial telegraph and news departments put to a special account, the final result is an income of \$21,509,000, or \$8,449,000 less than that of the previous year. This decrease is disregarded by the board in paying the dividend, which is again 7 per cent. for the year, paid quarterly out of railway earnings, and the only difference is that less than \$90,000 is left to carry forward, as against \$9,698,000 a year ago. The dividend, *i.e.*, was paid at the cost of the floating balance. Whether the directors were wise in keeping it at the usual figure, and again making it up to 10 per cent. for the ordinary shareholders by the extra 3 per cent. paid out of the special income, is more than we can say. If the war were to end before six months are over, they might be right, or even if this year's crop in the West should turn out to be exceptionally large, they might scrape through. But traffic receipts have not been promising much so far for the current fiscal year, and we should have thought it, on the whole, more prudent to cut the dividend down in good time.

To be sure, the income derived from outside sources was apparently \$3,619,000 bigger last year than in the previous one, and came to the handsome total of \$14,066,000, but there was a suggestive decrease of \$427,000 in the interest received on proceeds of land sales, and although that was nearly balanced by an increase of \$327,000 in the interest receipts on deposits and loans, it remains the fact that the quantity of land parted with during the year was 28,074 acres smaller than in the preceding year, and the average price received \$1.63 per acre down, the sales having aggregated 231,297 acres, at an average price of \$16.17 per acre. The money paid, or to be paid, therefore, came to \$876,000 less at \$3,472,000, and it is improbable that any turn for the better can occur this year, even with

the help of Canadian land speculators, and the company's own most vigorous and skilfully managed land-vending propaganda. Already, indeed, all Canadian land-jobbing interests are busy, as was seen in the deputation which presented itself before Mr. Bonar Law last week to advocate the placing of soldiers upon Canadian farms when the war is over. It by no means follows, however, that the success of this "early bird" propaganda will be as great next time it develops energy as it has been in the past. Too many men with farming experience in Canada have joined the Army to make prospects good in that direction.

Leaving this subject, we may go on to note with satisfaction the increase of \$3,587,000 in the earnings of the company from ocean steamships and hotels. This was \$4,370,000 in all during the past year, and its income from its coal mine properties also went up \$249,000 to \$544,000. The nett earnings of the Pacific Coast steamships, commercial telegraph, and news department fell off, however, \$640,000 to \$1,495,000, and in future these earnings, big or little, will go to a special company, whose creation was notified in our issue of August 7. It is a British company, called the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd., we may recall, and it has a capital of £2,000,000 sterling, as well as £2,865,860 in 5 per cent. first debentures or debenture stock. The whole of the share capital, less the amount necessary to qualify men for directorships, together with all the debentures, is taken by the Canadian Pacific Railway, so that the new company is merely an offshoot and dependency. Its creation, however, will enable the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. to incorporate the Allan Line Steamship Co. with its own steamers, and in that way to become possessed of the oldest and most celebrated line of steamships running between the Mother Country and the young Empire of North America. A moderate estimate of the value of the steamship property involved, the directors tell us in their report, is \$23,500,000, after making due allowance for depreciation. We hope the company will prosper, and that its earnings after the war is over will be greater than those before it began, or even than those gathered while so much of the fleet remains under commission by the Imperial Government.

Capital expenditure seems to have been liberal enough last year, as the book cost of the railway itself shows an increase of \$11,906,000, and the rolling stock of \$339,000. Altogether, including ocean, lake and river steamers, the cost of the property was at June 30 last entered in the books at \$527,793,000, or considerably over £105,000,000. This, however, is altogether independent of the value of the other property, *viz.*, acquired securities, advances to lines and steamships under construction, advances and investments, and the money to come in from land sold to be paid for by instalments. These together add up to about \$172,000,000 additional, and there is a special investment fund of about \$56,000,000, as well as floating assets to the amount of almost \$45,000,000, the cash in hand included therein being, however, \$19,722,000 less than at June 30, 1914, and beyond all we have miscellaneous assets shown in the balance-sheet and detailed in schedule "B" whose aggregate value is entered at \$131,242,000. Amongst these assets there are shares in mining, power and light, and timber and mills companies, agricultural lands in the various provinces of the West, coal lands in Alberta, and live stock, &c., on farms. Some of these assets are entered at a nominal value, others represent lands in the various provinces at estimates of value which sometimes look high, but whose apparent excess may prove to be moderation when next the wave of what is called prosperity comes over the country. In these various ways the aggregate of the company's balance-sheet is brought up to \$931,853,000, or about £187,000,000, and it has all been created within less than 40 years. The paid-up ordinary share capital is now \$260,000,000, and the preference \$80,681,921, this last \$2,457,248 up on the year, and there is \$176,284,882 of 4 per cent. debenture stock, which is likewise \$2,577,421 up on the year. But mortgage bonds to the value of \$10,093,467 have



been redeemed, leaving only \$6,399,180 to redeem. Add this to the amount of debenture stock, include \$52,000,000 of 6 per cent. note certificates, and \$12,780,000 of equipment obligations—\$12,060,000 more than a year ago—and the entire debt of the company, apart from current expenses—down \$9,483,081 to \$12,522,310—comes to \$267,484,000, or £53,500,000. Such aggregates are awesome in their magnitude, and we cannot help wondering how they will stand the after-the-war strain plus the competition of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern rival lines.

### Bank of New Zealand.

A long and most interesting speech was delivered at the annual meeting of this bank by Mr. H. Beauchamp, its chairman. He explained why the whole of the £1,000,000 of 4 per cent. guaranteed stock had not been renewed, and gave many other pieces of information which will be interesting to shareholders. On the whole it would seem that the mercantile affairs of New Zealand have stood the strain of war rather well, but in regard to the outlook prophecy could not be very definite. Mr. Beauchamp looked for a continuance of good trade, but pointed out that the end of the war might be followed by heavy taxation and unemployment in those countries now engaged in hostilities. Nevertheless, for New Zealand the prospects were hopeful, because it was bound to continue to find an outlet at remunerative prices in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, and the United States for its wool, frozen meat, dairy produce, &c. The hope was even nourished that fresh outlets may be found in Russia, China, and Japan. There is even now talk of the establishment of a direct line of steamers between Japan and the Dominion. Meantime, the position of New Zealand and its trade is materially helped by the higher prices it is getting for its wool, frozen meat, butter, and cheese. With the exception of greasy merinos, all kinds of wool have advanced substantially in price, and the rise in the price of the well-known Canterbury lamb between March, 1914, and March, 1915, the date of the annual accounts being March 31, was a good penny per lb. to 7½d. to 8d. That is but one example, and one result of the increased market price of exports placed alongside the reduced value of imports was monetary ease within the country.

In the calendar year 1914 the surplus balance of merchandise exports over imports was £5,110,000, whereas in the previous year it was only £1,157,000. Exports of merchandise, that is, were valued at £26,254,000 last calendar year, while imports were only £21,144,000. A few years of that comfortable lopsidedness would make New Zealand look very rich indeed. And as for the bank, although its profits were not much expanded last year, it still showed a gain of £7,676 on the previous year, the total profit being £396,167 after making provision for the provident fund and staff bonus. The guaranteed interest took £13,319 less at £26,681, because the board, wisely, as it seems, refrained from selling the re-issue of that stock to an underwriting syndicate at par for a commission of 1 per cent., and offered it straight to subscribers. In doing that they took a risk, and succeeded in selling only £528,988, or £471,000 short of the £1,000,000, but they did not require the money, and have the balance of the stock in hand ready to be issued in more favourable circumstances when money may be acceptable.

Altogether, including the balance of £51,608 brought forward, which was £8,491 up, the directors had £371,094, or £19,486 more, available for division, and out of this they were able to meet the interest on the renewed portion of the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock and on the £250,000 of new "B" preference shares issued to the Government of New Zealand, as well as on the additional 206,020 ordinary shares subscribed by the public at a handsome premium. Of the 75,000 new ordinary shares created, 559 were not applied for.

These were offered for sale by tender, and applications were received for 10,794 shares at an average price of £13 3s. 9d. Actually, the 559 available were allotted at an average price of £15 10s. 6d., and the premiums received from the entire issue enabled the board to add £365,536 to the reserve. Also they assigned to it £84,464 from the year's profits and thereby raised its total to £2,000,000, half of which is invested in British Government securities. The profits were such as enabled the board to pay 15 per cent. on its enlarged ordinary capital, that rate including the bonus of 3 per cent. The dividend upon the "A" preference shares was also made up to 10 per cent. for the year by a payment of 4 per cent. beyond its regulation 6 per cent. This was done although the new capital could not have earned more than 5 per cent. To be sure, less money was put aside out of profits to the reserve fund, which a year before had received £175,000 from that source, but it took altogether about £104,000 more to pay the dividends on the present new capital, so that the £90,537 by which the allocation from profits to reserve was reduced did not balance the higher requirements for dividend. That, however, and the saving in guaranteed interest together quite met the increase, so that the £57,171 left to carry forward was £5,563 better than the balance brought in.

Changes in the accounts are not remarkable, except that notes in circulation have gone up £686,169 to £1,915,536 and the deposits £671,044 to £18,741,657. Bills payable, &c., are also £266,647 up, but on the assets side cash of all descriptions shows an increase of £1,355,550 at £4,617,061, the largest other increase being £582,248 in advances and securities, &c., whose total is £10,662,707. Bills discounted are down £93,569 at £1,186,458, the surplus moneys, beyond that included under cash, being in short loans, Government securities, &c., on the London market, £60,248 up at £5,136,997. Bills receivable in London and in transit are also £137,220 higher at £3,301,301. Increased taxation has added £13,281 to the charge on the revenue under this head, making it £74,548, gross profits having been £41,164 higher at £755,240, while expenses of all kinds showed a rise of £33,488 at £359,073, £211,321 of that total being salaries and allowances, which were £11,565 up, partly because of the generosity with which the members of the staff who joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force have been treated by the board. They get half-pay from the bank in addition to their military pay. Their London men with the colours, in fact, are getting full pay, as their military pay is on a lower scale. Altogether, the story of the year is most interesting, and the position of the bank now looks stronger than ever, notwithstanding the fact that so much of its resources appears to be unemployed. The aggregate of the balance-sheet is now £26,528,441.

In introducing the New Zealand budget for the current year, Sir Joseph Ward intimated that £2,000,000 of additional taxation would have to be raised, and pointed to graduated land and income taxes, Customs, post and telegraph charges, and railway rates as the sources. At another time something might have to be said upon this curious mixture. In addition to the new taxes it is proposed to raise locally a loan of £2,000,000, carrying interest at 4½ per cent., the terms being based on those of our own War Loan.

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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It was officially announced on Monday that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, accompanied by Lord Reading and Lord Cunliffe, had met M. Ribot, the French Finance Minister, and M. Pallain, the Governor of the Bank of France, at Boulogne on Saturday, and had come to an agreement over the question of the American exchange and other financial matters. This meeting is the natural outcome of the consultations which have been taking place between the Treasury and London bankers, and it is to be followed by another meeting in London, at which M. Bark, the Russian Finance Minister, will be present. It appears to be fairly common knowledge that the basis of the plan as now arranged is the formation of a gold "pool" in New York, to which the three principal Allies will contribute in equal proportions, and it is generally understood that the amount will be fixed at rather more than £100,000,000. Naturally, the actual details cannot be settled without the consent of the American interests, and a conference is being arranged to take place in New York, at which this country will be represented by Sir Edward Holden, Lord Reading, and Sir Henry Babington Smith. Even the provision of this large amount of gold, however, will not be sufficient to accomplish all that is necessary, and it will have to be supplemented by a liberal use of credit. The simplest way of obtaining this would be to raise a short-term loan, but so long as the U.S. maintains its neutrality, political considerations stand in the way of issuing such a loan for the belligerent countries. There does not, however, appear to be any obstacle to the obtaining of advances in other ways, and it is believed that the gold provided by the Allies will be used as a basis for issuing short-term notes for varying periods against drafts on London. The result will be the same as if a loan were issued, as, with

reduced offerings of drafts on London in New York, the exchange should improve.

At present the New York exchange continues very weak, and has on balance receded daily. To-day it touched 4.63½, and closed at about 4.64. The Paris Cheque has also fluctuated fairly widely, being down to 25.25 and up to 25.75, closing about 25.69. Ameliorative measures will, of course, take time to become effective.

As part of the endeavour to bring about an improvement in the American exchange a determined effort was made this week to raise the rate for loans in the Money market. The clearing banks have adhered to 4½ per cent. as their charge for weekly advances, but there has been so much credit available in other quarters at a lower rate that it was exceedingly difficult to keep discount rates from slipping down. It was, however, represented to these institutions that concerted action was necessary under present circumstances, and most of them have since come into line. A small minority, however, held back, and borrowers were able to obtain part of their requirements at 4½ per cent., although the period covered includes the next instalment on the War Loan. A small business was done by the Bank on Wednesday. Day-to-day loans have cost 4-4½ per cent. for the most part, with occasional transactions in surplus balances at lower figures. To-day £10,000,000 old style Treasury bills matured, but their repayment made no difference to the market, as the money for the most part probably went to swell the balances which are not obtainable at less than 4½ per cent.

The need for concerted action by lenders was clearly shown by the tendency of the discount market. Owing to the scarcity of bills, and the comparative cheapness of money, rates were inclined to give way in the early part of the week, and the quotation for three months' maturities was no better than 4½-4½½ per cent. After the decision to raise the charge for loans the market became appreciably firmer for a time, with 4¾ per cent. as the minimum quotation for "threes," but the lack of unanimity amongst lenders prevented the improvement from being maintained. In many cases those who held out for 4½ per cent. were paid off, and in the absence of other outlets for their funds, bankers entered into competition with brokers for the bills offered. In these circumstances it was impossible to keep rates steady, and although most houses continued to quote 4½, transactions have taken place below that figure.

The Treasury figures for the week ended last Saturday showed that £51,000,000 had been received on account of the War Loan, and this is reflected in the Bank return by an increase of £31,390,000 in Public Deposits. At the same time "Other" Securities were reduced by £4,046,000, with the result that "Other" deposits were £35,171,000 lower at £89,465,000. Gold movements were on a small scale, but the loss of £337,000 for abroad was more than made good by internal receipts, and the stocks of coin and bullion rose by £175,000 to £67,301,000. As the note circulation contracted by £155,000, the reserve was £330,000 better at £53,948,000, and the proportion to liabilities improved by ½ per cent. to just over 24 per cent.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended August 25 £3,663,379 in £1 notes, £1,325,711 in 10s. notes, and £350,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,468,747 in £1, £605,297 in 10s. notes, and £150,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,115,046, leaving a total of £54,201,492 10s. outstanding, made up of £40,449,172 in £1 notes, £13,552,320 10s. in 10s. notes, and £200,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £308,162 17s. 3d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £9,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £14,750,827 14s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £1,204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £469,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.



## SILVER.

Business has been very quiet, but the offerings from America were again reduced by a further purchase of 500,000 ounces by the United States Mint, and the price has moved in a sluggish fashion. India has done very little, but the Continent continued to buy moderately in the early part of the week, and after dropping  $\frac{1}{16}$ d. the quotation remained steady at  $22\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. until Wednesday. Larger supplies, however, then came into the market, and as the demand had by that time been satisfied, the price relapsed to  $22\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. The decline was followed to-day by a jump of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $23\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. on a little Indian and Continental buying coming on a poorly supplied market, but the rise seemed to be overdone, and the tendency at the close was weak.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 15,058 in bills, Rs. 10,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 10,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs. 5,00,000 were allotted in immediate transfers and Rs. 5,00,000 in deferred transfers, tenders at Rs. 3 31-32d. and Rs. 3 18d. respectively receiving about 50 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 15,029 in bills at Rs. 3 31-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 10,00,000. Between April 1 and the 24th inst. the total sales were Rs. 2,77,03,934, realising £1,844,556, compared with Rs. 5,34,88,332 for £3,569,811 to August 25 last year.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 25, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued .. ..	84,841,505	Government Debt .. ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	66,391,505
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£84,841,505		£84,391,505

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	45,655,382
Res .. ..	3,638,767	Other Securities .. ..	142,137,266
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	53,038,250
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	909,261
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	134,054,324		
Other Deposits .. ..	89,465,037		
Seven Day and other Bills	29,031		
	£241,740,159		£241,740,159

Dated August 26, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

Last year. Aug. 26.		Aug. 18. 1915.	Aug. 25, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,691,916	Rest .. ..	3,532,109	3,638,767	1,06,658	—
23,886,765	Pub. Deposits ..	102,664,486	134,054,324	31,389,838	—
123,892,659	Other do. ..	124,635,900	89,465,037	—	35,170,863
11,278	7 Day Bills ..	31,350	29,031	—	2,269
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
29,778,971	Gov. Securities ..	45,515,369	45,655,382	—	40,013
109,904,670	Other do. ..	146,183,559	142,137,266	4,046,293	—
26,351,977	Total Reserve ..	53,617,867	53,947,511	—	329,644
				35,542,789	35,542,789
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,571,435	Coin and Bullion ..	31,957,835	31,803,255	—	154,580
43,473,412	Proportion .. ..	67,125,702	67,300,766	175,064	—
17 1/2 p.c.	Bank Rate .. ..	2 3/4 p.c.	24.1 p.c.	1/2 p.c.	—
5 "		5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £337,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Thursday—Bars .. ..	£
873,000	Saturday—Straits Settlement (set aside) ..
	30,000
	Wednesday— " .. ..
	7,000
	Thursday— " .. ..
	10,000
	Friday—Foreign Coin .. ..
	101,000
	" Set aside (Misc.) .. ..
	300,000
	" Straits (set aside) .. ..
	50,000
	Nett Influx .. ..
	375,000
	£873,000
	£873,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £8,242,000 of the Treasury Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. During the same period £5,577,000 was received from the sale of new bills, making a nett reduction of £2,665,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent
£		1915.	£ s. d.
10,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27.	1 12 3/4
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3/4
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 1/4
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1/4
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5/8
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
*162,754,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1/8
235,254,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date	1915.	1914	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	560,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 7	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" 21	394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
" 28	332,781,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000
August 4	260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—
" 11	273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—
" 18	283,050,000	179,421,000	103,629,000	—
" 25	258,873,000	159,432,000	108,441,000	—
Total ..	8,644,818,000	10,819,566,000	—	2,174,748,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 6, 1915.	July 30, 1915.	July 23, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	41,564,400	42,597,600	42,809,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	216,800	212,800	215,200
Gold Settlement Fund ..	10,458,000	10,428,000	9,690,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,913,200	4,418,400	5,182,600
Total reserves .. ..	57,222,400	57,656,800	57,897,200
10-day bills and loans ..	844,400	—	—
30-day bills and loans ..	1,770,200	2,413,000	2,391,200
60-day bills and loans ..	3,017,000	2,727,800	2,563,000
90-day bills and loans ..	2,137,200	2,354,800	2,239,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	416,400	649,800	691,200
Total .. ..	8,185,200	8,145,400	7,884,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,700,600	1,584,600	1,584,600
Municipal Warrants ..	3,620,000	3,221,400	3,022,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	1,197,400	1,415,600	1,045,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2,515,600	2,205,800	1,845,400
All other assets .. ..	1,052,600	1,180,800	953,000
Total assets .. ..	75,493,800	75,410,400	74,232,600
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,863,000	10,856,200	10,834,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	61,200,400	61,236,600	60,212,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,084,000	2,993,000	2,904,200
All other liabilities .. ..	346,400	344,600	281,800
Total liabilities .. ..	75,493,800	75,410,400	74,232,600

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 21.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. ..	£
Excise .. ..	72,036
Estate, &c., Duties ..	15,930
Stamps .. ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Land Tax and House Duty.	394,100
Property and Income Tax ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Land Values Duties ..	Charges .. ..
Post Office .. ..	Supply Services .. ..
Crown Lands .. ..	Bullion Advances .. ..
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	For Advance for Interest
Miscellaneous .. ..	on Exchequer Bonds issued
Bullion advances repaid ..	under Capital Expenditure
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	For Repayments to Bank of
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	England .. ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Under Telegraph (Money)
1913 .. ..	Act, 1913 .. ..
Under Military Works Acts,	Under Post Office (Lon-
1897-1903 .. ..	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
Issue of War Stock and War	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
Bonds .. ..	Old Sinking Fund 1910-11.
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Issued under Finance Act
East Africa Protectorate	1911, Sect. 16 (1) (b) ..
Loan repayments .. ..	Under Military Works Acts,
Cunard Loan—repayment on	1897-1903 .. ..
account of principal ..	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	penses Act, 1903 .. ..
China Indemnity .. ..	Deficiency advances repaid
Ways and Means Advances	Ways and Means Advances
Temporary Advances De-	repaid .. ..
ficiency .. ..	7,939,000
Decrease in Exchequer	Increase in Exchequer
balances .. ..	balances .. ..
	6,553,751
£62,402,817	£62,402,817



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 26, 1915.	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915.	Aug. 5, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 170,652,760	£ 175,694,440	£ 172,890,960	£ 68,883,320
Silver in hand ..	14,670,160	14,716,560	14,713,840	14,734,160
Bills discounted ..	11,003,800	11,118,600	10,789,080	12,185,480
Advances ..	23,491,360	23,563,960	23,787,760	23,812,800
Note circulation ..	513,011,160	515,974,440	513,032,120	509,013,360
Public deposits ..	2,762,720	4,452,120	3,595,640	8,756,160
Private deposits ..	98,939,080	98,502,840	94,619,440	91,123,320
Foreign Bills ..	49,680	69,450	69,280	53,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35½ per cent. against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £252,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £40,512,680, decrease £246,360, and at the branches to £41,904,800, decrease £314,920.

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 22, 1914
Loans ..	£ 526,962,000	£ 520,588,000	£ 519,046,000	£ 425,806,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	94,936,000	91,884,000	88,900,000	
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	26,770,000	26,144,000	26,346,000	
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	6,060,000	5,852,000	6,968,000	
Net Demand Deposits ..	523,128,000	512,586,000	510,538,000	
Net Time Deposits ..	28,654,000	29,100,000	28,914,000	
Circulation ..	7,480,000	7,492,000	7,496,000	
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	37,158,000	35,116,000	33,840,000	

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

\* Deficit.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 21, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1914.
Loans ..	£ 118,502,000	£ 117,924,000	£ 117,772,000	£ 114,412,000
Specie ..	10,004,000	9,996,000	9,858,000	8,368,000
Deposits ..	122,460,000	121,938,000	121,674,000	112,402,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,710,000	1,740,000	1,706,000	2,368,000

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,644,500	£ 122,524,600	£ 122,414,600	£ 79,806,450
Treasury Notes ..	11,800,250	11,748,100	8,334,450	5,929,150
Bills discounted ..	237,227,650	236,442,100	238,146,850	230,800,500
Advances ..	635,500	642,100	671,650	8,138,750
Note circulation ..	265,880,900	269,438,650	272,874,500	199,998,100
Deposits ..	90,852,050	87,776,650	82,279,600	130,988,150

Clearing House returns during July £252,034,605 against £235,431,975 in June.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1915.	July 29, 1915.	July 21, 1915.	Aug. 4, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 5,553,300	£ 8,823,300	£ 7,328,900	£ 7,993,800
Cash in reserve ..	158,238,200	157,860,400	157,899,100	160,490,700
Gold in reserve abroad ..	9,008,600	9,007,900	9,368,000	11,676,100
Circulation note issue ..	394,500,000	392,000,000	387,000,000	240,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,348,400	20,224,700	21,347,000	51,793,300

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	July 31, 1915
Gold ..	£ 28,618,927	£ 28,285,978	£ 28,157,686	£ 27,925,355
Silver ..	29,641,864	29,531,372	29,493,098	29,775,711
Foreign Bills ..	4,540,218	4,831,184	4,781,694	4,959,786
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,292,795	26,109,095	26,674,549	26,914,881
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,309,049	31,059,353	30,737,545	30,976,708
Notes in Circulation ..	80,409,054	80,898,904	80,956,956	80,035,928
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	26,068,863	26,495,248	25,951,405	26,549,191
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,636,732	1,686,371	1,496,376	2,250,968
Government Securities ..	1,983,631	2,207,995	2,759,794	3,697,119

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 20, 1915	June 10, 1915	May 31, 1915	June 20, 1914
Total cash ..	£ 55,052,440	£ 55,228,600	£ 56,240,600	£ 48,600,520
Italian Bills ..	35,232,160	36,524,160	38,555,960	16,993,160
Foreign Bills ..	859,040	835,360	1,623,800	3,303,000
Advances ..	7,764,320	8,698,440	10,564,040	2,425,600
Government securities ..	8,219,600	8,305,360	8,373,960	8,326,960
Circulation ..	115,001,880	115,363,280	114,189,360	62,876,640
Deposits at notice ..	12,861,800	12,561,480	12,071,560	5,915,440
Current accounts ..	19,819,120	18,976,800	17,591,680	2,695,240

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915	Aug. 15, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 11,940,988	£ 11,891,652	£ 11,867,688	£ 8,522,659
Bills ..	5,369,828	6,193,856	6,291,308	10,908,215
Note circulation ..	15,734,608	15,981,392	16,406,900	17,431,579
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,120,904	4,450,180	3,725,596	3,290,661

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1914
Gold ..	£ 31,499,842	£ 31,349,184	£ 31,243,168	£ 13,577,032
Silver ..	199,555	171,498	162,486	66,575
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,075,960	13,132,000	13,243,278	27,474,072
Note circulation ..	42,279,154	42,471,484	42,464,618	36,573,807
Deposits ..	3,502,110	3,128,101	2,902,143	2,737,113

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,300,000	£ 5,727,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,098,000	5,029,000	4,907,000	2,857,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,757,000	2,770,000	2,782,000	158,000
Discounts and Loans ..	6,558,000	6,921,000	7,369,000	10,234,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,197,000	15,253,000	15,342,000	15,372,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,529,000	4,623,000	4,922,000	4,146,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 15, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	July 31, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 3,434,000	£ 3,408,000	£ 3,420,000	£ 3,168,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,627,000	3,603,000	3,517,000	1,527,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	637,000	637,000	636,000	496,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,108,000	4,161,000	4,252,000	6,588,000
Notes in Circulation ..	7,856,000	7,856,000	7,912,000	8,088,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,354,000	1,482,000	1,392,000	1,265,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	August 24, 1915.		August 26, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland ..	Three months' bills ..	11.16	11.18*	11.16	11.17*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.60	11.65	11.60	11.70
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	30.50	30.60*	30.45	30.55*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	29.95	30.05	29.90	30.00
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	35*	36	35*	36
Do. ..	Three months' bills ..	34*	35*	34*	35*
New York ..	Cable transfers ..	—	—	—	—
Do. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	—	—	—	—
Paris ..	Three months' bills ..	27.75	27.85*	27.80	27.95*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	27.35	27.45	27.40	27.55
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	136	138	136	138
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	18.10	18.20	18.10	18.25
Do. ..	Three months' bills ..	18.40	18.50*	18.40	18.55
Spain (Bk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	46*	46*	46*	46*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.80	24.90	24.80	24.90
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.50	25.60*	25.00	25.15
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.05	25.15	24.45	25.60*

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	chqs.	27.32½	27.65	Antwerp ..	short sight	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy ..	3 mths	30.20	30.10
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.65	11.65	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres ..	90 dys	47½d.	48½d.
Vienna ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	134½	135½	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York ..	sight	4.69	4.64½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Lisbon ..	sight	36	35½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid ..	sight	25	24.85	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½—4½	4½
Three months ..	4½—4½	4½
Four months ..	5	5
Six months ..	5½	5½
Three months fire inland bills ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½—5½
Six months ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
.. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	5½	5½
.. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4—4½	4½—4½
.. for call loans ..	3½—4	4—4½

SEAHAM HARBOUR DOCK CO.—Business was much reduced in the six months ended June 30. Shipments of coal only amounted to 785,200, or 282,200 tons less than for the corresponding period of 1914, and no timber of any description was received at the harbour. Gross profit was accordingly £7,631 down at £21,651, and the nett £5,900 lower at £8,849. Adding the amount brought in, which was, however, slightly higher at £8,512, and £29 received as interest and transfer fees, the divisible balance was £5,552 smaller at £17,391. Out of this debenture and other interest is met and the usual £500 placed to reserve fund for renewals. The preference shares then get their dividend, but owing, the directors say, to largely decreased colliery outputs and to higher wages and working costs, no dividend can be paid on the ordinary shares, which last year received 3 per cent. and in 1913 5 per cent. Balance at debit of capital account is unaltered at £67,137. Cash is £3,849 down at £5,889, but investments have risen £1,053 to £2,580, and sundry debtors are £728 higher at £7,983. Sundry creditors are also £1,406 up at £5,579.



## The Week's Stock Markets.

All the week Stock Markets have tended to be more cheerful under the influence of the Russian naval victory, but there are no incidents to record, and business has not appreciably expanded. American Railroad securities, particularly the more speculative shares, after beginning the week in a fit of depression, which Canadian industrials shared, have been firmer in price because of the low exchange, and on the whole the Home Railway group has betrayed few symptoms of weakness. All home markets, however, are under the sway of the War Loan, and it does not betray any tendency to harden in price, although in another week after the Consol transfer books have been closed on September 1 the process of conversion into War stock will be facilitated. All applications from that date onward will be dealt with by the Bank of England. Argentine railways promise to show increasing firmness now that the traffic receipts are definitely on the turn. News from the Republic continues somewhat chequered, and there has been an unpleasant absence of moisture in many districts. But on the whole the situation is stronger, and we may look for better prices.

For the most part business on the Stock Exchange has been restricted, and the tone has not been particularly cheerful, although on the whole the news has been much more comforting than the rather depressing experiences of last week. Unfortunately, such transactions as there are do not bring much grist to the mill, as so large a proportion of the dealings is in War Loan stock, which in the majority of cases gives more trouble than the commission is worth. But it helps to pay office expenses, and that is a consideration in these times. There are still a number of sellers about, mostly for small amounts on account of people who subscribed for more than they could afford in order to secure conversion rights, and it looks as though this tap might be kept running for some considerable time. Under the circumstances, it must be regarded as encouraging that the price remains as steady as it does—it indicates that the absorbing power is quite equal to the selling pressure. There has even been a moderate inquiry for Consols at the minimum of 65, but it must be admitted this is entirely due to purchases in anticipation of the dividend to be deducted at the beginning of next month, but which will not, foolishly enough, affect the minimum price. Why the difference between "cum" and "ex" dividend prices should not be recognised is a puzzle that has never been explained, probably because it is incapable of any other explanation than sheer red-tape stupidity. Colonial Government and Corporation stocks are still practically blank because the War Loan is generally regarded as a better security than any of these can offer, but a few foreign stocks have been looking up a little, Japanese particularly showing strength. Of course, Russians have had to give way step by step with the armies, but the declines are not really of much importance, and very little stock changes hands. A feature of some importance was the recovery in the Uruguay 5 per cent. loan of 1914, but there is still a wide gap in the price between that and that of the 1896 loan.

In the Home Railway market the tone has not been cheerful, for what reason it is impossible to say. Probably the stress of circumstances is causing a certain amount of selling by holders who have to realise securities for other purposes, and it has been quite evident for a long time that there is no substantial buying power to meet this situation. The American market has shown more strength, but most of the interest has been confined to industrial stocks which are believed to be benefiting largely from war orders. The fear that the sinking of the *Arabic* would lead to trouble between the United States and Germany is passing away. Canadian Pacifics have been a firm market on the sale of the company's fleet on favourable terms to a subsidiary company, although profits are not made by taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other. One of the best sections has been the Argentine Railway market, where there has been a genuine investment demand on the assumption that prices recently were unduly depressed, and that the outlook for the country is, on the whole, very favourable.

In the Miscellaneous sections Canadian industrial issues rallied sharply, and Hudson's Bays improved in sympathy. It is known that a large number of Canadian Car shares were lost in the *Arabic*, and although all this can be adjusted in course of time it creates practically an oversold "bear" position for the time being. Anyhow, several similar concerns are making huge profits out of munition orders. Liptons recovered on the favourable impression created by the statements at the meeting, and Armament shares were steady without attracting a great deal of support. Shipping shares were inclined to be rather dull, but Motor firms seemed to be in fair demand. Bank shares were noticeably weak for no particular reason that could be discovered, but perhaps holders are being forced to realise, and others may be getting anxious about the uncalled liability, although the risk of having to pay up is remote.

Brewery stocks were in some demand here and there, but the list as a whole was very little affected.

Rubber shares have not attracted much attention. Things are generally quiet at this time of the year, and the market is rather depressed by reports about drought affecting the output. Business has consequently been restricted, and the movements in prices are scarcely worth recording. Much the same may be

Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week
66½	Consols.....	65	65	—	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	98½	98½
—	War Loan 3½%.....	92	92½	—	" 4½% 1922-7..	94½	94½
69½	India 3% .....	69½	69½	92	New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
80½	" 3½% .....	80½	80½	—	Queensland 4% ....	92	92
92	Canada 4%, 1940-60	92	92	—	" 4½% new	97	97½
—	" 4½%, 1920-5	96½	96½	—	Union of S. Africa	96½	96½
92	N.S.W. 4% .....	95	95	—	4½%, 1920-5 .....	97½	97½
—	—	—	—	—	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	97½	97½
66	Belgian 3% .....	66½	66½	—	French Rentes ....	68½	68½
—	Brazil, 1913 .....	63	63	82½	Japan 4½% (1st) ....	84½	85½
—	" New Funding	69	68½	83	" (2nd) .....	83½	83½
—	Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	—	Russia 4% .....	73	73
—	" 1913 .....	82	82	—	" 4½% .....	74	73
—	Egypt Unified 4% ..	85	85	—	" 5% .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	51½	51½	—	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	22½	23½	
Caledonian defd. ....	8½	8½	—	Do. new pf. ....	96½	100	
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	—	Metropolitan .....	23½	23½	
Gt. Central pfd. ....	13½	13½	—	Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	96	
" dfd. ....	7	7	—	Met. District .....	14½	14½	
Gt. Eastern .....	36	35½	—	Midland dfd. ....	58½	58	
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	39	38½	—	Nth. British dfd. ....	14½	14½	
Gt. Western .....	98½	96½	—	Nth.-Eastern .....	104½	104½	
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	69	69½	—	Nth.-Western .....	102	100½	
—	—	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	22½	23½	
Canadian Pacific .....	161½	163	—	Chesapeake .....	47½	47½	
Do. 6% Notes .....	107½	108	—	Erie .....	30½	29½	
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93½	93½	—	Milwaukee .....	87½	88	
Grand Trunk ord. ....	99	99	—	N. Y. Central .....	96½	95½	
Do. 3rd pf. ....	23½	23½	—	Southern .....	16½	16	
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96½	96½	—	Southern Pacific .....	94½	95½	
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	95½	95½	—	Union Pacific .....	139½	139½	
Atchison .....	108½	108½	—	U. S. Steel .....	81½	80½	
Baltimore .....	87½	87½	—	—	—	—	—
Antofagasta dfd. ....	116	116	—	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	79	82½	
Do. 6% Notes .....	100	100½	—	Do. 5% Notes ..	99	99½	
Brazil Common .....	6	6	—	Do. 6% " ..	102	102½	
B. A. & Pacific .....	46	48	—	Leopoldina .....	33	34	
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	79	82½	—	Mexican ord. ....	20½	18½	
B. A. Western .....	85	88	—	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	159	159	
—	—	—	—	United of Havana .....	72	72	
Bank of Australasia .....	107	107½	—	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½	
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	7½	7½	—	London County & West ..	14½	14½	
Do. "B" .....	9½	10	—	London Joint Stock .....	20	20	
Capital & Counties .....	20½	19½	—	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	24	24½	
Chartered of India .....	51	52	—	Do. (£12 pd) .....	27	26½	
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	72½	71½	—	Parr's .....	26½	26½	
Lloyds .....	23½	23	—	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½	
London & Provincial ..	15½	15½	—	Union & Smiths .....	22½	22½	
London & S.W. ....	11½	11½	—	—	—	—	—
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	—	Forestral Land .....	33/	33/	
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	35½	35½	—	Furness, Withy .....	29/	29/	
Associated Cement .....	2½	2½	—	Hudson's Bay .....	4½	4½	
Birmingham Small Arms	58½	59/	—	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	23/	
Borax dfd. ....	20/9	21/	—	Do. dfd. 'A' .....	38/	38/	
Bovril .....	19/6½	19/6	—	Kynochs .....	29/	29/	
Brazil Traction .....	48½	47½	—	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/6	20/6	
British Amer. Tobacco ..	67/	65/	—	Lyons, J. ....	4	4½	
Brown (John), & Co. ....	24/6	25/	—	Marconi .....	1½	1½	
Brunner, Mond .....	3½	3½	—	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	22½	22½	
Cammell-Laird .....	5	5	—	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½	
Castner-Kellner .....	61/	59/6	—	National Steam Car .....	11/9	11/9	
Coats .....	4½	4½	—	Nobel Dynamite .....	16½	16½	
Cunard .....	48/	50/	—	Pears, A. & F. ....	2	2	
Dennis Bros. ....	27/3	27/	—	P. & O. dfd. ....	26½	26½	
Dorman, Long .....	20/6	21/	—	Royal Mail .....	75½	75	
Eastmans .....	7/3	7/3	—	South Durham Steel ..	26/6	26/6	
English Sewing Cotton ..	30/6	30/3	—	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	75	74	
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24/	24/	—	Vickers .....	31/9½	31/9	
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	4/	5/	—	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½	
Baku (ros) .....	3/3	3/3	—	North Caucasian .....	26/6	27/	
Burmah .....	3½	3½	—	Romanian Cons. ....	13/6	13/6	
Lobitos .....	28/	27/9	—	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	43½	
Malakop Combine (ros.) ..	3/6	3/6	—	Shell .....	48	48½	
Malakop Pipeline .....	4/	4/	—	Spies (10/-) .....	15/	14/9	
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	—	Ural Caspian .....	1½	1½	
Anglo-Malay .....	8/9	8/7½	—	Linggi .....	6/	13/10½	
Batu Caves .....	12½	11½	—	London Asiatic .....	14/	5/9	
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/7½	—	Malacca .....	4	4	
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/7½	2/7½	—	Malayalam .....	21/3	21/	
Damansara .....	2½	2½	—	Merlimau .....	4/	4/	
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	—	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	11/	11/3	
Highlands .....	2½	2½	—	United Serdang .....	9/	8/10½	
Johore Rubber Lands ..	13/6	13/9	—	Vallambrosa .....	13/1½	13/3½	
Abbottiakoon .....	7/9	7/10½	—	De Beers dfd. ....	9½	10	
Brakpan .....	2½	2½	—	East Rand .....	1½	1½	
Broken Hill Prop. ....	42/6	42/9	—	Gt. Boulder .....	14/7½	15/	
Cam & Motor .....	12/6	12/	—	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½	
Central Mining .....	6½	6½	—	Modder "B" .....	48½	58	
Chartered .....	9/10½	9/10½	—	Do. Deep .....	4½	4½	
City Deep .....	3½	3½	—	New Modder .....	14½	15½	
Cons. Gold Fields .....	1½	1½	—	Rand Mines .....	4½	4½	
Cons. Langlaagte .....	2½	2	—	Rio Tinto .....	53	53½	
Crown Mines .....	3½	4	—	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½	

said of the Oil market, although here more interest has been displayed. Shells, Royal Dutch, Mexican Eagles, Egyptians, Lobitos, and a few others were in demand, and even that mystery concern the Venezuelan Oil Concessions recovered a fraction. Russians hesitated, but they have a good following, and their chances should not be ignored.

Union Bank of Canada.—The London office announces that Messrs. E. W. H. Blake, B.A., barrister, of Toronto, and R. O. McCulloch, of the firm of Goldie and McCulloch, safe manufacturers, of Galt, have been elected directors of the bank, to replace the late E. E. A. Du Vernet, K.C., of Toronto, and the late Hon. S. Barker, P.C., M.P., of Hamilton.



## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—In this market a fairly good business transpired in the course of the week, and prices were without material alteration. Cuban receipts for all ports last week: 13,500 tons, as compared with 14,000 tons in 1914. Centrals at work 5, against 3. Of home refined goods Tate's cubes, sold, 30s. 6d. to 31s.; fine granulated, 28s.; and standard ditto, 27s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. White Java lying in outports sold at 27s. to 27s. 3d. Argentine, moleada, spot, London, 29s. American granulated, 29s. A quieter demand existed for cane sorts at generally late rates. Crystallised Antigua sold 25s. 6d. for mid yellow; and fine Trinidad, 26s. 6d. In auction, cane descriptions met a quiet demand at generally easier prices. 269 bags crystallised Demerara sold, good mid to fine yellow, 25s. 6d. to 26s. 6d. 1,135 bags St. Lucia, small part sold, mid to good mid yellow, at 25s. 6d. to 25s. 9d. 600 bags Antigua, few found buyers, mid yellow, 25s. 3d. 133 bags Demerara syrups sold, good yellow, 20s. 9d. to 21s. 586 Mauritius syrups, part sold, low to fair brownish, at 17s. to 18s.

**COFFEE.**—At public sale fairly good supplies were offered, and passed off quietly. East India: Neilgherry, bold, 73s. 6d. to 76s. 6d.; mid, 71s.; small, 64s. to 64s. 6d. Jamaica, fine bold, 115s. 6d. to 120s. 6d.; fine mid, 106s. 6d. to 112s.; peas, 133s. Costa Rica, good bold, 75s. to 76s. 6d.; mid, 65s. to 74s. 6d.; small, 60s. to 67s.; peas, 75s. to 83s. Vera Paz, good bold, 78s.; peas, 88s. Nicaraguan, good bold, 75s. Colombian, fair bold, 60s.; peas, 74s. 6d. Futures continued quiet. December sold, 35s.

**COCOA.**—No public sales held. In the private market a better demand prevailed, prices being firm, and in some cases dearer. Trinidad, sold, 81s. to 83s.; and St. Thomé, at 72s. 3,000 bags Bahia—Naval prize—sold on special terms at 69s., 72s.

**TEA.**—At public sales of Indian, all grades with quality, especially Assams, continue to meet with fair competition at generally steady prices. Common grades, however, were slow of sale, and values showed a decline of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. Ceylon offerings met with quieter support. Good-liquoring qualities ruled steady, with a fair demand, but for the commoner grades competition was restricted, and prices were generally ½d. per lb. lower. Java auctions met with quiet support, and prices were generally easier.

**SPICE.**—Pepper opened firmer with a better demand, but became quiet and easier forward. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sold, 5½d.; fair Tellicherry at 5½d.; fair Lampung, 5½d., buyers; fair white Singapore, on spot, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d. To arrive: black Singapore, September-November shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Lampung ditto, 5½d.; white Singapore ditto, sellers, 7½d.; Muntok, September-October, sold, 8½d. to 8½d., c.f. and i.; and ditto landed terms at 9½d. to 8½d.; Penang, September-October shipment, sellers, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves dull. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, 6½d. At public sale Jamaica ginger, mid bold, sold, 65s. 6d. to 67s.; low mid to mid, 62s. to 63s.; small, 58s. to 60s. Ceylon black pepper, sold, 5½d. Pimento at 7½d. West India mace at 2s. 4d., and Eastern ditto at 2s. 3d.

**RICE.**—Firm, but business proceeded quietly.

**JUTE.**—Market firmer. Native first marks, old crop, sellers, £23; ditto new crop, September, sold, at £24 7s. 6d. to £24 10s. and £24 7s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—The market for Manila ruled firmer, while a fair trade passed. New graded, fair, August-September and September-November, buyers, £38 5s.; medium, £34 5s.; coarse, sold, £29 12s. 6d. to £29 15s.; and coarse brown, £29 17s., buyers. New Zealand maintained a steady level. G.F., August-October and October-December, quoted at £32 15s.; H.P.F., £31 15s.; and fair, £30 15s., c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Market for spot ruled firm. Fair T.N., orange, sold at 63s. to 64s. A.C., garnet, fair, free, 62s., sellers. T.N., October-December shipment, 63s. 6d., c.f. and i. A firm, but quiet, tone prevailed for future delivery. T.N., August, sold, 62s. 6d.; October, 64s.; and December, 66s.

**GAMBEI** quiet of sale. Good marks, August-September shipment, quoted at 32s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.**—The market opened firmly, but became easier. Plantation, standard crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4½d.; August delivery, at 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5d., and 2s. 4½d.; September, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; January-June quoted 2s. 3½d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4d.; August delivery, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; September, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4d.; January-June, sellers, 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 2s. 4½d.; August-September delivery, 2s. 4½d.; October-November and November-December sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5d. Soft fine, spot, sellers, 2s. 3d. Ball, September-October, sold, 1s. 8½d. Scrappy, spot and near, sellers, 1s. 8d. per lb.

**COPRA** ruled quiet, but generally steady. To London: Ceylon, August-September, quoted £24 15s.; Malabar ditto, buyers, £25; F.M.S., Singapore buyers, £23 15s.; South Sea Islands, buyers, £23. To Marseilles, F.M. Straits, buyers, £23 12s. 6d. Cebu, August-September, nominally £23 10s.; and Manila, September-October, £23 2s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**TALLOW** ruled very quiet. At public sale, 2,447 casks were brought forward, and 656 sold, prices being unchanged to 3d. per cwt. easier. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 36s.; dark to dull, 30s. to 34s. 6d.; hard, 36s. 6d. Beef: fine, 36s.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 34s. 6d.; dark to dull, 30s. to 32s. 3d.; sweet, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter unaltered. Town tallow, 34s. 6d.; melted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6½d. per 8 lbs.

**OILS.**—Linseed market firm. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 15s.; barrels, £26 10s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 15s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked),

spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), August-September, £29, c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £26 15s.; refined pale, spot (pipes), £30; sweet (barrels), £34 to £35. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £42 to £43. Cochin, spot, £45 to £48. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, July-August, £22, c.f. and i. Turpentine firmer. American spirits, on spot, 34s. 9d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet, but firm. Calcutta, spot, 55s. 9d.; afloat, 55s. 9d.; August-September, 55s. 9d.; September-October, 56s. 6d.; La Plata, August-September, 51s. 9d.; September-October, 51s. 9d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (3 per cent.), 59s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 52s. 6d. Cottonseed dull. London: Egyptian, spot, £9 16s. 3d.; August, £9 12s. 6d.; October, £9 7s. 6d.

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 28, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 1/10, 98% polarisation			Australian	1 3½-2 6	1 3½-2 6
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Scoured Merino	1 2½-2 3	1 2½-2 3
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 0 8-1 7½	1 0 8-1 7½
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Greasy Merino	1 0 8-1 7½	1 0 8-1 7½
Lyle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	Greasy Crossbred	1 0 1-1 0 1	1 0 1-1 0 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 7-2 7	1 7-2 7
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9½-1 6	0 9½-1 6
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 0-2 5½	2 0-2 5½
prompt	nom.	nom.	<b>India rubber</b> —per lb.		
Crystallised, West			Plantation, Spot		
India	24 0-28 6	24 6-27 0	Crepe	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
8½ lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 10½-1 2	0 9½-1 1½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10½-1 4½	0 10½-1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10½-1 5½	0 11-1 6½	Steamers, best	1 1 0	1 0 0
Broken	0 11-1 10	0 11-1 8½	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 1	0 9½-1 1½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10½-1 0½	0 10-1 1½	English Pig	22 5 0	23 10 0
Broken	0 10½-1 0½	0 10½-1 2	Foreign soft Sept.	21 7 6	22 15 0
Orange	0 10½-1 1	0 10½-1 2	<b>Quicklime</b> —per		
Broken	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 4	bottle firsthand	18 5 0	17 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 10-11 0	0 9½-11½	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	150-151	£154-£155
duty 1d. per lb.			Do, bars	151-152	£155-£156
Trinidad—per cwt.	78 0-83 0	77 0-82 0	Standard cash	£148 2 6	£152 15 0
Grenada	73 0-78 0	73 0-78 0	Tin Plates, per box	18 3-18 6	18 0-18 3
West Africa	75s.	nom.	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-90 0	72 0-90 0	English, Tough,	£78-£79	£84-£85
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0-95 0	89 0-92 0	per ton	£78-£79	£84-£85
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			Best Seleced	£76-£77	£80-£81
duty 1d. per lb.			Sheets	£98	£98
East India	62 0-98 0	67 0-96 0	Standard	£85 0 0	£71 10 0
Jamaica	47 0-118 0	47 0-118 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Costa Rica	57 0-83 0	55 0-82 0	Native firsts for		
<b>Provisions</b> —			sh'pmt. Sept.	£24 0 0	£24 10 0
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			<b>Oils</b> —		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£25½-£26	£26-£26½
Irish Creameries	156/-162/-	154/-160/-	Rape, ref. English,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dutch do	nom.	nom.	casks	£36½-£38	£36-£38
Russian finest	134/-136/-	134/-138/-	Brown English,	£34-£35	£34-£35
Normandy baskets	120/-148/-	118/-148/-	naked	£28 0 0	£28 15 0
Danish finest	169/-172/-	164/-166/-	Cott'n Seed, crude	£30½-£36	£30-£35
Brittany rolls			Ditto, refined		
doz. lb.	14 0-16 6	14 0-16 6	Petroleum Oil, per		
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			8 lbs.	9d.	9½d.
Irish	101 0-105 0	96 0-105 0	Water White	10d.	10½d.
Continental	93 0-105 0	98 0-105 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Canadian	80 0-90 0	80 0-95 0	Calcutta—per 40		
American	64 0-76 0	64 0-75 0	lbs., Aug.-Sep.	2 14 9	2 16 6
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Rape, Guzerat		
Irish	108 0-124 0	108 0-126 0	Sept.-Oct.	2 17 0	2 19 0
Canadian	74 0-80 0	72 0-76 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
American	44 0-76 0	44 0-71 0	Cleveland Cash	3 5 11	3 5 0
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			<b>Tobacco</b> —duty,		
Edam	80 0-82 0	82 0-86 0	unmanufactured		
Canadian	70 0-76 0	72 0-74 0	3/8, 4/1½ per lb.		
Gouda	74 0-78 0	74 0-78 0	Maryland & Ohio		
English Cheddar	78 0-94 0	78 0-94 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
White loaf	nom.	nom.	Virginian leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
New Zealand	70 0-75 0	71 0-74 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—			Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
open charter,			Ilavana	1 0-6 c	1 0-6 c
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6-2 c	0 6-2 c
cwt.			Cigars, duty 7½ lb.	2 0	2 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Danish Fir, per		
Saigon c. f. and i.	nom.	nom.	load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	280/-620/-	280/-600/-
Dutch	15 0-17 0	15 0-17 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	nom.	11 0-12 0	Town households		
Danish	14 9-17 6	14 9-18 0	official	45/-	45/-
			American, 1st pat-		
			ents	45/ upds.	44/ upds.

**METALS.**—Copper. A more pronounced tone characterised this market since last Tuesday on improved support by consumers and speculators, with sellers exercising reserve, the feeling being unsettled from time to time. Sentiment was further followed up during the middle of the week, Standard cash delivery reaching £68 5s., and three months', £69 10s. Covering and forward buying continued at Thursday's session, while values of these dates left off at £70 17s. 6d., and three months', £72. Electrolytic raised to £82 10s. Tin: The smart rise in copper has made its influence felt upon this market, and good general inquiries have stimulated prices to no little extent, dealings being on a more extended scale, spot Standard by Thursday reaching £155, and three months' delivery, £156 5s. Lead dearer. Soft foreign, August-November, £22 5s. to £22 10s. Spelter stronger. August, £68; and October, £64. Iron: tone distinctly firmer.



**CORN (Mark Lane).**—There was no expansion of business in market this week, the attendance being limited, and price movements occasionally against sellers. Wheat (English): Old, nominal; whites ranging to 59s. 6d., and reds to 58s. 6d. New crop, 47s. to 52s. per quarter (504 lbs.), delivered up according to quality. Of imported descriptions, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 58s. 3d.; and No. 3, 57s. 3d.; Indian, 54s. 9d. to 55s. 3d., all ex ship. Argentine, 56s., landed terms. Flour: Minneapolis first patents, 44s. upwards; and Canadian, 41s. to 42s., both landed. Grinding barley: Plate, ex ship to arrive shortly, 37s.; and old, ex quay, nominal. Japanese, ex ship, to arrive, 37s.; and old, ex quay, nominal at 40s. Plate oats, 26s. 3d. to 29s. 6d., landed, as to quality. American, white clipped, 33s., quay terms. Maize: Plate (sound), held for 31s. 6d., ex ship; and 32s. 6d. landed.

**COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).**—The market throughout the week has been generally quiet, but prices have shown very little change, and most producers have held firmly to quotations. There is no appearance at the moment of freer buying, but in view of the slack demand for many months it is held in some quarters that increased activity cannot be long deferred. An improvement in the war news would be very welcome, and would no doubt give buyers confidence. The raw cotton situation shows scarcely any change whatever. The placing of cotton on the contraband list by our Government has had practically no effect whatever upon prices. The inquiry in cloth for India has broadened somewhat, but most of the offers have been altogether too low. Grey shirtings continue dull, and the business offering has been chiefly in bleaching and finishing cloths. It is said that the shipments to Calcutta this month will only be about half the amount sent during July. Some fairly substantial transactions have been arranged in a certain make of shirtings for China, delivery extending up to the end of the year, but business of this character has been quite isolated. The turnover for most of the minor outlets has been unimportant, and demand can only be described as featureless. In printing cloths a fair amount of inquiry has been experienced, but it is still hard work to secure prices worth having. Further developments have occurred in connection with wages for operative weavers, and the trade union officials have approached the Government as to their case for a war bonus. The amount of business passing in home trade circles is not very important, but many departments are busy for the time of the year. American yarns for home consumption have been well held in quotation, and in some quarters a fair amount of business has been done. In view of the big Oldham stoppage next week, spinners have not been disposed to give way in price to secure fresh orders. An improvement has shown itself in the demand for India in bundles, both single and twofold descriptions being in request. Some sales have also been arranged in cops for Holland. There has been very little activity in Bolton spinnings, and there is a considerable amount of curtailment of production in this section.

#### FRIDAY EVENING.

**SUGAR.**—No change occurred in quotations, and as regards white sugars there was a sustained demand, while yellow cane sorts move off slowly.

**COFFEE.**—Market quiet, unaltered on spot. Only unimportant supplies were offered in auction. Terminal market remained quiet. September delivery quoted 34s. 3d.

**SPICE.**—Again slow in all directions, and rates for pepper move in favour of the buyer.

**JUTE.**—In better request and market firmer, with sales of native first marks August-September at £24 10s. to £24 12s. 6d.

**HEMP.**—In moderate support, and tone of market ruled firm. New graded coarse September-November sold at £29 15s. and medium £34 15s.

**RUBBER.**—Met a slow sale all round. Standard crêpe sold 2s. 4½d., September buyers 2s. 4½d., October-December buyers 2s. 4d., and ribbed smoked sheet spot sold 2s. 4d. Para fine hard spot and also forward nominally quoted 2s. 4½d.

**OILS.**—Linseed firmer. Spot pipes (landed), £26; barrels, £26 10s. Turpentine, on spot, 34s. 9d.

**LINSEED.**—Firm. London-Calcutta, spot and near, 56s. 6d.; September-October, 56s. 9d. La Plata, August-September, 52s. 6d.; September-October, 52s. 6d.

**BUFFALO AND LAKE HURON RAILWAY CO.**—Results for the six months ended June 30 are practically identical with those for the corresponding period last year, the available balance, after providing for interest on the first and second mortgage bonds, and including the balance brought in, being merely £91 higher at £15,111. The usual dividend of 5s. 3d. per share is paid, absorbing £13,785, and the balance of £1,326 remaining is carried forward. No addition was made to capital account during the past half-year.

**A. M. PEEBLES AND SON, LTD.**—Notwithstanding the war and the continued serious increase in the cost of production, nett profit for the year ended June 30 rose £3,442 to £3,572, but owing to the necessity of holding large stocks of materials, and the uncertain outlook in the war material and shipping markets, the directors are again unable to recommend any dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares. Therefore, £4,360, including £1,288 brought in, is carried forward to the next year's accounts, or £3,572 more than a year ago. The report states that the buildings and machinery have continued to be maintained in the highest state of efficiency, and business at the new warehouse at West Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., still continues to increase satisfactorily.

## Answers to Correspondents.

**\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

**Edina.**—The future of this company promises greater success than ever once peace has returned. There may be no hurry to purchase in present circumstances because the shares may further recede, yet a purchase now should ultimately pay well if not made with borrowed money.

**Granite.**—This share is the most backward of all the big companies, but it will go up with the others, especially as the traffic receipts are now beginning to show good increases. At the same time caution is necessary, because markets are very difficult to deal in.

**F. P.**—(1) Gas Light and Coke 4 per cent. consolidated preference at not more than 72. (2) Buenos Ayres Great Southern 4 per cent. debenture stock about 78. (3) In the present state of exchange we are inclined to say yes, at any rate so far as the two non-cumulative preference stocks are concerned, especially the Union Pacific. We see no rise, however, in either. As for the third stock, it also is not likely to improve much in the near future; we doubt, indeed, whether the dividend can be maintained, so as the exchange is favourable perhaps you had better sell. Thanks for hint. Will bear it in mind.

**A. D. M.**—We are very doubtful; the life is not expected to be very long. Better leave them alone.

**G. S. R.**—We think so. The present rate of exchange accounts for the high price.

**E. E. W.**—We are afraid you cannot sell at present. The immediate outlook is not very bright, but there should be a chance of some recovery when conditions are more normal.

**C. A. S.**—(1) Prices may go still lower, but you might buy a little and wait. (2) The dividend should be safe, and you might add a few to your holding. Profits have been severely affected by the war, but there was a fair margin shown in the last report.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

**Barlow and Jones.**—Interim of 3 per cent. actual on ordinary, less tax. A year ago 2 per cent. actual was paid on ordinary and the full year's dividend was 6 per cent., against 8 per cent. for previous five years.

**British American Tobacco.**—Interim of 5 per cent. for year ending Sept. 30 on issued ordinary, free tax, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

**British Gas Light.**—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, for half-year ended June 30, both less tax, payable Oct. A year ago the dividend was the same, but the bonus was 5s. per share.

**Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.**—Usual quarterly of 1½ per cent. on common for the period ending Sept. 30, payable Oct. 1.

**Edinburgh American Land Mortgage.**—Interim on ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

**John Oakey and Sons.**—Interim ordinary for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Sept. 1.

**North British Rubber.**—The directors have issued dividend warrants for the arrears of dividend for 1911 and 1912 on the first preference shares.

**Samuel Marsden and Son.**—18 months' dividend on the 5½ per cent. preference, bringing the payment up to June 30, 1913. With £3,343 forward, against £1,660, the last ordinary dividend was 5 per cent. for 1906-7.

**Southern Punjab Railway.**—Interim on ordinary for the six months ended March 31 of 5 per cent., payable Sept. 8, same as last year.

**Standard Bank of South Africa.**—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, subject to tax. The bank's investments have been written down to their lowest ascertainable value as at June 30, and all other usual and necessary provisions have been made, payable Oct. 22, same as a year ago.

**Vine Products.**—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax, on both preference and ordinary for half-year June 30, payable 31st inst.

**Western Ranches and Investment.**—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

**William Fulton and Sons.**—5 per cent. on the ordinary, writing off £4,000 for depreciation, placing £3,000 to reserve, with £6,457 forward. Last year no dividend was paid on the ordinary.

## THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

### NOTICE.

MEMBERS of the STOCK EXCHANGE are NOT ALLOWED to ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue Circulars or Business Communications to persons other than their own Principals. Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are Not Members of the Stock Exchange, or in any way under the control of the Committee. Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature. A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London



### American Business Notes.

That vigorous old democrat of the Southern States, Mr. Henry Watterson, writes in the *Louisville Courier* to protest against the delay of President Wilson. "Explanations are idle and useless. They simply mock the facts," he says. "Look out, Mr. President. People want to trust you, they want to follow your lead. They have been very whole-hearted and patient. But they will not have the dignity and honour of the nation put in commission, still less flouted, while God Himself, as all of us know, hates a coward." Language of that sort finds a response on this side, and the note of impatience with the apparent slowness of President Wilson's action is only too emphatic among certain classes both in the States and here. We must guard against being caught by any wave of fury of this description, not only because it would be a mistake for us here to try and hustle the United States into joining the war on our side, but because an extreme measure of that kind should be altogether unnecessary. We do not believe for a moment that President Wilson's hesitation is the product of cowardice. So far from that, though we differ from him much and often, he seems to us a man of exceptionally high moral courage, because he has taken his own line and gone on unmoved amid all the clamour. Contrasted with the language of ex-President Roosevelt, for example, Mr. Wilson is a dignified and resolute, if at times puzzled-looking and over-cautious representative of the nation's sentiments. No large portion of the people want war. Many considerable elements in the national life, the German element above all, resent the very idea of joining in the war, and also amongst all segments of the population there is an undoubted disposition to regard the European turmoil from a self-interested point of view. It would not be conducive to "good business" to join in the fight. It is, however, unnecessary for us to examine into the motives that may determine the action of the Washington Government or of the President. Much more to the purpose is it to discuss the pros and cons of policy.

Whether he waits for affidavits or not, we have no doubt that President Wilson will find himself confronted with the alternative of backing down once more, and accepting in apparent meekness the derisory explanations and, it may be, apologies of the Kaiser's Government, or standing up for righteousness and high moral ideals, although an emphatic pronouncement would be calculated to blight the ideals of the Teutonic peoples for ever. Assume that the President is convinced of the heinousness of the latest crime, the unwarmed torpedoing of the *Arabic*, what can he do? The Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells us that a suggestion has been made and welcomed in America to the effect that Congress should pass a "Non-Intercourse Act" stopping all trade with Germany both export and import. That same idea has been mentioned in our columns more than once, and the more we have thought of it and of its ramifications, the more it has commended itself as the best and most effective alternative to a declaration of war against the pirate empires, followed by active participation in hostilities the Allies are perfectly capable of bringing to a satisfactory finish by themselves. We, however, should go further than a mere boycott of Germany, and give active help to the Allies. Surely the people of the United States, natives of the country, the people of New England and of the Virginias, Carolinas, Maryland, and other States in the original Federation retain some grateful memory of the heroic assistance France gave them with a fine chivalry of self-forgetfulness in their struggle against England prior to their attainment of independence. They cannot forget either the ties of blood uniting them with that England, from whom, alas, they have not once, but many times, received scurvy treatment, but whose attitude has been for a century back that of blood-brotherhood; it might be bickering brotherhood now and then rather than anything else, but on the whole it tended to good fellowship. Might not a high public

spirit in the United States, modelled on that of France in the war of American Independence, dictate a much more active interference on our side than that signified by a mere law forbidding intercourse with Germany? Were the President, for instance, to say to Berlin, after becoming possessed of the evidence of the latest German crime—"You have violated every law recognised by civilised nations even in a state of war; you have mocked us, and continued after repeated warnings a course of piracy and murder on the high seas which cannot be tolerated; therefore as a first step we shall authorise all merchant vessels trading between our ports and Europe to carry guns for purposes of self-defence, and if by reason of their necessities at the seat of war your enemies, our Allies, are unable themselves to equip their merchant vessels with these guns, we shall supply them at our own cost. If necessary also, and if it seems to us expedient, we shall make free gifts of artillery and ammunition to these Allies to any extent that may be required in order to help them to destroy your empires. And in order to bring home to you the meaning of your conduct, we shall proceed to confiscate all German shipping interned in our ports, and all German-owned property within the United States either outright or to hold against the claims for compensation and damages to be made when you have been beaten into submission." In this way the States might at once get command of an excellent mercantile navy of its own, and, incidentally, do much to reduce ocean freights, and otherwise to lessen the hardships of war for the Allies now fighting its battle as well as their own. For the spirit which must be infused into the relations of nations as fruit of this war—and of individuals—must be a spirit of mutual helpfulness, of self-abnegation and self-denial, of trust, likewise, else the triumph of the victors will be less than half complete. Will the United States lead the way, and set an example in the exhibition of this nobler attitude in international brotherliness, international morality? A minority of the Republic's inhabitants would, we feel sure, but that it is strong enough to sway the multitude of those who grovel and live the life of trackers hunting for gain, for self alone, we doubt. The Germans, indeed, would seem to comprehend the mind of the United States better than that of any other civilised country with which they have had dealings. Their officials have, through Bernstorff, begged for delay of judgement, and meantime express "regrets and sincere sympathies" for the crime, if committed. And Washington is reported to be "pleased" with this mockery, and all except the few stalwarts of righteousness are probably busy now in quest of excuses, palliatives, pretexts, no matter how insincere, for doing nothing to interrupt the dollar worship. Should this be so, what will be the attitude of the *Entente* Powers towards their lukewarm friend when peace comes back?

Apparently cotton and other interests in the United States have accepted the Franco-British action in declaring cotton absolute contraband without excitement or much protest. All we are told is that, "for political reasons," the Washington Government intends to stain much paper over the change. "A prolonged diplomatic discussion" is to ensue, the manoeuvring therein being presumably directed towards the foundation of claims against us for damages. Nevertheless, something has been gained by our long hesitation. It has familiarised the cotton growers and speculators in the States with the probability of a coercive stoppage by us of supplies to Germany. It has enabled banks to make provision against possible crises in the cotton-growing States, and large sums of money have already been sent there to be at the disposal of the local Federal banks against emergencies. The Allied Governments are likewise behaving with the utmost consideration, seeing the necessity they are under to apply every conceivable pressure upon Germany. This is recognised by the best newspapers—and by the best citizens—in the United States, but that there will be discontent in many quarters, and that it will be fomented as much as possible by the maladroït German agencies within the Republic are certainties, and all our Government can



do is to hold fast to the line of action decided upon while yet dealing justly, nay, mercifully, with neutrals. It must show no abatement whatever in its determination to keep cotton out of Germany by every means at its disposal.

Last week's New York bank figures showed that the loan averages had risen to £527,000,000, an increase of £6,374,000 on the week. The deposit averages were also £10,096,000 higher at £551,784,000. The demand deposits have actually risen £10,542,000, to £523,130,000, but the time deposits of £28,654,000 showed a reduction of £446,000. Such immense increases of credit assets and liabilities affected the reserve, whose aggregate showed an increase of £3,886,000 at £127,766,000, and the surplus reserve, in spite of the increase in the deposit liabilities, was likewise £2,042,000 up at £37,200,000. As the reader needs to be frequently reminded, these stupendous reserve figures do not compare squarely with those published before the Federal Bank law came into operation, but none the less is their magnitude impressive and sufficient to encourage us in the belief that New York is at present well able to help us with credit to any extent we may require.

### Insurance News.

The first part of 1914 was favourable to life assurance, as well as to other forms of business in Australia, as the previous year yielded results to the producing classes of the country which in the aggregate surpassed all previous records. Until July last circumstances were favourable to a progressive state of affairs, but the outbreak of war, coupled with the drought, imparted a widely different character to the later months of the year, and the nett result for the 12 months was seen in a smaller volume of new insurance business than in 1913, which in turn was below the level of 1912. During 1914 the number of policies issued by the 10 principal offices showed a decrease of 4,270, and a decrease of £892,000 in the amount, but the total income of the year was £388,000 larger, following an increase of £295,000 in 1913. On the whole, expenses showed a slight reduction, while claims and surrenders were £186,000 higher. Against the increased return on new investments had to be set depreciation of capital value of existing investments, though generally speaking, the securities held by Australasian life offices are mostly redeemable at fixed dates, so that the ultimate capital value is assured, in this respect the position of the offices being a strong one.

A new departure in fidelity insurance is announced by the Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society, the main object of the new scheme being to simplify matters for all parties concerned, and thus to increase the popularity of this particular class of insurance. Only one proposal form need now be completed by an employer, no forms being required from employees, and while the whole, or any section of the staff, may be insured, no notice of any changes will be needed, the premium, based on the sum insured, and on the amount disbursed in salaries, being adjustable at the close of each period of insurance. Hitherto insurance companies transacting business of this description have required forms from employers and from members of their staffs guaranteed, fresh forms being necessary upon every occasion when any changes in the staff occurred.

Insurance companies transacting motor car insurance business in this country appear to have been hard hit through the war, and it is estimated that claims for damages to cars during the past year have been nearly twice as great as in normal times. On the other hand, in spite of the damage to cars, the percentage of personal accident claims has been remarkably low, which is attributed to the fact that drivers are earning high wages, and consequently cannot afford to be on the injured list. The darkened streets have added considerably to the risk of collisions occurring, especially as many drivers have been hastily

trained to fill the places vacated by experienced men who have gone to the front.

A statement prepared by the Liverpool Underwriters' Association shows that apart from the exceptional losses arising out of the war, the total estimated claims in regard to the more important casualties which occurred during the first quarter of the current year were appreciably higher than in the corresponding period, the increase by ordinary casualties in the case of steamers alone being over 150 per cent. greater than last year, while losses of sailing ships also showed a fairly heavy increase. Underwriters are not inclined to anticipate any very serious losses in connection with last week's hurricanes in Texas, although many vessels were stranded, and the damage done to crops and to the business section of the Port of Galveston has been very serious.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

That Mr. George Seton's statistics of Indian tea planting companies' results are widely appreciated seems to be proved by the fact that they have reached their twenty-fourth annual issue. The total crop of 50 companies with a capital of about £11,500,000 reached 143 million lbs. last year, as compared with 137 million lbs. in 1913, and 133 million lbs. in 1912. Average sale price realised 9.53d., against 9.07d. in 1913, and 8.48d. in 1912, but in the two years all-in costs have risen from 6.17d. to 6.84d., and the profit is only .38d. higher at 2.69d. per lb. Nett profit earned on capital, however, is 2½ per cent. higher at 13.9 per cent., and the average return on capital is raised to the round figure of 11 per cent., while £420,000 has been added to total reserves, making them £1,796,000, apart from large sums appropriated for development of properties. It is an excellent record, on the whole, and gives great encouragement to the parallel industry of rubber planting, which may be regarded as still more or less in its infancy.

A very satisfactory statement was made at the meeting of the European Oilfields Corporation, Ltd., with regard to the contract entered into for the sale of the company's output. This contract has been made for two years, and under it the company is assured a minimum price of 35 kopecks per pood, which shows a substantial margin of profit over the cost of production. When the average monthly market price is over 35 kopecks, the company receives ½ kopeck above such average. The result of this arrangement has been that for its November output the company received 9 kopecks above the market price; for December the excess was 4 kopecks, for January it was 6 kopecks, and for February it was ½ kopeck. Considering the violent fluctuations to which the price of oil in Russia is subject, the deal appears to be an eminently desirable one from the shareholders' point of view, especially as the commercial standing of the buyers leaves nothing to be desired. Of course, if the price rose very much, the company would still reap the advantage, and the claim that the contract is the most favourable of any at present running seems well founded. A few dissatisfied shareholders, however, moved for the appointment of

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ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.



a committee, but they were handsomely beaten by a majority of 238,402, against 3,596 shares, without counting proxies.

The directors of the Golden Hope Rubber Estate announce that an opportunity has just occurred for the purchase on reasonable terms of an estate about 15 miles away, having about 560 acres planted with rubber, which can be worked economically in conjunction with Golden Hope. They point out that the company has always been at a disadvantage owing to the comparatively small area of its property and the fact that no land suitable for extensions was available in the near neighbourhood, and state that, in their opinion, the new property will form a valuable addition. A short option has been obtained, and an extraordinary general meeting will be held on September 3, in order to submit the question of purchase to the shareholders.

### The Week in Mines.

There has been no expansion in business in the mining markets this week; in fact, they have appeared to be rather less active. Nevertheless, the tone has been quite firm, especially as regards Eastern Rand descriptions, which have been supported on the issue of favourable development reports for the June quarter. Base metal shares have also been firmer, owing to the stronger tendency developed by the commodity markets, but the effect on quotations has not been very marked. Russian shares have been fairly steady, but there is hope that the exchange position will be improved by the arrangements to be made in New York, which will enable the companies to remit dividend money to England with much less loss than would be involved at present rates.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The chief incident in the South African market this week has been the strength of Modderfonteins, which have been bought on the good quarterly report, and rose  $\frac{7}{16}$  to  $14\frac{1}{8}$  on the news of an increase in crushing capacity of 40,000 tons a month. Government Modder Areas were also bought on the June quarter's report, and rose to 22s. 6d. Modder B's at 5 1-32 have been a firm feature, and Modder Deeps, after reacting slightly, advanced afresh to  $4\frac{1}{8}$ . There has been further buying of Springs Mines, which have risen to 24s. 6d. On the other hand, East Rands fell to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  on the report for the June quarter showing poor development results, and indicating a further falling off in the ore reserves at the end of the year. Rand Mines, City Deeps, Crown Mines, after being easier, hardened on some support, but Bantjes fell 1-32 to 11-32 sellers on the disappointing development results for the second quarter. Diamond shares have been rather firmer, but prices have not been fully maintained, though Dutch advices continue to show an improvement in the diamond industry. Polished diamonds exported to the United States last week amounted to £50,637, as compared with £46,583 in the preceding week and £1,537 in the corresponding week of last year. Exports of rough diamonds also increased. In the Rhodesian section, Shamvas have been supported at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  on good reports regarding developments on the fifth level. Gold Fields Rhodesians have also been firmer, and Chartereds have met with some inquiry at 10s. Tanganyikas at  $1\frac{1}{16}$  and Zambesias at 8s. 3d. have been rather weaker. West Africans have been featureless.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The recovery in the metal market and the firmer tone of American advices have strengthened copper shares. Anacondas have advanced from  $7\frac{1}{8}$  to  $7\frac{1}{16}$ , and Utah from  $13\frac{1}{4}$  to  $14\frac{1}{4}$ , largely on American buoyancy, but Rio Tintos have been a poor market at about 53. Mount Lyells and Hampden Cloncurrys were dull at first, but recovered later, the former to 21s. and the latter to 28s. 6d. Russian shares have been less active, and Kyshtims have reacted to  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , and Russo-Asiatics to  $4\frac{1}{8}$ . Sisserts have been hardly affected by the report.

Tin shares have been rather better, notably, Siamese Dredgings, and the Broken Hill group, after being weak, hardened slightly on the improved tone of the

metal markets. South Silver fell  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 6 on the half-yearly report, British to 31-32, Proprietarys to 42s., and the debentures to 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Subsequently Proprietarys rallied to 42s. 6d., and the debentures jumped back to 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Among Indian shares, Mysore rose  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{8}$  on fresh support following the recent decline, and Champion Reefs rose slightly to 11s. 6d. Among West Australian shares, Great Boulder Proprietarys advanced 6d. to 15s. on the declaration of the usual  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. quarterly dividend, and Great Fingalls and Lake View Oroyas have attracted some attention. Waihis have been on offer at about 35s.

### MINING NEWS.

**RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £336,565, an increase of £15,895 over last year. The total has only been exceeded once, namely, in October last. The following table shows the production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January ..	£ 207,903	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133
February...	203,055	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789
March.....	231,547	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686
April.....	221,296	221,476	241,098	295,997	315,541
May.....	211,413	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,398
June.....	215,347	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473
July.....	237,517	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565
August....	243,712	239,077	250,576	316,972	—
September	225,777	230,573	250,429	309,398	—
October ..	218,862	230,072	247,068	337,241	—
November	214,040	225,957	239,036	311,711	—
December	217,026	218,661	254,687	309,669	—
Totals	2,647,894	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	2,173,085

The number of producers last month was 228 against 210 in June; and the output of other metals was 16,214 ounces of silver, 3 tons of lead, 35,832 tons of coal, 330 tons of copper, 5,432 tons of chrome ore, 64 tons of asbestos, and 33 carats of diamonds.

**ROBINSON DEEP.**—In the year ended March 31, 585,730 tons were crushed as compared with 619,140 tons, yielding £827,363, or 28s. 3d. per ton, as against £851,623, equal to 27s. 6d. per ton. Working costs increased 6d. to 17s. 6d. per ton, making the average rate of profit 2d. per ton higher at 10s. 8d. The total working profit was £313,770, which compares with £321,418, and the aggregate profit for the year was £12,570 less at £319,671. In addition, £12,934 less at £105,408 was brought in, so the distribution to shareholders is reduced from 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but £113,784, or £8,376 more, is carried forward. Reserves of ore, fully developed, have been reduced from 1,533,000 tons to 1,513,000 tons, but the assay value is higher at 6 dwts. as against 5.9 dwts.

**EAST RAND DEVELOPMENTS.**—The quarterly report of the East Rand Proprietary Mines does not make very cheerful reading as regards development work. The footage developed was 15,220, against 12,836 in the previous quarter, but the 11,125 ft. sampled assayed 8.1 dwts. over 20 ins., against 11,115 ft. assaying 9 dwts. over 25 ins. in the March quarter. Water troubles restricted operations in the Western section, and developments were mainly in sections which were anticipated to be of lower value. Too much importance, the report adds, should therefore not be attached to the present development results, but still the ore reserves at the end of the year will be adversely affected by the low percentage of payable ore now being developed. During the quarter the yield at the mill declined from 28s. to 25s. 8d. per ton, costs were reduced by 1s. 3d. to 18s. 11d., and the working profit was 1s. per ton less at 6s. 9d.

**CROWN MINES.**—The report to June 30 states that in the quarter 10,984 ft. were developed, an increase of 1,082 ft., and the reef disclosures were much better. Main reef leader assayed 145s. 9d. over 17 ins. against 79s. 10d. over 18 ins. in the March quarter, and the South reef assayed 47s. 1d. over 28 ins. against 38s. 8d. over 25 ins. The tonnage crushed established a fresh high record at 638,000 tons, an increase of 40,000 tons. Yield rose from 25s. to 25s. 10d., costs were reduced from 15s. 11d. to 15s. 4d., and the working profit was 1s. 6d. higher at 10s. 6d.

**BANTJES CONSOLIDATED.**—The quarterly report to June 30 states that development work amounted to 3,790 ft., and the reef disclosures were as follows:—Leader assay value 46s. 7d. over 14 ins.; south reef, assay value 71s. 5d. over 10 ins. Development continued disappointing; the footage accomplished showed an improvement of 1,363 ft., owing to a return to more normal conditions, consequent on the resumption of hoisting at the central incline. Owing to an inadequate supply of labour the outlook for the current quarter is not good. The stope faces during the last month gave low values.

**BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.**—Further details are now available as to the results of this company for the half-year ended May 31. The net profits rose by £70,616 to £196,227, after deducting depreciation, debenture interest and sinking fund money. There were expended on construction £294,784, of which £284,000 was on the iron and steel works. There was a substantial reduction in smelting costs, due mainly to the larger quantity of concentrates treated on behalf of other companies. The total treated was 115,374 tons, producing 59,742 tons of bullion, of which 47,679 tons were treated at the refinery. The latter showed increased costs owing to the advanced price of spelter. The spelter plant produced 2,852 tons, and the output of silver was 1,226,779 ozs. and of lead 17,758 tons. Silver



realised 24d. per oz. and lead £19 7s. per ton. The output of spelter was again larger than in the preceding year, and the arrangements made for disposing of zinc concentrates in America enabled the zinc concentration plant to resume operations. It treated 139,763 tons, producing 33,318 tons of concentrates. The iron and steel works were officially opened on June 2, and the whole output to the end of August, 1916, has been disposed of. Since the close of the half-year £30,000 of debentures have been redeemed. In connection with the sale of the Port Pirie works the company has received £300,000 in cash and £200,000 in fully-paid shares of the new company.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### DORADA EXTENSION RAILWAY, LTD.

A set-back of £3,771 to £99,232 is shown in the gross revenue for 1914, of which £2,282 was in goods traffic and £1,137 in live stock and miscellaneous receipts. Expenses at the same time rose by £5,920, mainly because the company had large payments to make in connection with fires, which were exceptionally numerous owing to the severe drought, which is stated to have been the worst experienced in the district served within living memory. Nett earnings were consequently £9,691 lower at £55,194, and as debenture interest and other charges were heavier, the nett balance was £15,563 down at £28,907. A further £1,000 is written off the Honda Municipal Subvention, extinguishing that item, and £422 is written off coal mine exploration, but the sinking fund only gets £775, against £2,600, and there are no special appropriations corresponding to the £2,957 for discount and expenses of the second mortgage debenture issue. The amount transferred to reserve also is reduced from £24,000 to £15,000, and after paying a dividend of 3 per cent., or 1 per cent. less, £2,468 is carried forward compared with £1,259 brought in. During the year a further £30,200 of the second mortgage debentures was issued, of which £30,000 was invested in the Ropeway Extension shares, increasing the holding to £90,000. Expenditure on new rolling stock amounted to £13,584, of which £8,848 was charged to the special reserve created in 1913, and the remainder to capital account, reducing the credit balance to £5,949. In addition to its holding of Ropeway Extension shares, the company has advanced £15,918 to that undertaking. The first 10 miles of the aerial line were opened to traffic towards the end of April last, and it has since been running regularly and satisfactorily. Receipts for the three months were £2,600, and it is expected that these will increase considerably when the ropeway to Solidar, some 12 miles further on, is opened, as it will be very shortly. Traffic receipts of the railway company's own lines for the first seven months of the current year are £6,600 down at £53,000, the decrease being due to the European war.

### GLASGOW AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.

This company has a nominal capital of £250,000 in £2 shares, of which 72,000 have been issued and are fully paid, and by June 30 it had £128,508 invested, while £12,195 was held by the American representatives against investments for which arrangements had been made. Owing to the war the directors deferred the payment of the final calls from September 30 and December 31, 1914, to February 1 and June 10 respectively, so that the company only had the full use of its subscribed capital for a very short time. It was, however, able to show a nett profit of £7,587, of which £1,637 was absorbed by interest on calls paid in advance, and £1,250 was written off preliminary expenses. Out of the balance a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum is paid, as from the dates of the calls, and £733 is carried forward. On July 1 the shares issued were converted into 5 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each. No list of securities is given, but the directors say that they are numerous and well distributed, amply-secured and free from fluctuation.

### JOHN SPENCER AND SONS, LTD.

Although the directors do not say so, this Newcastle undertaking no doubt benefited from the war demands for steel during its financial year, which ended on June 30. Nett profits rose by no less than £31,496 to £80,286, and after providing for debenture interest and income-tax, the divisible surplus, including £2,325 less at £46,143 brought in, amounted to £81,767, or an increase of £26,624. It would, however, appear that the directors regard the expansion as likely to prove exceptional, as they keep the dividend on the ordinary shares down to the 6 per cent. paid for the previous two years. Out of the balance the provision for depreciation is increased by £5,000 to £15,000, an extra £3,667 at £12,929 is written off for expenditure on renewals and improvements, and £10,000, against nothing, is transferred to reserve. Another £2,000 is then put to the bad debt fund and £20,237, or £7,956 more, is carried forward. As the result of the large business done sundry debtors have risen by £45,179 to £107,835, while, on the other hand, current liabilities, including £10,923, or £16,480 less, due to the bankers, are £28,162 up at £123,743.

### BRIGHTON AND HOVE GENERAL GAS CO.

Lighting restrictions do not seem to have affected this company's business appreciably during the half-year ended June 30. Sales of gas increased by 50,519,000 cubic feet, or 6.8 per cent., and as residuals also yielded considerably more, partly because of the larger quantities available and partly because prices were better, the total income was £13,921 up at £151,702. Owing, however, to the enhanced cost of coal, &c., war bonuses and allowances, expenses rose by £6,877 to £121,072, and as

£7,344 less at £35,711 was brought forward, the nett profit was a trifle smaller at £66,355. After writing £2,953 off the securities representing the special purposes fund, as against £1,800 put to capital redemption fund a year ago, the dividends on the "original" and "A" ordinary stocks are reduced by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $10\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum respectively, leaving £956 less at £36,613 to be carried forward. Investments representing various funds have been written down to their market value, and at £76,712 show a reduction of £13,190, of which £10,523 has been provided out of the reserve, leaving that fund at £59,900. The directors say that the additional burdens due to the war have not yet been fully felt, but they have considered it necessary to raise the price of gas by 3d. per 1,000 cubic feet as from March 31 last.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and August 21, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 21, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to August 22, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	14,959,000	13,613,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	22,120,000	13,975,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	14,035,000	11,309,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	2,343,000	3,396,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	14,024,000	7,319,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	50,000
Post Office .....	39,400,000	11,200,000	11,030,000
Crown Lands .....	330,000	160,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	202,583	784,466
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,062,385	1,019,570
Revenue .....	267,232,000	80,486,968	62,966,036
Total, including Balance .....		163,937,920	73,400,555
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		280,000	595,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,300,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		399,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £218,795,000 in 1915-16 and £16,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		219,795,000	32,060,000
Total .....		819,055,265	106,805,555

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 21, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to August 22, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	11,982,207	9,148,282
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	537,730	—
Road Improvement Fund ....	1,451,000	694,395	486,321
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—	—	—
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	2,256,740	2,163,447
Other Consolidated Fund .....	—	—	—
Services .....	1,697,000	774,078	677,787
Supply Services .....	740,496,000	454,253,793	76,008,544
Expenditure .....	804,476,000	470,498,943	88,484,351
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		475,000	950,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		22,215,000	900,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		980,000	1,150,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		60,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		60,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	53,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (Treasury Bills) .....		38,501,000	—
Total .....		710,450,980	91,685,295
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Aug. 21.	1914. Aug. 22.	
Bank of England .....	107,415,666	14,390,361	108,604,285
Bank of Ireland .....	1,188,619	729,899	15,120,260
Total .....			819,055,265

### MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 21, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£72,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	*162,754,000
Total .. .. .	£235,254,000

\* Includes £25,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## LIPTON, LTD.

The 17th annual general meeting of Lipton, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robertson Lawson presiding.

Before proceeding with the business the Hon. Charles Russell (solicitor to the company) read the following letter from Sir Thomas Lipton:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a matter of deep regret to me that the state of my health makes it impossible, for the first time since the inception of the company, to preside at our annual meeting to-day, but since my return from Salonica I have been very unwell and have not been able to leave my house. My doctor has imperatively forbidden me to be present at the meeting, and I am perforce obliged to abide by his orders, though very much against my own inclinations. I hope you will accept this expression of my very sincere regret at not being able to meet you, as I should otherwise have been only too pleased to do. For some considerable time past, and as I indicated at our last meeting, I have felt the necessity of introducing fresh blood into the direction and management of the business, and the new directors whose names appear on the report are, in my judgment, most valuable additions to the board. Mr. Robertson Lawson is a well-known chartered accountant, who has wide experience in dealing with the intricate financial affairs of public companies, and I consider that he has more than justified his appointment as deputy chairman in view of the extremely able way in which he, and Mr. Peters, in conjunction with Mr. Bowker, faced and handled a very difficult situation. Mr. Peters also has had a very wide experience of stores and of commerce generally, and has held many important and responsible positions in large businesses, while Mr. Bowker is well known in the City as a gentleman of much experience in business affairs. I have therefore the greatest confidence in recommending these gentlemen to you. The report and what may be said from the chair to-day will, I think, sufficiently confirm all I have to say in this connection. I may add that, in addition to the reconstruction of the board, several changes have been made, and are being made, in the *personnel* of the management, all of which changes I feel sure will contribute to increased efficiency in the conduct of the business and to improved results in the near future. For myself, I would only again say that it is a matter of supreme regret to me that I cannot be present with you to-day, but it is some satisfaction to me to think that the obligations for which I have made myself responsible will go far to convince you, if such is at all necessary, of my abiding interest in the company's well-being. (Cheers.)

The Chairman said he was certain that they all hoped it would not be long before Sir Thomas Lipton was restored to robust health again. (Hear, hear.)

The Secretary (Mr. Walter Weir) then read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that he and his colleagues could quite realise that the position which they had to place before the shareholders on that occasion, as indicated in the report, must be a disappointing one, and to none was it more so than to Sir Thomas Lipton and the directors. Mr. Peters and he had not been long on the board before they, in co-operation with Mr. Bowker, realised that the position of affairs required to be dealt with very firmly, and, in certain directions, drastically. There was lack of cohesion and consolidation about the management generally. The new directors, therefore, after an exhaustive preliminary examination, took steps not only to get right down to the bedrock of the situation, but to commence the reorganisation of the internal management, whilst at the same time not interfering with the proper running of the business in any particular. This work had been going on now for over three months, and although much satisfactory progress had already been made, it would naturally take some time before the complete scheme was carried out. It seemed to the board that certain of the stocks carried were too heavy for the business being done, and they therefore applied definite tests with the object of checking these stocks. He was sorry to have to tell them that they discovered serious discrepancies in them. They therefore went further and had a complete independent stocktaking made as at June 30 last. The result of this full stocktaking investigation revealed the fact that the stocks had been seriously overstated in previous accounts, and were deficient to a considerable amount. In addition to the differences in the stocks they were faced with a substantial shortage of capital in consequence of several speculations having been entered into, which also resulted in considerable loss. These speculations were made for the purpose of developing outside businesses in various parts of the world, but the arrangements in regard to these were of an extremely unsatisfactory nature, and were largely conducted by the late general manager himself without proper sanction from the late board, or without their full knowledge. The balance of the costs of the unfortunate Canteen case had also been advanced by the company, and there were several legal actions against the company for libel and breaches of contract, which had involved the company in further serious loss. The result of all this meant that from the point of view of actual working capital—which, of course, included the deficiencies of stocks—they found the position short by nearly £250,000. Those members of the staff directly responsible for the shortages were no longer in the company's service. The new members of the board were thus faced with a very grave situation indeed, and one which very few companies could have weathered successfully on their own merits. On Sir Thomas

Lipton's return from Serbia a few weeks ago, they had the unpleasant duty of placing before him these facts, and although the position thus disclosed to him was naturally a very great shock to him, he lost no time in expressing his determination to make good these losses himself, large though they were. Sir Thomas had told him on several occasions that he had never sold any of his shares, and that there was one thing he cared about more than anything else in the wide world, and that was the good name of Lipton. He thought they would agree that Sir Thomas had shown this to be true in an extremely practical way—a way which appeals more readily than anything else to shareholder and business man alike—the repayment of the deficiencies, under the terms of an agreement which the directors considered satisfactory. His action would place the company in a position of having a substantial amount of working capital replaced which had been diverted from its true purposes. It was now for the board as reconstituted to see that never again in the history of Lipton, Ltd., could there be a repetition of events such as they had just had to face, and safeguards to that end would be put in operation. Although Mr. Hugh Rankin retired at this time by rotation, and did not offer himself for re-election, he was glad to say that they would still retain his services and goodwill in the business, as his co-operation and knowledge of many details connected with his own particular department would be of much use to the board in future. It was also intended to make a further addition to the board in the person of a gentleman with, they hoped, a wide knowledge of the commodities in which the company dealt.

In regard to the profit and loss account—on the principle that troubles never came singly, all the difficulties which had had to be faced in the balance-sheet were in addition to the troubles of the management as the result of the European War, and the profit and loss account reflected these difficulties. That the war had had a bad effect upon the company up to now was, of course, obvious from the profit and loss account. The profit on trading at stores, branches, &c., was less by £79,489 than the previous year, and this was due to a variety of reasons, for example—a predilection to sell too cheaply and to cut prices; the buying also had been inefficient and had resulted in a living-from-hand-to-mouth policy, which was no use at all for a business of this size. Further, the late general manager's mind was obviously preoccupied with other matters, such as last year's unfortunate litigation, which prevented his devoting the closest attention to the legitimate business of the company. Another reason for the reduction was that before arriving at the profit on trading, an amount of £7,684 18. 4d. was paid to members of the staff by way of war allowances, and he added that about 1,000 members of Lipton's staff had joined the colours. In conclusion, he said that their endeavour had been solely to put the business upon a real solid basis, and once and for all to get rid of the adverse rumours which had from time to time been circulating as to the position of the company. It must be obvious to them that with the writing down which was recommended, together with the large sum of capital which Sir Thomas had agreed he would provide, and with ordinary good management, it was only a question of time—and he trusted not a very long time—before the whole business would respond satisfactorily to the rearrangements which they now submitted for the shareholders' confirmation. He then formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. L. Peters, in seconding the motion, remarked that he fully endorsed what had been said from the chair. The board proposed to direct their attention to extensions of the business in its home trade by means of additional branches, and also to the development of its export trade. In the development of new branches the directors fully realised they must proceed with caution, but when he told them that during the past three or four years the number of branches added, after allowing for those closed, only amounted to a bare half-dozen, it would be realised how far behind the company had been left by several of their leading competitors. The directors were also giving special attention to the manufacturing resources of the business, which were very considerable. The business had shown an increase since the date of the accounts, and he thought unless anything unforeseen occurred better results should be obtained as time went on. Some months must necessarily elapse before they could get the business into the satisfactory strides at which they aimed. They could not, however, look forward with that confidence which they possessed were they not satisfied that there was a strong vitality in this extensive business which augured well for its responding to sound administration, and led them to hope for improved records when they next had the pleasure of meeting the shareholders. (Hear, hear.)

A protracted discussion followed, in the course of which criticisms were directed to the capitalisation and management of the company in the past, and an amendment was moved for the appointment of a committee of investigation and the adjournment of the meeting to receive its report. Mr. Lea-Smith, Mrs. Ashton, Mr. Milne, and other speakers expressed their confidence in Mr. Robertson Lawson and his colleagues, and urged that they should be given a fair trial.

The Chairman, in reply to various questions, stated that Mr. Peters was resigning his connection with other companies in order to devote himself exclusively to his duties as managing director of Lipton's—(hear, hear)—and he also said that the sum of, roughly, £250,000 which was to be handed over to the company by Sir Thomas Lipton was not a loan, but a gift. (Cheers.)

A shareholder expressed the opinion that, in the interests of the shareholders themselves, it would be better not to proceed with the agitation for a further investigation, but to withdraw the amendment and pass the accounts. (Hear, hear.)



Eventually the amendment was withdrawn, and the original motion for the adoption of the report and accounts passed unanimously.

The appointments of Mr. Robertson Lawson, Mr. H. L. Peters, and Mr. A. Bowker as directors were confirmed; and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman, on the proposition of Mr. Williams, the proceedings terminated.

### NOBEL-DYNAMITE TRUST.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering resolutions sanctioning an arrangement for the sale of the German interests of the undertaking and providing for the voluntary liquidation of the Trust. Sir Ralph William Anstruther, Bart. (chairman of the company), presided.

Mr. F. A. B. Hodgetts, one of the joint secretaries, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: As I indicated to you at our last annual general meeting, we found ourselves on the outbreak of war in a very difficult position, seeing that we owned the shares of certain companies in Germany. Appreciating the need for your interests being conserved, we deemed it desirable to prepare a scheme for the separation of our German and British interests. With the consent of the Home Government, this scheme was submitted to Germany through a neutral channel. The negotiations which followed were necessarily very protracted, and were, of course, carried on with the full cognisance and approval of the Home Government. I am glad to think that they have resulted in our now being able to put before you what we consider a very satisfactory scheme. Since it became necessary to sever our German connections, the simplest plan, in the opinion of the board, was an arrangement for the sale of the German assets, payment to be made by the surrender of the Trust shares held in Germany. This method of settlement has been adopted in our negotiations, and the minimum number of Trust shares to be handed over to us from Germany has been fixed at 150,000 ordinary shares of £10 each. Our latest advices are that 153,245 shares are held for delivery pending your acceptance of the scheme. This sale of our German interests renders it unnecessary to continue the Trust Company. The British interests are largely represented by shares in Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Glasgow, the predominant partner in the Trust. We have been advised that the most expeditious means of securing the separation of interests would be voluntarily to wind up the Trust Company. We therefore propose to invite those shareholders whose shares have not been surrendered under the agreement with the German bank to exchange their shares in the Trust Company for preference and ordinary shares in Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Glasgow. It is proposed that the preference shareholders of the Trust Company should accept 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Glasgow, in exchange for those they now hold in the Trust Company. Apart from the extra four months' interest which the preference shareholders will receive for the current year, I may here tell you that the security behind these shares in the Glasgow Company, after providing for the debenture issue of £500,000, is ample, as will be made plain when I say that the earning power of Glasgow, taken on a thoroughly conservative basis over the past five years, has been more than sufficient to cover the preference interest five times over. The Glasgow Company take over from the Trust Company all their remaining assets. These, as I stated to you at our last general meeting, are world-wide and profitable, so that the preference shareholders will appreciate that by the conversion of their Trust shares into Glasgow shares their interests are in no wise prejudiced. With regard to the ordinary shares of the Trust Company, the basis of exchange proposed is twelve £1 ordinary shares of Nobel's Explosives Co., Glasgow, for each £10 ordinary share of the Trust Company. Without allowing in any way for the additional revenue which will flow to Nobel's Explosives Co. through the increase that will take place in their assets by the scheme of liquidation, you will see from the figures I have mentioned in connection with the interest of the preferred shareholders that for the future the ordinary shareholders of the Glasgow Company should not be in any worse position from the point of view of annual dividend than they have been during the existence of the Trust Company. It is dangerous in these days, of course, to prophesy, but I think I may safely say that, when the necessary steps consequent on the liquidation of the Trust Company have been effected, the balance-sheet of Nobel's Explosives Co., Glasgow, will show very handsome reserves, very little below those previously accumulated and appearing in the Trust Company's balance-sheets. Some of you may have doubts about the future from the point of view of competition, but it must take time for the German companies to resume the colonial trade which they possessed before the war. Be this as it may, Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Glasgow, will undoubtedly have great opportunities of expansion of trade. New regions hitherto undeveloped and inaccessible owing to political circumstances, will probably be thrown open to industrial enterprise, and in the development of these new regions I am not over-sanguine in saying Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., of Glasgow, will take a leading part.

A considerable discussion followed, in the course of which an amendment was moved for the appointment of a committee.

The amendment having been ruled out of order, the first resolution was put to the vote, but the requisite three-fourths

majority not being obtained, a poll was taken, which resulted in the resolution being carried by 44,000 votes to 176.

The second and third resolutions approving of the draft agreements were agreed to nem. con.

To the fourth resolution, with regard to the payment of £23,332 as additional remuneration to the directors, an amendment was proposed that the sum should be reduced to £10,000, which sum the directors accepted.

### EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the European Oilfields Corporation, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. Herbert Allen (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John Clark, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that having regard to the fact that for six weeks the Baku properties were idle owing to a general strike of workmen throughout the district, and that for five months of the year they had been working under war conditions, he thought it would be generally conceded that the result of the year's working must be regarded as being very satisfactory. Notwithstanding the strike and other adverse factors, the gross profits on trading, at £57,400, were only £10,300 short of those of the previous year, although the price realised for their oil was only 34.05 kopecks per pood as against 36.06 kopecks in the previous year. These unfavourable conditions had, however, been largely offset by a reduction in the cost of production, brought about largely by the further economies they had effected in the quantity of oil used as fuel. Miscellaneous receipts, consisting of interest and profits on investments, brought the entire gross profits for the year up to £62,600, and after deducting £4,453 for London and other expenses and £15,125 for debenture interest and redemption, they were left with a balance of £43,048. Of this sum £25,000 had been added to reserve for depreciation, renewals, and general purposes (bringing the total of that fund up to the respectable figure of £110,000), and one-fifth of the remaining £18,048 (i.e., £3,609) had to be applied to the redemption of profit-sharing notes. The directors proposed to carry forward the remaining balance of £14,439. If all went well in the future they should have no difficulty in distributing the surplus profits, whereas, on the other hand, if they once parted with cash, it was difficult to see how they could replenish the coffers of the company except by bringing remittances from Russia, and as that operation would, at present rates of exchange, entail a loss of over 30 per cent., the directors did not feel justified in making the sacrifice. Meantime, the company had sufficient funds in London to meet the entire debenture service and other expenses for at least a year ahead. That was a strong and very satisfactory position to be in, and one that many companies must envy them. The feeling of the directors was that the reserve fund of £110,000 was well in excess of the actual depreciation, and left a generous margin for what might be called general purposes or contingencies. In association with the Russian Petroleum Co. and the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. they were experimenting with the American rotary system, which was practically new to the Baku district, and if the work finished up as well as it had started it would effect a great saving in the time and cost of drilling wells. Their interests in California and Roumania had felt the effects of the war. In proportion to their magnitude few oil concerns in Baku had got through the year 1914 better than this company, and, as regarded the current year, the net results of their operations for the first three months had been very satisfactory, the figures comparing well with those of the corresponding months last year.

Branches of the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., have been opened at Brandvlei, in Calvinia District, and at Caledon, both Cape Province.

Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd.—The board announces the following changes as from 1st prox.:—Mr. Reginald Thomas Hindley, the present assistant general manager, is appointed joint general manager, in association with Mr. Craig. Mr. John Moodie, now manager of the Manchester (Mosley Street) office, succeeds Mr. Hindley as assistant general manager, and Mr. Harold Bradburn, recently manager at Sheffield, becomes manager of the Manchester (Mosley Street) office.

### IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1907.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 12th September, 1915, will be PAID on and after the 13th proximo (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,  
20th August, 1915.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Aug. 20	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 20	4,111	+	163	+	125,204	+	10,737
Grand Canal ..	" 20	1,306	+	133	+	8,230	+	647
Great Northern ..	" 20	24,275	+	75	+	758,085	+	20,035
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 20	35,415	+	3,408	+	1,072,732	+	98,005
Midland Great Western ..	" 20	14,516	—	493	+	417,762	+	11,502

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	June *	£	—	£	—	£	—	£
Beira ..	June *	30,095	—	14,638	—	2,001,500	—	574,300
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 21	\$286,500	—	\$21,100	—	\$13,005,000	—	\$4029,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	\$1,956,000	—	\$198,000	—	"	—	"
Egyptian Delta ..	July 20	4,142	—	1,961	—	43,372	—	21,499
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Aug. 21	172,856	—	10,098	—	5,040,041	—	485,503
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	31,130	—	493	—	937,253	—	9,636
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	12,278	—	1,552	—	335,723	—	16,333
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 21	11,489	—	6,934	—	79,589	—	41,174
Mashonaland ..	June *	45,720	—	14,891	—	184,435	—	141,979
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	July *	4,913	—	4,545	—	98,694	—	48,528
New Cape Central ..	" 31	1,650	—	203	—	56,385	—	1,015
Rhodesia ..	June *	69,940	—	14,503	—	360,158	—	152,454
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Aug. 14	\$118,575	—	"	—	"	—	"

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. † 10 days. † April 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	July 10	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 10	1,36,000	+	12,049	+	19,31,079	+	56,645
Baral Light ..	" 10	15,300	—	21,000	—	3,28,100	—	1,32,000
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 17	3,29,740	—	32,255	—	60,70,218	—	8,44,979
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 24	7,67,000	—	1,38,000	—	1,32,57,000	—	30,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 21	9,50,000	—	12,000	—	2,38,77,000	—	7,12,000
Burma ..	July 17	3,18,966	—	53,074	—	61,30,250	—	10,94,024
Delhi Umballa ..	Aug. 21	58,000	—	83,325	—	13,34,062	—	77,144
East Indian ..	" 21	17,89,000	—	1,83,000	—	4,29,50,000	—	3,06,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 21	13,64,500	—	2,69,800	—	3,18,30,944	—	4,53,096
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 17	33,638	—	5,308	—	6,35,378	—	33,134
Madras and S. ..	" 24	8,00,000	—	59,485	—	1,54,84,520	—	2,65,374
Nizam's Guarante'd ..	" 24	1,10,707	—	1,653	—	19,26,596	—	1,39,009
Rohilkund and ..	" 17	29,542	—	146	—	5,92,500	—	3,079
Kumaon ..	" 24	5,05,783	—	42,781	—	93,24,906	—	4,70,786
South Indian ..	Mar. 8	6,89,429	—	1,15,571	—	37,46,996	—	6,23,212
Southern Punjab ..	" 10	1,36,000	—	12,049	—	19,31,079	—	56,645

† April 1. † Month. † October 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Aug. 14	£	—	£	—	£	—	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 14	863,000	—	87,000	—	5,219,000	—	287,000
Chicago G.W. ..	July 31	361,000	—	2,000	—	1,164,000	—	22,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 31	378,000	—	16,000	—	1,092,000	—	32,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug. 14	503,000	—	21,000	—	2,938,000	—	2,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 7	1,037,000	—	63,000	—	5,489,000	—	414,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	July 31	757,000	—	7,000	—	2,280,000	—	100,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Aug. 21	580,954	—	52,926	—	4,273,379	—	288,392
Missouri Pacific ..	" 14	1,174,000	—	27,000	—	7,008,000	—	573,000
Southern ..	" 14	1,195,000	—	78,000	—	"	—	"

† 10 days.

† Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			Mo. or Dec. on last year	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			Mo. or Dec. on last year
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Dols.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Dols.	
Atchafson T. & S. Fé ..	June	2,950,000	+	376,000	12	36,051,000	+	3,937,000	
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	412,000	—	63,000	12	7,042,000	—	2,016,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,203,000	+	1,719,000	12	27,891,000	+	3,130,000	
Canadian Northern ..	July	285,100	—	145,400	1	285,100	—	145,400	
Canadian Pacific ..	June	2,678,000	—	657,000	12	33,575,000	—	8,851,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,080,000	—	187,000	12	11,793,000	—	811,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,859,000	—	301,000	12	22,252,000	—	499,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	1,640,000	—	431,000	11	28,499,000	—	205,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	"	208,000	—	15,000	11	3,092,000	—	51,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	2,823,000	—	566,000	12	24,717,000	—	1,900,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	May	804,000	—	348,000	11	12,985,000	—	902,000	
Colorado & Southern ..	June	150,000	—	124,000	12	1,463,000	—	635,000	
Cuba ..	"	457,571	—	25,387	11	3,206,714	—	42,043	
Do. ..	"	185,400	—	78,864	11	1,873,684	—	222,179	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	667,000	—	1,000	11	3,531,000	—	493,000	
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	647,000	—	155,000	11	6,511,000	—	388,000	
Erie ..	"	1,545,000	—	27,000	6	6,332,000	—	377,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	\$275,100	—	\$15,900	6	\$1,031,750	—	\$22,350	
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	\$26,700	—	\$1,500	6	\$1,190,700	—	\$27,400	
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	\$60,300	—	\$10,100	6	\$2,201,000	—	\$23,150	
Gt. Northern ..	"	1,686,000	—	214,000	12	29,373,000	—	1,358,000	
Illinois Central ..	"	481,000	—	382,000	12	10,879,000	—	861,000	
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	139,000	—	197,000	12	2,983,000	—	509,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	3,680,000	—	284,000	11	12,579,000	—	496,000	
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	811,000	—	10,000	11	10,009,000	—	2,264,000	
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	550,000	—	81,000	12	8,149,000	—	24,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	358,000	—	199,000	12	9,820,000	—	1,231,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	May	778,000	—	118,000	11	11,962,000	—	1,027,000	
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	4,854,000	—	1,679,000	6	18,331,000	—	6,632,000	
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	1,738,000	—	478,000	11	15,850,000	—	2,525,000	
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	185,000	—	90,000	12	2,141,000	—	40,000	
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,559,000	—	424,000	12	13,229,000	—	334,000	
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,104,000	—	202,000	12	21,550,000	—	783,100	
Pennsylvania East ..	"	"	—	"	"	"	—	"	
and West Lines ..	"	8,456,000	—	1,041,000	6	28,749,000	—	2,102,000	
Reading ..	May	550,000	—	114	11	6,119,201	—	57,204	
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	946,000	—	700,000	11	11,219,000	—	1,744,000	
Seaboard Air Line ..	June	397,000	—	154,000	12	5,296,000	—	1,661,000	
Southern ..	"	1,139,000	—	366,000	12	13,400,000	—	2,911,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	3,598,000	—	568,000	12	35,689,000	—	2,005,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	2,826,000	—	266,000	12	30,180,000	—	1,446,000	
Wabash ..	"	123,000	—	34,000	12	5,820,000	—	354,000	

† Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. † Loss.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 21	Ps. 9,500	+	Ps. 1,500	†	Pa. 424,700	—	Pa. 28,750
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 22	26,940	+	3,110	†	769,535	—	410,500
Arauco ..	June *	5,250	—	712	†	41,875	—	10,374
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 21	7,629	+	3,229	†	47,553	—	9,283
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	July *	3,655	—	70	†	26,573	—	5,921
Bolivar ..	"	7,000	—	505	†	7,000	—	505
Brazil ..	Apl. *	M3,090,000	—	M239,757	†	M12,681,000	—	M787,340
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Feb. *	M18,250	—	M6,250	†	M55,750	—	M10,250
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 21	81,000	+	39,000	†	612,000	—	98,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 22	83,000	+	26,000	†	598,908	—	31,967
Do. Western ..	" 22	43,000	+	18,000	†	326,000	—	47,000
Central Argentine ..	" 21	107,000	+	34,000	†	850,300	—	106,200
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 21	9,956	+	3,005	†	77,181	—	9,848
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 21	3,308	+	1,497	†	25,037	—	5,492
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 21	1,727	+	596	†	13,574	—	1,702
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 21	1,512	+	720	†	10,175	—	1,478
Colombian National ..	Apl. *	9,700	—	500	†	37,900	—	1,733
Cordoba Central ..	Aug. 21	35,150	+	640	†	276,750	—	5,790
Costa Rica ..	July 17	4,903	—	3,355	†	11,624	—	9,999
Cuban Central ..	Aug. 21	8,528	+	1,794	†	56,253	—	5,671
Dorada Extension ..	July *	5,500	—	2,500	†	53,000	—	6,600
Entre Rios ..	Aug. 21	9,100	+	3,800	†	65,600	—	5,600
Gt. South. of Spain ..	" 14	Pa. 70,787	—	Pa. 3,778	†	Pa. 909,027	—	Pa. 388,767
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 21	7,100	+	1,500	†	328,800	—	102,800
Havana Central ..	" 21	5,211	+	255	†	38,306	—	1,465
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	July *	11,506	—	4,751	†	141,678	—	24,569
La Guaira and Car. ..	"	6,750	—	2,250	†	49,000	—	19,500
Leopoldina ..	Aug. 21	28,699	+	8,571	†	950,718	—	93,932
Manila (Northern) ..	" 21	3,213	—	965	†	186,264	—	38,077
Do. (Southern) ..	" 21	3,331	—	694	†	128,300	—	11,261
Midland Uruguay ..	July *	10,213	+	511	†	10,213	—	511
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$23,300	—	\$333	†	\$23,300	—	\$66,325
Nitrate ..	Aug. 15	16,485	—	1,942	†	192,371	—	249,959
Ottoman ..	Nov. 7	8,634	—	12,627	†	8,634	—	12,627
Paraguay Central ..	Aug. 21	\$461,000	+	\$236,000	†	\$2,985,000	—	\$1094,000
Paulista ..	Apl. *	M1,550,000	—	M59,123	†	M7,350,000	—	M330,662
Peruvian Corps. ..	July *	\$724,838	—	\$262,661	†	\$724,838	—	\$262,221
Puerto Gab. & V'len.	May *	3,737	—	513	†	19,858	—	1,392
Salvador ..	Aug. 21	\$33,250	+	\$5,750	†			
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 15	46,870	+	28,120	†	268,913	—	38,616
Sorocabana ..	Apl. *	M1,186,000	—	M132,722	†	M5,440,000	—	M 94,558
Taitai ..	June *	10,500	—	14,220	†	132,886	—	176,687
United of Havana ..	Aug. 21	23,298	+	4,920	†	177,797	—	29,138
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 6	\$64,400	—	\$6,200	†	\$403,900	—	\$54,300
Uruguay Northern ..	July *	1,787	+	232	†	1,787	—	232
West'n of Havana ..	Aug. 7	5,274	—	928	†	28,631	—	4,896
Zafra and Huella ..	June *	7,061	—	6,058	†	43,248	—	42,578



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## Passing Events.

Last week's revenue was poor, only £2,571,000, but the increase from April 1 to the 28th ult. has been £18,148,000. Every branch of income from taxation except stamps has shown up well. Unhappily, as we explained last week, expenditure continues at a tremendous volume, thanks to the war, although last week it was only £26,580,000. That, however, brings the excess expenditure to date above that of a year ago for the same space of time to about £398,000,000, and for the past fortnight it has been at the rate of about £4,250,000 per day. Only £5,000,000 came in last week from the new War Loan, but that makes £404,500,000 in all received from that loan, and when we add the £35,798,000 balance of proceeds of the first War Loan received in the current fiscal year, the Government has netted in all a little over £440,000,000 from its public borrowings thus far. That, too, is exclusive of the Treasury bills outstanding, which were last week reduced by £2,391,000 to £232,863,000. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Government has repaid the Bank of England £160,428,000. Sales of Treasury bills were slow last week.

Much less tension of feeling has prevailed this week about the war. No further sensational-looking advances of the Austro-German hordes have been made in Russia. On the contrary, Hindenburg the Headlong has become for the time being Hindenburg the Hindered, and in South and South-East Galicia the Russians have kept on defeating the Austrians, capturing in one battle 7,000 prisoners and 40 guns. Towards the centre of the long line, however, the Germans continue to make progress, and it is not improbable that by the time this number of the REVIEW is in its readers' hands Grodno may have been evacuated. In German bulletins this will be heralded as a great victory, accompanied by stormings and captures all in the customary style. The lying, indeed, grows more strenuous and reckless with each week that passes, and no wonder, for the Kaiser is once more proving to be a false prophet. There will be no "peace in October" this year, as he promised, whatever may come by October twelvemonths. Were any but Germans in question, we should treat a wireless message published in this morning's papers and sent to New York for dissemination in the United States as a clumsy hoax. It alleges that

the German Headquarters Staff estimates the total number of Russian troops engaged in the war in Poland since May 2nd at 1,400,000. Of this number it is claimed that 1,100,000 have been captured and at least 300,000 wounded and killed. That is to say, the whole of the Russian army has been wiped out, and if the matter ended there we should have nothing to do but admire. But the message goes on to intimate that the 300,000 killed and wounded, although it balances the total of the Russian armies, is "a very moderate estimate," the real figures being "certainly much higher," because "the enemy saved his artillery by recklessly sacrificing his infantry." Where this infantry came from when the whole army was destroyed is not explained, but it is explained with unconscious humour that the losses were made good "by withdrawing troops from other parts," especially "those ready to invade Turkey," and that "the garrisons and fortresses were filled with half-drilled men hurriedly transported from the interior." Naturally, against Teutonic might all Russian efforts were fruitless. So the Tsar's troops have been "chased out of Galicia, Poland, Kurland, and Lithuania." Ah, but it is colossal. How did it come about that there were any troops to chase, since all the Russian armies were destroyed? Not only were there some to chase, but "the remainder of the armies fell backwards in two separate groups." *Ach wunderschön.* Will the romance help subscriptions to the German loan in the United States? It may amongst the hybrids calling themselves "German-Americans"—a noisy and, we should think, for the most part not over-wealthy minority. The rest of America—all the world—will smile, and perhaps try to guess how much further lying can go. At this rate news of the Kaiser's triumphal procession into Petrograd should come soon. The city has a famous fortress prison.

All this week the British and French armies have perhaps been getting ready for their advance when the moment comes, preparing the ground by their continuous night and day bombardment of the enemy's entrenched positions; also perhaps they are just grinding the foe to pulp. Further progress has been made at Gallipoli, and its extent may soon console the Allies for the partial failure of that three days' heroic attack so minutely and vividly described by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett. Italy is coming to help, and meanwhile is



using up the Austrian forces and what is left of Austrian material in an unbroken advance towards victory in Trentino. The denuded Russian army in the Caucasus, by the by, seems to be strong enough and well enough led to do excellent work towards demolishing what is left of Turkish dominion in Asia Minor. Affairs are thus moving in the right direction all round, although we must not throw up our caps yet, because the number of enemy remaining for use as food for powder is enormous. People should read Mr. Hilaire Belloc's skilfully arranged analysis of the original total fighting strength of the two aggressor empires, and probable remaining numbers, in this week's *Land and Water*. The sum of it is that out of a possible 18,000,000 of pawns available for the execution of the world-conquering designs of the Kaiser, some 7,000,000 have been destroyed, killed, captured, or permanently disabled. Germany is now calling up men to the age of 54, and must therefore be on the decline so far as available numbers are concerned. But there is still a margin of several millions to be put out of the way before we can begin to formulate the terms of our peace, or to say to the Huns in a tone of command obedience—"Be off to your lairs."

Sir Edward Grey has not been long in fulfilling his promise to put the truth before the country with regard to Germany's intrigue in 1912, and the Foreign Office paper published on Wednesday morning is most instructive. It shows us how futile is the lying, how essentially childish the cunning behind German diplomatic intrigues. The Imperial Chancellor laid before Lord Haldane in 1912 a formula, the clumsily hidden motive of which was to trap our Government into a compact of neutrality which would have prevented it from going to the help of any European nation or nations Germany might choose to attack. Under this formula the contracting parties were to undertake that "neither would make or prepare to make any (unprovoked) attack upon the other or join in any combination or design against the other for purposes of aggression, or become party to any plan or naval or military enterprise alone or in combination with any other Power directed to such an end." Moreover, if either of the high contracting parties becomes entangled in a war with one or more Powers "in which it cannot be said to be the aggressor," the other party will at least observe towards the Power so entangled a benevolent neutrality. This curious stipulation was explained in Clauses 4 and 5, which run thus:—"4. The duty of neutrality which arises out of the preceding article has no application in so far as it may not be reconcilable with existing agreements which the high contracting parties have already made. 5. The making of new agreements which render it impossible for either of the parties to observe neutrality towards the other beyond what is provided by the preceding limitation is excluded in conformity with the provisions in Article 2."

This looks plausible and on the surface perhaps not unreasonable, but the trick was patent, and it did not capture Sir Edward Grey, neither this nor the "modified proposals" subsequently laid before him by Count Metternich, the German Ambassador in London. It was understood quite well here that Germany could arrange to hide her aggression by putting Austria forward, and in other ways, just as she did in July last year, scheme to play the part of victim and not that of panther or hyena on the prowl. So instead of her long entangling rigmarole, Sir Edward Grey, on March 14, 1912, gave Count Metternich his suggestion as approved by the Cabinet:—"England will make no unprovoked attack upon Germany, and pursue no aggressive policy towards her. Aggression upon Germany is not the subject, and forms no part of any treaty, understanding, or combination to which England is now a party, nor will she become a party to anything that has such an object." This did not please the German Ambassador nor his masters, and

two additional clauses were suggested by them, viz., that "England should observe at least benevolent neutrality should war be forced upon Germany," or "that England will, as a matter of course, remain neutral if war is forced upon Germany." Sir Edward Grey declined to alter his suggestions or to accept the additions, and finally drew up the following as his last word,—"The two Powers being mutually desirous of securing peace and friendship between them, England declares that she will neither make, nor join in, any unprovoked attack upon Germany. Aggression upon Germany is not the subject, and forms no part of any treaty, understanding, or combination to which England is now a party, nor will she become a party to anything that has such an object."

When handing this to Count Metternich, Sir Edward explained that the use of the word "neutrality" would convey the impression that more was meant than was warranted by the text, and suggested that the substance of what was required would be attained and more accurately summarised by these words—"will neither make, nor join in, any unprovoked attack." It was all in vain, the Germans would not give way on any essential point, because they did not want real neutrality, but only a neutrality effective in their interests alone. Least of all could they agree to abstain from persevering with a feverish increase in their navy, and in a final letter which the German Chancellor sent to Count Metternich, and whose substance was communicated by him to Sir Edward Grey, it was declared that the British suggestion was "insufficient." So the plot failed just as last year's one did, few outside the besotted Germans themselves being deceived by the bawling about "unprovoked attack," "treacherous aggression by Russia and France," "Belgian betrayals," and stock furniture of the hypocrite of like threadbare type.

Everybody who has taken the trouble to think knows very well that Russia has had an enormous strain put upon her finances by this war, and some particulars of the spendings it has forced upon the empire and of the further needs have been laid before the Duma by M. Chingareff, the Budget reporter and a member of the Constitutional Democratic party. According to this authoritative account, Russia has spent £1,000,000,000 in resisting the Teutonic aggression. The official returns for 1915 show that war expenses were £724,200,000, to which £284,700,000 of ordinary and extraordinary other expenditure had to be added, the two making up the thousand millions. Since January of this year £418,100,000 has been borrowed, and the revenue expected is put at £279,600,000. There is still consequently £320,000,000 wanted to cover the costs of the war, and in addition the promised revenue is expected to give about £33,600,000 less than the estimate. That is really a comparatively slight reduction when the interruption of the country's normal life is taken into account, and also the effect of the prohibition of drink. Drink alone before the war gave Russia more than twice the amount of the anticipated deficit on the ordinary revenue. Up to the present £600,000,000 in all has been borrowed, and much more than another sum of equal magnitude may be wanted to bring that war to a victorious issue, but there will be no hesitation in raising all the money wanted, and there were cheers throughout the House when the resolution of the nation and Government to persevere to the end was announced by the Budget reporter. He explained that a fairly large sum had been obtained abroad, but that three times as much was procured at home, and that the nation is possessed of immense savings, of which the Government intends to make use very soon. Internal credit has already been expanded to an amount of more than £300,000,000, but the situation of Russia is not exceptional compared with that of France and Germany, and Russia at the present moment holds the greatest cover in gold for her paper money, with the exception, perhaps, of Great Britain, where the free exchange has never ceased.



And to Great Britain Russia will have to come for financial help to sustain her in her death wrestle. To the utmost of our ability we trust that help will be generously given, for we have no braver or more self-sacrificing ally than Russia is proving herself to be.

Why renewed disturbance should have arisen in South Wales, leading to partial strikes and the threat of a universal strike, is difficult to account for except on two suppositions. Either the men have been suffering from prolonged oppression or from irritating petty tyrannies on the part of the owners, or they have been worked up into a condition of anarchy and revolt by outside propagandists. The *Daily Mail* correspondent in South Wales gives the opinion of Mr. C. B. Stanton, a miners' leader, in support of the latter supposition. Mr. Stanton brushed aside the correspondent's suggestion that there had been secret propaganda by German emissaries, and he also repudiated the influence of the Union of Democratic Control as being a determining cause of trouble, but he declared that the Independent Labour party is very strong in some parts of the district, that the *Labour Leader* has a very big circulation there, as well as Mr. Keir Hardie's paper, the *Pioneer*. These are the sources from which the perverted notions have been drawn, and "some of them up the valleys have been viciously pro-German." That is interesting, and we have no doubt whatever that these influences, without conscious intent on the part of the conductors of the journals in question, have been distinctly pro-German, but is there no other source of trouble? There has been, and it is explained with considerable lucidity in a letter from Mr. David Evans, of Cardiff, published in Tuesday's *Evening Standard*. The immediate dispute which caused a renewal of the disturbance arose over the "bonus turn," as it is called, under which certain classes of labour invariably enjoy life. Night shifts were paid at the rate of six turns for only five nights' work. Other classes of labour had to work for the whole time for which they were paid, some worked six turns and got paid for six, others seven turns and got paid for seven. The original demand of the workmen was that all-night men employed on the afternoon and night shifts should be paid at the rate of six turns for five, and that in this way the custom already in force at certain collieries should be extended to all. To this the owners objected, and insisted that the "bonus turn" should be extended only to those classes of labour who were already receiving it at the collieries, and Mr. Runciman's decision supported the masters. As a consequence, engine-men, stokers, pump-men, the mechanical staff, banksmen, and officials were excluded from the bonus, and that brought about the new trouble which ended in a surrender to the men. Now, was it not a piece of mistimed obstinacy on the part of the owners to endeavour to defy the men and provoke discontent by maintaining differences which at a time like this ought not to have been regarded for a moment? As this journal has said all along, "labour," whether its demands are excessive or not, especially such kinds of labour as that involved in coal-mining, has got to be placated no matter what the cost. Working men in South Wales are not really disloyal towards their country. We believe some 50,000 of them are with the colours, and partly replaced by miners from North Wales who have not been so patriotic, but they are jealous of the coal-owner, and fully cognisant of the fact that he, whatever happens to the miner, nearly always grows rich, often becomes a millionaire. Whether the miner is right or wrong in his notions, the fact that they exist ought to be coercion enough for owners of coal mines in the present crisis of our history. After the war—well, many things will happen then, and much misery overtake the mining industries, like many others.

Before this issue of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can appear that much-advertised—"boosted" would perhaps be the better word—conscription meeting got up

by the head of the Harmsworths will have been held and the utmost done speechifying can do to persuade the public that the country is in danger by reason of its indifference to Lord Northcliffe's hustle. The meeting will doubtless have the effect of stimulating much further gibble-gabble throughout the country, and no small amount of correspondence will continue to appear in the papers. We should therefore like some of the minds occupying themselves vainly with this subject to answer one or two questions. Some of them have been put by us already, but as the "greatest circulation" intrigue continues it is necessary to repeat them:—Is it true that at the present time nearly one-third of our new volunteer army remains unequipped? Tremendous as the efforts have been to provide arms and ammunition for the newly-formed efficients, now numbering much more than 3,000,000, it has not been possible within the space of a year to furnish them with all their requirements. If this be the position, would the agitation for a retreat upon conscription at the present time do anything whatever to assist the War Office in completing the equipment of its armies? Would it not rather have the effect of throwing the organisation of at least the Munitions Department into renewed confusion? Dr. Addison, the Parliamentary Secretary to that Department, has just made a call for 50,000 additional workers upon London alone, and similar demands are doubtless being made in all parts of the country. How could these calls for labour be satisfied and at the same time universal service "for the duration of the war" or otherwise instituted and put in motion? Consider this question before attempting to answer it, and then further consider whether the answer does not indicate strong pro-German influences behind this unpatriotic word "shindy"—for it deserves no more dignified name. Surely nothing could better suit the Prussian game than to have our provision of munitions of war, not only for our own armies, but for the Allies, interfered with and delayed. Is it Lord Northcliffe's object to create trouble, confusion, and delays? If not, what are his motives—beyond those personal to himself—for embarrassing the nation in this time of crisis by getting up and persevering with an agitation of this unpatriotic description?

Since the Bankruptcy Act of 1883 came into operation the number of failures recorded was never so low as it was for the past calendar year. Does this mean that war was good for trade? No, it means that the action taken by the Government in stemming off panic by establishing a moratorium allowing payments to be suspended, as well as the forbearance of creditors, much reduced the business stoppages during the last five months of the year. For the first seven months the number of receiving orders indicated that had the whole year been a year of peace the failures would have been greater than for some years before, but thanks to the action of the Government, although the increase in liabilities was £2,021,000, bringing them up to £9,878,000, the outcome was less bad than it probably should have been. Assets were £489,000 better than in the previous year at £3,792,000, and that made the loss to creditors only £1,803,000 greater at £8,156,000. Even that was a tidy bit of money to be deprived of, but the figures were magnified by one or two large failures, so that the privation or distress induced by the suspensions may not have been spread over a very wide field. A small bank in the West of England was one of the big bankruptcies. Its liabilities were estimated at £602,000, and its assets may possibly realise £250,000. It was stated to have been insolvent for over 50 years, which reminds us of a very old banking story, also relating to the West of England, to the effect that the eldest son of a dying banker complained that he had been left only an insolvent bank for his portion while his brother was to get a legacy of £10,000. The dying father answered: "That is all right, my boy; the bank was insolvent when I succeeded to it. It has lasted my time, giving me a good living, and with care it will last yours."



A very old friend of ours has asked us to say a good word about the Anti-German Union, a recently formed association with a formidable array of lords and ladies at the head of it as president and vice-presidents. We should be delighted to oblige, but the more we think over it the less we like the word "anti." It is not a good prefix in any connection, and Anti-German is nearly as objectionable to us as Anti-Semite. This is perhaps a pity, because the aims of the union would seem to be in part good if in others not so good. Its No. 5 leaflet, for instance, is headed "Shall Our Men Die in Vain? No Drawn War, No Deluding Peace," and insists on fighting the fight to a successful finish. It is a powerful leaflet, calculated to do much to counteract the pernicious efforts of the Union of Democratic Control, against which this Anti-German Union was probably organised, and we cordially endorse it; but in other leaflets we are told to insist that there shall be "no German labour, no German goods, no German influences, and that Britain shall be for the British." Most of these aims are not so commendable. We have no hatred of the German people, but only of their Prussian militarism, and of the subservience of enslaved, or serf, races to that militarism. To us the average German is in many ways an undeveloped being. He has never stood up free before his fellow-men, independent, able to assert his manhood, and because he is the cringing dupe and slave to minds more forceful and instincts more brutal perhaps than his own, he is rather an object for pity than of hate. Because of the work he is doing we are forced to urge his killing, and to loathe and despise him as the tool of the most degraded form of military tyranny and ambition the modern world has ever known, much more degraded than that created by the successes of the first Napoleon, but hate him we do not, and refuse to use him when sense has been pounded into him we shall not. Therefore, we should be glad if this union, which is undoubtedly doing valuable work in tracing out traitors and foiling spies, could find another name. Hatred is never a mental attitude to be encouraged, still less to be cultivated. When the war ends Germany will have placed her surviving population very low in the scale of civilisation, and the two empires will cease for ever to be great Powers; but the victimised remnants will continue to live and multiply, and their labours must be utilised by the Allies who have effected their first punishment in helping towards a restoration of our civilisation, in repairing some of the damage done. The miserable creatures could not repair it all if they worked at nothing else for half a century. But work they must and shall, the despised and mistrusted among the nations.

As a sure means of increasing the production of wheat—the area cropped with this cereal in the United Kingdom—Lord Milner's committee has promptly issued an interim report, in which it is recommended that the "State"—which is the taxpayer, you and I, good reader, town dwellers, unfortunate wretches—should "guarantee" 45s. a quarter as minimum price for the grain reaped until 1920. Was there ever such sapience beheld outside Prussia? To be sure, the adoption of such a recommendation would protect the landowners against reductions of rent, might even enable them to exact higher rents, and mortgagees could, perhaps, think they had additional security. But the added strain of this "guarantee" would surely hurry up national insolvency, and so bring upon us at once the revolution whose heralds are now busy, busy among the people, a revolution of the whirlwind, at which landowners, mortgagees, all the leagued battalions of the privileged or seeming privileged, would disappear like thistledown in the fall of autumn. Is Lord Milner also among the anarchists? He is German-born, you know.

Very satisfactory is the account handed out by the London manager of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, setting forth the particulars about subscriptions to the first £5,000,000 of the £20,000,000 War Loan

which it issued locally for the Commonwealth Government. The rate of interest offered was only 4½ per cent., but so attractive was it, or so strong was the spirit of patriotism in the country, that the amount was covered about two and a-half times over. That is to say, for the £5,000,000 16,747 applications were received for sums totalling £12,932,410. Each State in the Commonwealth subscribed in what may be called the strict ratio of its wealth, and we give their record here as supplied by the bank:—New South Wales, 4,750 applications for £5,383,710; Victoria, 8,072 applications for £5,137,560; Queensland, 1,523 applications for £1,007,720; South Australia, 1,347 applications for £844,120; Western Australia, 456 applications for £206,560; Tasmania, 599 applications for £352,740.

On the day this issue of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW appears, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji will be 90 years old, India tells us, and congratulations will be rained upon him from all over the world, not only by his fellow-Indians, but by Englishmen, Scots, and Irishmen. No living man better deserves to be thus honoured, and we cannot let the date pass without joining cordially in the goodwill greetings offered to one who has all through his life been a sincere, enlightened patriot and loyal, upright Indian gentleman. We can do this the more feelingly because we owe to Mr. Naoroji our first introduction to the Indian people and to Indian social and economic problems. What we wrote on India 35 years ago in that long-ago forgotten book, "The Resources of Modern Countries," was suffused with the teaching and illuminated by the statistics we had found in Mr. Naoroji's modest pamphlets and done our best to assimilate. He was the founder of constitutionalism in India, and in being that he contributed in no small measure to the stability of British rule there to-day. May he live out his century, serene and happy amid the raging tempests around him, live to behold the ripening fruits of his work, better, more enduring work than any conquering hero of blood and iron ever did!

All the railway returns we are to get for the year 1914 are contained in a single page of foolscap, but the figures are not without interest. The mileage of lines open for traffic reduced to single track shows an increase over 1913 of 258 miles at 55,663 miles, the bulk of the increase being in sidings. Nevertheless, the total paid-up capital has risen £7,200,000 to £1,341,222,000, including £199,200,000 nominal additions, although new construction must have been reduced to a minimum. The engine mileage was 621,239,000, a decrease of just over seven million miles, the total including 135,079,000, or 2,800,000 less, shunting miles. Coaching mileage was practically the same as in 1913, but there was a substantial reduction in goods mileage. Total receipts, including the estimated amount receivable by the companies under the Government agreement, reached £139,098,000, a decrease of £350,000, while expenditure was £850,000 higher at £88,173,000, and the nett revenue was consequently £1,200,000 less at £50,925,000. Of course, it must be remembered that 1913 was a particularly good year for our railways, and traffics were showing signs of falling off even before the war.

How far-reaching are the effects of the war is well illustrated by the change in the fortunes of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd. A year ago Sir William E. Garston, the chairman, was able to describe the important advantages which had accrued to the company under the terms of the new concession from the Egyptian Government, and there was every reason to look forward to an assured and prosperous future. Three weeks later, however, the war broke out, and the bright prospects faded, while it is feared that there is little hope of improvement until the struggle is finished. In recent years the company had a fairly steady increase in receipts of about £13,000 per annum, but eight months of war caused a decline of £61,000, and in the current 12 months it is feared there will be a further loss of £20,000 on top of that. But the bad times will



pass, and there is no occasion to take a despondent view of the outlook for the company, especially as the strictest control, compatible with efficient working, is being exercised over expenditure. So we can only recommend shareholders to wait and have patience.

In April last Spillers and Bakers, Ltd., the firm of millers and corn dealers whose sensational increase in profits caused such a commotion at the time, announced that they had applied to the Treasury for permission to issue 250,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each at 10s. premium. That sanction, however, has so far been refused, but, as the report showed, the company needs the money, and the directors have hit upon a scheme to get over the difficulty. At present the company accepts deposits from members of its staff, and it has been decided to extend this facility to the shareholders, who will be permitted to make deposits of amounts which would represent the cost of the new shares to which they would have been entitled to subscribe. These deposits will carry interest at 4½ per cent. if they are subject to repayment without notice, or at 5 per cent. if three months' notice has to be given either by the company or the depositor.

The City of Las Palmas Water and Power Co. was introduced to investors here by the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, that imitator of the Investment Registry, in May, 1913, when £237,500 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock was offered at 93, with a bonus of five ordinary shares for every £100. Redemption of this debenture stock was to take place by annual drawings commencing next December, but apparently the promoters rushed into the scheme before making certain that their plans could be carried out. Several hitches have occurred, and it was announced this week that the interest due on the 1st inst. could not be met. The circular states that the company has met with determined opposition on the part of inhabitants in the districts where the land had to be acquired for laying pipes and building reservoirs, but in particular in the mountainous district where the springs are situated. Long delays thus became unavoidable, and the municipality granted an extension of time in which to complete the works on condition that certain modifications should be made in the original plans, which involved considerable increase of expenditure. New arrangements have been made by which the contractors undertake to guarantee the completion of the altered contract within the time limit allowed by the municipality for £170,000, instead of £125,000 as originally contemplated. They will also provide the extra money if the company will furnish them with collateral security in prior lien bonds with a certain margin of cover. Application has consequently been made to the Treasury for sanction of a prior lien bond issue. It is also proposed to pay the interest on the debenture stock for the next two years in these prior lien bonds.

Why do the returns relating to the trade of British India reach the public in a complete official form at such late dates? We bought some weeks ago, thereabouts, a return dated July 23, 1915, which gives the figures for no later date than March 31, 1914. In summary or unofficial form the statistics for a year later should be available, and it ought to be within the power of the India Office to convey this information in time to be of practical use. Absent-mindedness, in fact, led to the spending of 1s. 6d. in this instance, we having for the moment overlooked the fact that such compilations were always nearly eighteen months behindhand, and consequently our immediate object in buying the volume could not be attained. What we sought for was a proof of the loss the two Teutonic empires had suffered in their trade with India, but that trade was in full swing in the latest year given, that ended March 31, 1914. For both Austria-Hungary and Germany the trade up to then was an expanding one. Five years before, Austria sold only £1,714,000 worth of her

goods to India, whereas in 1913-14 the sales came to £2,860,000. Within the same five years the exports of Indian produce to the Austro-Hungarian Empire rose from £4,317,000 to £6,650,000. Germany's progress was greater still and much more rapid. In 1909-10 India took only £4,307,000 worth of German commodities, but in 1913-14 her purchases came to £8,444,000 worth. Exports from India to Germany also rose from £12,002,000 in the first year to £17,571,000 in the latest. Thus in the year immediately before these two empires resolved to effect their own destruction by plunging into war their total trade with India aggregated about £35,500,000. The whole of that should by now have disappeared. One other noticeable fact may be recalled, viz., that the balance of export values over imports in the total overseas trade of India for 1913-14 was only £14,229,000. On the average in the previous four years the total excess was about £24,500,000, so that 1913-14 was about £10,000,000 below the average, and the highest excess in the five years, viz., £29,098,000, was below the sum required to cover the "home charges" and other requirements of India in this country. In merchandise alone, Indian imports rose to £122,165,000 and exports of Indian produce to £162,801,000, in addition to which there were Government stores on the import side and exports of foreign merchandise on the other, besides which treasure played as usual a large part in making up the aggregates. During the five years ended March 31, 1914, the private imports of treasure into India amounted to £145,000,000, and exports were under £26,000,000, showing an excess importation of nearly £120,000,000. What the Indian people do with all this mass of precious metals is still a considerable mystery, and also how the country manages to pay for it, seeing that its commitments to the Home Government and on private account demand annually such a heavy excess balance of exports over imports. Perhaps daylight may begin to dawn upon us in regard to such

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matters when the war is over and the test of necessity comes to be applied to many economic obscurities.

On June 2 what promises to be an important new industry for Australia was formally inaugurated by the official opening of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co.'s iron and steel works at Newcastle, New South Wales, by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth. The company has been engaged on the construction of the works since January, 1913, and, judging by the handsome souvenir of the opening which we have received from the secretary, it has been exceedingly well planned. As an illustration of the value of the new industry to the Australian engineering world, it is stated that when the steel-rolling mills had only been operating a few days they were able to supply a bar of steel to make a crank shaft for a marine engine, which to obtain from England would have meant a delay of five months. Although the works have been running for so short a time, the company has made such good progress that steps have been taken to instal two additional open hearth steel furnaces of 70 tons daily capacity, and also to increase the capacity of the coking plant.

When one realises that the British Motor Cab Co., Ltd., has been severely affected by the war, and that before that broke out, through shortage of drivers, its position was not so strong as it ought to have been, it will disappoint nobody to learn that for its year ended March 31 last the board was not able to recommend the payment of any dividend, although there was £17,499 of profit left at its disposal. In the preceding year 5 per cent. was paid on the company's preferred ordinary shares, but since the war began 2,000 of the company's employees have joined various branches of his Majesty's Forces, and less than half the "fleet" is now in use. Amongst these men who left to join the Army more than 1,100 were drivers, who have been invaluable in the mechanical transport section. Also wages have risen continually, and it has become more costly and difficult to obtain materials. Furthermore, a large part of the "fleet" of taxi-cabs has been laid up, and depreciates in lying even though not subjected to the ordinary wear and tear. A considerable amount has therefore been written back against this invisible but very real loss. What the amount is the accounts do not reveal; in fact, the profit and loss account is a mere skeleton, and only shows us that the nett profit was £41,181 less for last year than in the preceding year. It came, in fact, to no more than £15,884, the figure above mentioned being reached by adding £1,615 brought forward. Rolling stock, however, has been written down £77,655 to £521,939, and the total reduction in the book value of the fixed assets has been £82,171 for the year, bringing it to £922,207. Floating assets are also entered at £82,958, which is £3,049 less, but investments have risen £61,538 to £215,348, the board having bought £50,000 of 3½ per cent. War Loan stock. It is thus taking care of the future, and we hope prosperous days will make their appearance by and by.

An unfortunate time was experienced by the Manáos Tramways and Light Co., Ltd., in its year ended April 30 last. The gross receipts declined £22,457 to £110,420, and although working expenses were brought down by £12,608 to £96,848, the nett revenue was none the less £9,848 lower at £26,180. To make matters worse the fall in the Brazilian exchange caused a loss of £6,180 on the remittances of the year, so that although the strictest economy is being exercised in every possible direction, and the whole of the property being maintained in first-class condition, there is no consolation for shareholders in the results, the profit for the past year being just £141, making with the £3,861 brought forward £4,002 in hand, but the balance-sheet shows an entry of £53,000 as "expenses of issue" amongst the

assets, that sum including £49,500 discount on the debenture issue, and last year the floating loan was increased by £6,000 to £28,000, against which, however, we have £2,400 of the 5 per cent. first debentures redeemed. Unfortunately, the redemption seems to have been provided for by borrowed money, and the present outlook is none too promising, for although the Brazilian exchange is being artificially raised there is no sign of a change for the better in the financial policy of the Brazilian Government, which continues to progress, or stave off, by borrowing.

At the start the report of Manchester Liners, Ltd., seems to foreshadow a poor story. Instead of that its year ended June 30 was a magnificent one. Profits rose £98,367 to £205,842, and thanks to the fact that the balance of £21,165 brought forward was £10,726 higher than a year ago, there was £90,195 more to divide at £197,494, in spite of the fact that £20,000 was reserved for income-tax. A year ago the dividend paid on the ordinary shares was 6 per cent.; this time it is 7½ per cent., plus a bonus of a like amount, or 15 per cent. in all, and it takes only £33,388, so that the board is able to write £80,000 off for depreciation, and to add £50,000 to the reserve, which compared with £60,000 in all put aside in the previous year, £50,000 of it to depreciation, and £10,000 to insurance fund. Part of the company's fleet is employed in Government business; one vessel, the s.s. *Manchester Commerce*, was sunk by an enemy mine off the North of Ireland, with the deplorable loss of her commander and 13 of her crew, but such a record of profits shows how little effect German submarine "frightfulness" has upon the stability of British shipping companies. Perhaps some spy here will send a copy of this report to "High Admiral" von Tirpitz for him to study while nursing his sore head. The company has bought one new vessel, and has three more on order. After paying the dividend and putting aside £3,339 to the first mortgage debentures reserve fund, or £2,003 more than a year ago, the balance left to carry to the new year is only £1,841 down at £19,324. Cash is £59,250 up at £172,451, and the book value of the fleet has been written down by £98,032 to £556,797. This reduction includes the book value of the sunk boat. Investments are £104,539 up at £109,538, the directors having rightly considered it their duty to place £50,000, the amount transferred to the reserve out of last year's profits, in the 4½ per cent. War Loan.

### Lying for a Loan.

Something resembling what the Germans call a Hochkonjunktur is visible this week in the Allied position as against the foe. We use the German jaw-dislocating word because there is not the slightest danger of its becoming naturalised in this country. It is "slang" Deutsch for "boom," and we intend it to signify that affairs are much better-looking for all the Allies than they were a week ago. We do not say this because the fighting has taken a turn towards victory both in the Gallipoli Peninsula and on the long Russian front—where resistance or retreat alike spell ultimate victory—or because the French and ourselves have begun to use their increased supplies of artillery and ammunition in the best way possible, viz., in pounding the enemy to pulp and their trenches to pieces preparatory to an advance, or to a chase of the dislodged and beaten foe. Both on land and at sea the news is satisfactory, and most of all, perhaps, in the certainty that Prussia and her dupe ally Austria-Hungary are now irretrievably committed to a winter campaign in Russia. Whether or not the Russian armies will continue retreating and allow the invader to brag of more "victories," of impossible captures of prisoners, and to boulderise in other ways, we need not inquire, because if kept away from home, the troops of the invaders will wither up where they now are during the next six months.

In this fact, and in the further consideration that no news has been published about the success of the new German loan, do we not find the key to both the diplo-



macy now put in motion towards the United States and to the official and Press lies with which the victims of Prussian militarism continue to be deluged? German silences are in some ways more eloquent than German garrulity in lying, and they encourage us much this week to maintain our faith in the early exhaustion of the besotted foe. What, for example, could be the object of that long recital of German "triumphs" in the Eastern theatre of war which the wireless Press sent abroad towards the middle of this week? It could not deceive or depress the Allies, it had no influence whatever in inclining Russia towards a peace; its only purpose was to cheat the people in Germany into a belief that, although belated, victory was still possible for their dwindling armies. It meant that only by maintaining this faith can the least hope remain flickering in Junker breasts that the money so urgently needed to avert the inevitable collapse of German national finance may be secured. The same hope underlies every concoction published for home consumption and sent abroad—and as yet the loan is not subscribed. That is surely a bold statement to make in view of what Dr. Helfferich asserted. He wanted only £500,000,000 to begin with, but gnawing necessity forbids a limit, and he is now prepared to take any amount. Well, if the statement he made was true, that German savings banks had increased their deposits by £1,000,000,000 during the first year of the war, he should have boundless wealth at his command, for that £1,000,000,000 would enable credit to the amount of £4,000,000,000 to be blazoned before the world, as the savings banks have been instructed by a circular from the Minister of the Interior not to allow their subscriptions to the new loan to fall below their previous efforts in that line. Moreover, to encourage them they are allowed to raise 75 per cent. of the amount they now subscribe for on the security of the scrip of the previous war loan. That credit is to be generated by the *Darlehnskassen*, and here should be at least two thousand millions ready for the warriors. Why, then, have we not yet had a gorgeous paragraph from Berlin descriptive of the tens of thousands of millions of money laid at the feet of the triumphant Kaiser in his latest uniform? It is awfully hard to concoct such a paragraph, because there is no material available out of which a plausible lie can be pieced together; and in a little while the German people will have plenty of opportunity given them to meditate on a saying about the hated English which that shrewd and generous Italian journalist, "Piermarini," says he found on a postcard in Athens, flaunted everywhere in the faces of the insolent, overbearing, hustling Germans, who were doing their best to hypnotise, or terrorise, Greece. Athens was full of them. "Piermarini" wondered what they thought of this sentence from a book of Rhaïdes which had been reprinted on "the most popular postcard" on sale in the city: "Whatever may be the adventures of war, England is always certain to win one battle, viz., the last one." What will the Germans at home soon begin to think of it?

This last battle is not yet in sight, but everything is getting into excellent shape to make us ready for it when it does come, and we hope there will be no thought of slackening here, that no intrigue, insidious plot or misplaced humanitarianism will mar the completeness of the approaching triumph. To all appearance another winter campaign is inevitable, and is probably necessary to break the tyranny of the Prussian despotic spirit over the populations it has domineered over and betrayed. We must brace ourselves resolutely to wage that winter campaign; not by a succession of battles like that of Neuve Chapelle, but by the careful, unremitting, scientific use of every legitimate weapon of offence modern science has placed at our command. In doing this the object of the Allies must be to protect as much as possible the men of their own armies from becoming the victims of similar weapons in the hands of the foe.

Hence—as was discovered in time, although not so soon as it should have been—the war of the coming

winter may be more than ever a siege war on the new lines. It has already begun. For more than a week the whole German fortified line in France and Belgium has been subjected to a skilful, never-ending rain of shot and shell which has beaten down their defences and laid them open to attack at whatever point the leaders of the Allied hosts decide upon as the easiest and best for their purpose. In the Dardanelles, slowly, but with, we believe, perfect certainty, we move on to victory. Mistakes have been made there as in all wars, and the nation is not yet sufficiently alive to the splendour of the heroism with which the assaults have been made and maintained, but it is awakening, and we know it to be only a question of time now, and of no very long time, when the resistance of the Turks will be overcome and the channel free. Italy also is steadily wasting the last spasms of energy left in the Austrians, and as Austrian finance has already drifted into a condition of irretrievable ruin, the end cannot be very far off there either. "Wonderful recuperation of Austrian battle power in Galicia!" Yes, when the foe only fights to cover his ordered retreat.

Only in the Balkans is there still doubt and uncertainty, and the Berlin diplomatists and bogey manufacturers are doing their best to increase the perplexities. Rumania cannot join Russia and effect a welcome and, in her own interests most profitable and to Russia, helpful diversion into Transylvania because she dreads Bulgaria. Bulgaria, swayed by the perfectly selfish Austrian Bourbon who occupies her throne, refuses to move without pledges from the Allies that, if given without qualification, would go far to make her the dominant Balkan Power, and Serbia, with that spirit of chivalry which has marked her conduct ever since the first Balkan War, though willing to concede whatever the Allies impose upon her as sacrifice to peace, can do nothing until helped against the new Austro-German menace of invasion. As for Greece, all there is still in the balance, and although Mr. Venizelos, once again Prime Minister and quite the most far-seeing statesman in South-Eastern Europe, has apparently expressed himself confident that he will be able to renew the Balkan League, it is still by no means certain that the Hohenzollern dominance will be flung off in time. Of one thing alone can there be no doubt, Greece and Serbia are whole-heartedly with the four Great Powers in alliance against Prussian militarism, and probably the bulk of the population of Rumania is so as well. Even Bulgarians, whatever their political sentiments, shrink from making any fresh compact with the Turk, and it is probably only the far-trumpeted successes of the Austro-Prussian hosts in Galicia, Poland, and the Baltic Provinces of Russia which has prevented them from already coming to terms with their neighbours. All this, however, will settle down and come right presently, especially when the tide of fighting definitely turns in the Dardanelles; and we must be careful to avoid threats, every attempt at coercion, striving only to make it known to all concerned that the nationality which refuses to help in the great struggle against tyranny in the present hour of Europe's agony will be little considered when the peace boundaries ultimately come to be settled.

### Poverty and Peace Dreams.

At the bottom of everything mundane lies finance, for the Allies of the *entente* as well as for the enemy, taking finance to represent the life-blood of civilised nations, the active force through which they develop their productive capacities, multiply their international interests, augment their commerce, and, if possible, increase the wealth of their citizens. All of us have suffered cruelly, and must still suffer, from the wealth-obliterating waste of this war. When peace comes, what, then, will be the position of the nations engaged in beating back the wolves? Even were the war to end in October, as the too-eager Kaiser is alleged to have prophesied, we should all be deeply mortgaged.



our possessions, our labour, our future earnings, so deeply mortgaged as to be driven to support each other in self-defence, to keep the usurer from trying to foreclose. What actually is the expenditure of the Allied Powers alone per week we cannot tell; all we know is that the British Government is spending considerably more than £3,000,000 a day at the present time. When it has built or extended the factories and towns now being organised and created to turn out munitions of war this expenditure may be somewhat abated, unless, as is probable, the money saved in home outlays has to go to support the Allies. Taking £3,000,000 a day as the basis, and estimating that the other Powers, France, Russia and Italy, are together spending no more than another £5,000,000 a day all told—which is probably not an excessive estimate at the present stage of the conflict—we arrive at little less than £3,000,000,000 (three thousand million pounds) per annum as the cost of the war in money alone. Many calculators add to this an attempt to estimate in money the value of human lives sacrificed, or human beings more or less completely maimed for life in the war, but we cannot really turn such losses into money on any probability basis. They are incalculable, and the burden they impose upon those who survive varies indefinitely with the character of a people's industry and the grade of civilisation to which it has attained. A highly skilled French, British, or Italian workman may be worth, and may represent, five or six times the capital value of a Serbian peasant farmer. Generations will doubtless elapse in some strata of society before the losses of life and limb through war have been obliterated, but we cannot represent the deprivation by cash.

At many stages of the history of mankind on the earth nations and races have failed altogether to recover from the devastation to which their population had been submitted by war. It must be our constant preoccupation to avert from every one of us a fate like that. But to rise above the calamity means unremitting effort. Taking the figures of actual money expenditure alone, it will not be extravagant to put the cost of a two-years' war to the three Continental Powers and ourselves—leaving out Belgium and Serbia altogether from the calculation—at six thousand million pounds, and interest at 5 per cent.—the average can hardly be less, for some years at least—on £6,000,000,000 is £300,000,000 per annum. Were this burden added to those already borne by the Allied Powers they would all sink beneath it, and as they do not intend to sink, not one of them, the prospect of any such addition to the burdens labour has to bear in maintaining civilisation and progress opens a prospect that must impel them to seek relief in lessened expenditure on armies and navies and in other economies. When war broke out the six large Powers now involved in it were spending between £360,000,000 and £400,000,000 per annum on their armies and navies. Leave out Germany and Austria as empires in whose economic fate we are not at present directly interested, and the expenditure of the other four Powers amounted to some £250,000,000 per annum. It is in the direction of this outlay more than in any other that the democracies will first look for economies, and, therefore, as the writer of that illuminating and most valuable book, "*J'accuse*," contends, the peace to come must be a peace of peoples—an English translation, by the way, of this book has been issued, and is, we believe, being read with avidity. It is a book which ought to be in the hands of the humblest citizen who can read and take an interest in his country's affairs, and therefore we trust that the publisher will presently see his way to issue the work at a much lower price than 5s. As an indictment of the Junkers and of the world-subduing lust of the Prussian, and of the Germany the Prussians rule and oppress, this book, written by a German, and undoubtedly suffused with the best spirit of a Germany long defunct, is unique and priceless. And the author shows himself to be a true German when he comes to deal with the peace that is to be, that cannot be so very far off.

He sees no hope of a peace under military guarantees. There must be a pacific alliance of free peoples who have laid down their arms, as against each other for ever. Harking back to the wisdom of Immanuel Kant, one of the greatest thinkers that Germany ever produced, and no Prussian, the writer conjures up a Europe unified, not by the dominance of one Power over another, but by equality in liberty, by the free intercourse, one may say the brotherhood, of a variety of nationalities, each unhindered in the development of its life in its own way. Kings and armies and navies would be done away with under that peace which must come. The anonymous author therefore dreams much the same dream as we do when we talk of a democratic peace.

This peace will mean not only the elimination of armies as a means of "guaranteeing" peace, and, therefore, as instruments of war, always more or less incidentally dangerous to the working community, but it should sweep away all Customs tariff barriers between countries. What have these been raised and maintained for if not to support a privileged, class-evolved militarism that has grown to a magnitude far beyond anything the nations would have endured had they been asked to pay for it by direct taxation? If we get quit of armies, empires—kings if need be—with their enormous direct and indirect drain upon the countries that support them, then the future will not be so dark as it looks at present. We shall shoulder our new debts with the calm assurance and hope that we shall be able to pay them off and press on to freedom, to labour for the deliverance of the earth from tyrannies great and small. For many a day notwithstanding it cannot be a very bright future for any one of us, because our first and hardest task will be to repair as much as may be the material wreckages war has caused, our next to reorganise the national finances in such a way as to ensure the increasingly rapid redemption of the war debt. But the devastation facing us all as a consequence of this war, appalling though it be in its magnitude and in the confusion it is creating, offers no prospect of despair if we can throw off the load of excessive armaments and the clog of inhuman and stupidly cruel, because greed-evolved, tariffs and tackle the work of reparation with hands free. Many States within the British Empire run to-day no small risk of foundering in bankruptcy unless their people rouse themselves, mend their ways, and give up ruinous ambitions; but even the worst of them have margins to come and go upon if they face the position and the facts, their minds cleansed of sophistries.

Does not all this point towards social revolution and a complete change of attitude towards industry, towards social relationships? It does, and if there is one thing more sure than another which this war is clearing the way for, it is the advance of the democracies to power. There should be no room for "lower orders" when the peace comes. We cannot make any peace worth an ounce of lead with the two aggressor empires except through their peoples, and an enduring peace even between the four Allies now giving their lives and substance to vindicate freedom cannot be ensured except by the breaking down of all fiscal and monopoly barriers now hindering their intercourse. Each community must have a free market in every other community for what it is able to produce, so that each may contribute to the wealth of all and increase in knowledge and friendship with each other. Each district has its natural protection for its industries, its workers and produce; has, in other words, a regional and well-defined monopoly of circumstances for whatever industries it develops—climate, soil, minerals, reputed aptitude of workmen, distances from competitive markets—in these and other directions there is a barrier that requires no artificial heightening whatever, and behind which the people may live and progress. All artificial props and barriers disguise robbery of the many weak and poor, represent attempts on the part of the designing few, or of a military caste



and its plutocratic, land-monopolising allies, to mortgage the labour of those they victimise for their own advantage, for the maintenance of a system of serfdom profitable to the privileged alone.

All such changes will mean not merely social revolution, but a complete reversal of old-fashioned habits relative to the distribution of the profits of industry. It may even be that many industries will have to be nationalised, that out of such evil products as Protectionism, with its rings, coercive monopolies, and cartels, has brought into existence a higher co-ordination of effort and a more equitable distribution of the gains arising from effort will be reached forth after and, in the stress of our mutual sufferings and impoverishment, attained. It is even within the possibilities of the future that such beings as millionaires might disappear through the suffusion of wealth and the rise of those who are now called the "lower orders" or the "proletariat" to the dignity of free and enlightened citizenship.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

According to statistics published by the *Board of Trade Journal*, the exports of rubber from Ceylon in May amounted to 2,570,091 lbs., or an increase of 734,885 lbs. as compared with the corresponding month last year. Shipments to the United Kingdom were 691,469 lbs. larger at 1,507,145 lbs., and those to the United States rose by 74,219 lbs. to 849,794 lbs., but 30,803 lbs. less at 213,152 lbs. were sent to other countries. For the five months the exports were 19,649,355 lbs. as against 12,717,392 lbs., of which the United Kingdom received 13,344,926 lbs., or 6,776,879 lbs. more, and the United States 5,084,644 lbs. or £1,764,828 lbs. more, while there was a reduction of 1,609,744 lbs. to 1,219,785 lbs. in supplies to other countries.

In his report for 1914 the British Consul at Batoum naturally has a good deal to say regarding the position of the Grosni and Baku oilfields after the outbreak of war. At the first-named place the industry was paralysed, as with the closing of the Dardanelles and consequent impossibility of access to Continental markets a complete cessation in the export of oils from the district to foreign countries took place. Even before the war, however, it seems that the despatch of crude oil to Russia was curtailed by the shortage of rolling stock experienced on Russian railways in the first five months. Production nevertheless increased by about 30 per cent. during the year, and, with no outlet, owners of wells suddenly found themselves in very great difficulties as regards storage. Towards the end all bulk oil storage accommodation available on the fields and elsewhere in the neighbourhood was full up, and producers, not knowing what to do with their crude, and especially with their steadily increasing stocks of benzine (petroleum spirit), had to repair a number of the oil tanks at Novorossisk, which were less damaged during the bombardment. On the Baku field unrest among the working classes and labour strikes, followed by the war, interfered with normal conditions, and with the progressive increase of the production which had been so marked during the first five months. In spite of this, there was considerable activity in mineral oil spheres in this district, and the mining offices of the Caucasus issued a very great number of exploration certificates in all directions. The discovery of new sources of supply was small in proportion to the number of claims on petroliferous lands put in and pegged out, but in some districts much exploration work was done; and new alleged oil-bearing lands were added to the existing petroleum fields. Dealing with the outlook, the Consul says that, as is known, the crude oil procured in the Grosni district is specially adapted to yield first-class benzine, and the discovery of fresh petroliferous territory near Grosni augurs well in so far as concerns the supply of motor spirit in the future. In view of the immense stocks of benzine that have been and are accumulating in the Northern Caucasus, practically unlimited quantities will be available to meet the ever-

increasing demand so soon as the war is over and shipments become possible. In other districts of the Caucasus also the exploitation of oil is being actively pursued with fairly promising results.

**BUKIT IJOK (SELANGOR) RUBBER.**—This company now has about three-fourths of its planted area in bearing, but only 350 acres of the 750 are being tapped daily. The output for 1914 was substantially larger than the estimate, and exceeded the previous year's crop by 109,396 lbs. at 189,896 lbs. No details are given as to price or cost, but the nett outcome was a profit of £7,358. Deducting the debit of £35 brought in, the disposable total was £7,323, out of which an initial dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, is paid, and £2,274 is carried forward. The daily tapping of the trees is being gradually extended, and the crop for the current year is estimated at 240,000 lbs.

### Insurance News.

The persistent and heavy depreciation of investments, which has been accentuated by the exigencies of war finance, has resulted in a tendency in favour of the non-profit form of policy, and it is not improbable that this system of life assurance must temporarily largely displace the with-profit variety. Current profits will inevitably be affected by war claims and depreciation, and a reduction in bonuses is only to be expected in most cases. Therefore the intending policy-holder will be attracted by the surety of the non-profit policy, especially as these policies can be obtained often at reduced rates, and so long as the present abnormal conditions prevail they are likely to be the most remunerative contract to make. The non-profit policy gives the largest amount of cover in the early years of the policy when it is most needed, but the advantage lies with the with-profit policy should the assured live to an average age and bonuses be maintained. The latter policy is certainly more speculative; the former is a fixed quantity.

The total payment of the market for securities lost in the *Arabic* is approximately £500,000, but presumably all the bonds lost will be reissued by the American railroad and other companies to the underwriters when the certificates, indemnifying the companies against loss should any of the lost securities be recovered and put into circulation, have been received and other formalities completed, which usually extend over a period of about three to four months.

In the meantime underwriters pay cash immediately the documents are forthcoming and bear the charges, and the low charge for insurance is to cover the expense to the underwriters of being without their money for the period, and also because the underwriters run the risk of the market quotations moving against them when the new securities come to be sold. Since the *Arabic* was sunk as much as 22s. 6d. per cent. has been paid for insurances on American bonds in a vessel of the American line, while 10s. per cent. is now the usual rate for American liners, and rather more for British steamers.

The latest reports from Galveston respecting the casualties to steamers during the recent hurricane are not quite so serious as the earlier advices. One British steamer, the *Wallace*, was blown a third of a mile from deep water, and the steamer *Ribston*, which was blown on to the railway track, is three-quarters of a mile from deep water. Some of the vessels have been refloated by dredging, and as the land lies low and is soft, the two steamers named will probably be got afloat again. Fifteen years ago a hurricane in the same locality did a great deal of damage. A British steamer was driven many miles inland, and another was blown into the city almost, but the latter was eventually salvaged.

**The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd.**—Branches have been opened at Keetmanshoop, in the territory hitherto known as German South-West Africa, and Bredaorp, Cape Province.

The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd., have opened a branch at No. 2, Kingsland High Street, N.E. (corner of Dalston Lane), to be known as the Kingsland Branch.

Mr. Walter Spencer Morgan Burns, a director of the London Joint-Stock Bank, Ltd., and the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, has accepted a seat on the London board of the Bank of New South Wales.



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

In the end of last week the Press Bureau officially announced that the statements which had appeared in reference to the composition of the Financial Mission to the United States were premature, and that the matter was still under the consideration of the Government. Apparently this was understood in New York to mean that no definite steps had yet been taken on the question of restoring the exchange to a more normal level. There is, however, no reason to believe that there has been any avoidable delay since the matter was seriously taken in hand, and negotiations with American banking interests will probably begin very shortly. These must necessarily take time, as the problem is a complicated one, and until some definite arrangement is made the market must remain in a very sensitive condition, and prone to rapid fluctuations. A new low "record" in the value of the sovereign in New York was established on Wednesday by a drop to \$4.48 in the cable rate, but the sensational fall had the effect of reducing business to a minimum, and it was followed by a sharp rally to \$4.64. Fluctuations of this character emphasise the need for prompt action being taken to apply remedial measures; but both countries are aware of the urgency and anxious to find a solution which will be mutually satisfactory.

So confident is the discount market that the question of the New York exchange will shortly be satisfactorily settled that it paid little or no attention to the sharp drop. Bills are still far from being plentiful, and brokers have again met with competition from banks which have had their balances increased through loans being paid off. It has therefore been exceedingly difficult to maintain rates, and although most of the big houses continue to quote  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. for three months paper, business has been done under the lower figure. A fair demand has been experienced for October Treasury bills, which have been dealt in at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for those maturing in the first half of the month, and  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. in the second half.

Another instalment of 15 per cent. on the War Loan, which was estimated to take £50,000,000, had to be paid on Tuesday, but, contrary to expectations, the Money market was able to meet it with very little assistance from the Bank. Supplies of credit were increased by the repayment of £5,000,000 Argentine Government Treasury bills on Wednesday, and by the disbursement of interest on the old War Loan, and other interest and

dividend payments. Day-to-day loans cost  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., when arranged in the early business hours, but considerable amounts were offered each afternoon, and the charge ranged down to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. For weekly fixtures bankers, and those institutions in agreement with them, held to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but there is still a good deal of money available in other quarters, and a fairly large business was done at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The joint stock banks have raised their rate on deposits to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., bringing it into line with the allowance by discount houses for money at call.

The gathering up of gold from circulation continues steadily, and during the week ended on Wednesday the Bank received £835,000 from this source, while £297,000 came in from abroad, making a total increase of £1,132,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion. Against this there was an expansion of £522,000 in the note circulation, so that on balance the reserve was £611,000 up at £54,558,000, the proportion to liabilities being a shade higher at 24.2 per cent. It would again seem that the instalment on the War Loan paid on Tuesday had not been fully paid over to the Treasury, or else that the disbursements had been exceptionally large as Public Deposits were only £3,881,000 up. Government securities were reduced by £1,237,000, but "Other" securities rose by £2,968,000, and Other Deposits showed a decrease of £1,543,000. With the close of the Bank's half-year the usual adjustment of the "Rest" has been made, and the total now stands at £3,637,000.

A discussion has recently taken place regarding the abolition of the half-sovereign, and although it was begun by faddists such as ex-bimetallists, &c., we are inclined to agree with them on this point. Many years ago a suggestion was put forward to reduce the value to 9s. and make it a token coin, but it was strenuously opposed and dropped. The present proposal, however, stands on a very different footing. It is generally admitted that the coin is a wasteful one, because the loss by wear is large compared with the sovereign, and now that paper money is more universally used the time would seem to be opportune for its withdrawal.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended September 1 £4,104,710 in £1 notes, £1,318,767 in 10s. notes, and £170,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,245,785 in £1, £432,150 10s. in 10s. notes, and £370,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,545,542, leaving a total of £57,747,034 10s. outstanding, made up of £43,308,097 in £1 notes and £14,438,937 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investment reserve account of £308,321 15s. 3d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £14,585,827 12s. 6d. in Government securities, and £13,284,528 12s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £1,214,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £471,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

Offerings of silver from America have been more restricted than usual this week, owing to the low exchange which made it unprofitable to sell in London at the current level. At the same time there has been a good demand from the Continent, and India has also bought moderately, with the result that the price has advanced to  $23\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 10,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 20,000 in bills, Rs. 20,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 10,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs. 8,00,000 were allotted in immediate transfers and Rs. 2,00,000 in deferred transfers, tenders at 1s. 3 31-32d. and 1s.  $3\frac{1}{8}$ d. respectively receiving about 20 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 25,000 in bills at 1s. 3 31-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is increased to Rs. 20,00,000. Between April 1 and the 31st ult. the total sales were Rs. 2,97,163,000, realising £1,978,604, compared with Rs. 5,36,88,332 for £3,583,170 to September 1 last year.



BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 1, 1915.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 85,915,580	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	67,465,580
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 85,915,580		£ 85,915,580

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 44,418,357
Res .. ..	3,637,107	Other Securities .. ..	145,105,473
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	53,590,780
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	967,678
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	127,935,493		
Other Deposits .. ..	87,921,638		
Seven Day and other Bills	35,050		
	£ 244,082,288		£ 244,082,288

Dated Sept. 2, 1915.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Sept. 2.	Aug. 25, 1915.	Sept. 1, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,717,666	3,638,767	3,637,107	—	1,660
28,676,828	134,054,324	137,935,493	3,881,169	—
133,818,826	89,465,037	87,921,638	—	1,543,399
13,295	29,031	35,050	6,019	—
28,023,971	Gov. Securities ..	45,655,382	44,418,359	—
121,820,692	Other do. ..	142,137,266	145,105,473	2,968,207
30,934,952	Total Reserve ..	53,947,511	54,558,458	610,947
			5,124,213	5,124,213
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
35,287,760	Note Circulation ..	31,803,255	32,324,800	521,545
47,772,712	Coin and Bullion ..	67,300,766	68,433,258	1,132,492
19 p.c.	Proportion ..	24.1 p.c.	+ 0.1 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £297,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Bars .. ..	£ 93,000
Wednesday—Bars ..	731,000
Thursday—Sovs. ..	1,000,000
" Misc. (released) ..	200,000
Friday .. ..	50,000
Nett Efflux .. ..	767,000
	£ 2,841,000
	£ 2,841,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that in addition to the £10,000,000 old style Treasury Bills which matured on Aug. 27 £616,000 of the Bills which were sold "over the counter" had been repaid. During the same period £8,225,000 was received from the sale of new bills, making a nett reduction of £2,391,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6	2 13 11½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
*170,363,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
232,863,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	560,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	319,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	7 300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 14	289,141,000	356,222,000	—	67,081,000
" 21	394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—
" 28	332,761,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000
August 4	260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—
" 11	273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—
" 18	283,050,000	179,421,000	103,629,000	—
" 25	258,873,000	150,432,000	108,441,000	—
Sept. 1	275,985,000	155,707,000	120,278,000	—
Total ..	8,920,803,000	10,975,273,000	—	2,054,470,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 13, 1915.	Aug. 6, 1915.	July 30, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 41,939,400	£ 41,564,400	£ 42,597,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	216,800	216,800	212,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	10,698,000	10,458,000	10,428,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,189,800	4,913,200	4,418,400
Total reserves ..	57,044,000	57,222,400	57,656,800
10-day bills and loans ..	688,200	844,400	—
30-day bills and loans ..	2,043,000	1,770,200	2,413,000
60-day bills and loans ..	2,993,600	3,017,000	2,727,800
90-day bills and loans ..	2,034,000	2,137,200	2,354,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	404,800	416,400	649,800
Total ..	8,163,600	8,185,200	8,145,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,721,400	1,700,600	1,584,600
Municipal Warrants ..	3,711,600	3,620,000	3,221,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks. net.	805,600	1,197,400	1,415,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2 253,200	2,515,600	2,205,800
All other assets ..	1,124,600	1,052,600	1,180,800
Total assets ..	74,824,000	75,493,800	75,410,400
Paid-up capital ..	10,866,200	10,863,000	10,836,200
Reserve deposits—nett.	60,385,200	61,200,400	61,236,600
Note circulation—nett.	3,144,600	3,084,000	2,993,000
All other liabilities ..	428,000	346,400	344,600
Total liabilities ..	74,824,000	75,493,800	75,410,400

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 28.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. ..	£ 839,000
Excise .. ..	445,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	483,000
Stamps .. ..	60,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	550,000
Land Values Duties ..	—
Post Office .. ..	100,000
Crown Lands .. ..	40,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. ..	54,271
Bullion advances repaid ..	50,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	498,408
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	5,000,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Issue of War Stock and War Bonds .. ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments .. ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	8,168,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. ..	22,034,473
	£ 38,322,152
	£ 38,322,152

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 2, 1915.	Aug. 26, 1915.	Aug. 19, 1915.	Aug. 12, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 173,054,160	£ 170,652,760	£ 175,694,440	£ 172,890,960
Silver in hand ..	14,668,619	14,670,160	14,716,560	14,713,840
Bills discounted ..	11,350,400	11,003,800	11,118,600	10,789,080
Advances .. ..	23,491,400	23,491,360	23,563,960	23,787,760
Note circulation ..	522,400,400	518,011,160	515,974,440	513,032,120
Public deposits ..	1,231,520	2,762,720	4,452,120	3,595,640
Private deposits ..	99,963,160	98,939,080	98,502,840	94,619,440
Foreign Bills .. ..	57,320	49,680	69,450	69,280

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36 per cent., against 35½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £256,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £40,166,760, decrease £345,920, and at the branches to £41,622,000, decrease £282,800.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 30, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,753,700	£ 122,644,500	£ 122,524,600	£ 81,939,200
Treasury Notes ..	10,526,503	11,800,250	11,748,100	9,157,950
Bills discounted ..	247,084,950	237,227,650	236,422,100	237,593,350
Advances .. ..	764,050	638,500	642,100	5,246,450
Note circulation ..	278,216,750	265,860,900	269,438,650	211,743,650
Deposits .. ..	86,815,600	90,852,050	87,776,350	122,066,850

Clearing House returns during Aug. £210,075,490 against £252,034,605 in July.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 21, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 529,620,000	£ 526,962,000	£ 520,588,000	£ 425,534,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	95,968,000	94,936,000	91,884,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	27,856,000	26,770,000	26,144,000	78,836,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,676,000	6,060,000	5,852,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	529,332,000	523,128,000	512,586,000	380,550,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	28,406,000	28,654,000	29,100,000	—
Circulation .. ..	7,408,000	7,480,000	7,492,000	20,632,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	38,530,000	37,158,000	35,116,000	*6,772,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

\* Deficit.



## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s).

	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 21, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	118,192,000	118,502,000	117,924,000	114,020,000
Specie .. ..	9,995,000	10,004,000	9,996,000	8,260,000
Deposits .. ..	122,044,000	122,460,000	121,938,000	111,780,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,694,000	1,710,000	1,740,000	2,500,000

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 21, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	28,707,881	28,618,927	28,285,978	28,157,686
Silver .. ..	29,759,651	29,641,864	29,531,372	29,493,098
Foreign Bills ..	4,629,812	4,540,218	4,531,184	4,781,694
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,018,991	26,298,795	26,109,095	26,674,549
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,882,457	29,739,049	31,059,353	30,737,545
Notes in Circulation ..	80,459,725	80,409,054	80,898,904	80,956,956
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	26,330,997	26,068,869	26,495,248	25,951,405
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,682,726	1,636,732	1,686,371	1,496,376
Government Securities ..	1,961,941	1,983,631	2,207,995	2,759,794

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	11,976,032	11,940,988	11,891,652	8,769,978
Bills .. ..	5,250,435	5,309,828	6,193,856	11,075,480
Note circulation ..	15,549,797	15,734,608	15,981,392	17,615,228
Current and deposit accounts .. ..	3,966,771	4,120,904	4,450,180	3,482,100

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 22, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	6,298,000	6,299,000	6,299,000	5,729,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,723,000	5,098,000	5,029,000	2,780,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,743,000	2,757,000	2,770,000	158,000
Discounts and Loans ..	6,075,000	6,558,000	6,921,000	9,916,000
Notes in circulation ..	14,920,000	15,197,000	15,253,000	15,126,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,902,000	4,529,000	4,623,000	4,255,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 23, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	3,462,000	3,434,000	3,408,000	3,118,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,723,000	3,627,000	3,603,000	1,317,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	802,000	637,000	637,000	496,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,091,000	4,108,000	4,161,000	6,513,000
Notes in Circulation ..	7,762,000	7,856,000	7,856,000	7,676,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,770,000	1,354,000	1,482,000	1,258,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	August 30, 1915.		Sept 2, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.15	11.18*	11.14	11.16*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	11.55	11.65	11.50	11.55
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.55	30.70*	30.30	30.45*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	30.05	30.15	29.80	29.90
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers .. ..	35½	36	35½	36
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	35½	36*	nom.	nom.
New York .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	—	—	—	—
Do. .. ..	Cheques & mail transfers ..	—	—	—	—
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.05	28.15*	27.50	27.55
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	27.65	27.75	27.50	27.55
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	135½	136	135	136
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers .. ..	—	—	17.95	18.10
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	nom.	nom.	18.25	18.40
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	45½	46*	45½	46*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	24.95	25	24.85	24.95
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.40	25.55*	25.20	25.35*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	24.95	25.10	24.70	24.85

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .....	chqs.	27.65	27.60	Antwerp .....	short	—	—
Brussels .....	chqs.	—	—	Italy .....	slight	30.10	29.85
Amsterdam .....	sight	11.65	11.48	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .....	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg .....	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .....	sight	—	—	Calcutta .....	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
Petrograd .....	3 mths	135½	135½	Bombay .....	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/3½d.
New York .....	sight	4.64½	4.63	Hong Kong .....	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/9½d.
Lisbon .....	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai .....	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid .....	sight	24.85	24.95	Singapore .....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama .....	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. ..	4½	4½
Six months .. ..	4½	4½
Nine months .. ..	4½	4½
Twelve months .. ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½	4½
Three months .. ..	4½	4½
Four months .. ..	5	5
Six months .. ..	5½	5½
Three months fire inland bills ..	5½	5½
Four months .. ..	5½	5½
Six months .. ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
short loan rates .. ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits .. ..	3	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) .. ..	3½	3½
7 and 14 days' notice .. ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans .. ..	4½	4½
for call loans .. ..	4½	4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

The American exchange flutterings have influenced prices on the Stock Exchange this week in a way favourable to holders of American Railroad securities. Perhaps the rise may tempt some to sell, and we should not object particularly, although it would be a pity to throw away substantial investments even at present tempting prices. Better on the whole leave the selling to the distressed Germans who are said to have been obeying orders and dumping their stocks on every foreign market open. They have already swamped the Swiss market, and will soon have overloaded the Dutch. Even Wall Street will not resist their pressure very long, and the high prices created by the adverse exchange is certain to be followed by a relapse, which may be accelerated by an early arrangement of the credit difficulty. In fact, Wall Street began to flinch a little on Thursday. Other securities have been as quiet as usual, but more trade has been doing in several directions, with a hardening in both Consol and new War Loan prices. Home Railway stocks, too, have been firmer, but the latest traffic returns of the Argentine group of railways have not been quite stimulating in character, and that part of the market has weakened. Various miscellaneous groups, however, are firm, and it has become increasingly possible to do business in shipping shares, in some odd rubber shares, as well as now and then in South African shares, but altogether there are no noticeable ripples on the surface of the stream, and we just let it glide by.

All the week business has shown some slight improvement on the experience of the majority of brokers for some time past, but it is still far from satisfactory, and even the visits of a most excellent band to Throgmorton Street (said by cynics to be arranged by the Committee to try and make things more lively) could not impart any amount of cheerfulness in any direction. Probably the most important factor has been the violent fluctuations of the New York exchange, and there has been very little else to create much excitement. It is satisfactory to find a substantial improvement in the new (4½ per cent.) War Loan, which still takes pride of place as the most active security in the market, but the movements in some other gilt-edged securities must be very puzzling to the uninitiated. War Loan "rights" at one time advanced to ¾, and the fully-paid stock also improved, but the top prices were not quite maintained. "Straddle" bargains for conversion purposes in War Loan and Consols were fairly numerous, and Consols were dealt in at 65½ cum dividend, but the amazing provision that the deduction of the dividend shall not alter the minimum dealing price has effectually stopped business in what used to be the premier security for some considerable time to come. Of course, the "straddle" business created anomalies, as the deduction of the dividend, less income-tax, made a difference of as near as possible ½ to convert into £100 of War Loan, and had to be added to the price of the latter. The Stock Exchange will be very glad indeed when it gets rid of this particular business, which is more trouble than it is worth, and with offices depleted of men skilled in this kind of work the technical difficulties are in many cases getting into a hopeless tangle. Colonial stocks, especially those with a comparatively short currency, were in good demand, but foreign stocks as a rule were inclined to give way, mainly because holders want to realise in order to make their resources more liquid. It must be understood, however, that the market is extremely narrow, and any attempt to sell a fairly large block of stock would be very severely discouraged.

Home Railways are not much in favour with anybody at present, but they have been looking up a little in the last day or two, and it is rather satisfactory to notice that the best stocks have been most in demand. Dealings are still woefully restricted, but it is something to be able to say that the tone is much more confident. Canadian Pacific worked up relatively to the fall in the New York exchange, and Grand Trunks (which are not similarly affected) improved, owing to the evidence of drastic economies now being practised by the company. For instance, in July, while the gross receipts fell £46,500, working expenses were reduced by £94,500, and for seven months a loss of £414,000 in receipts has been more than offset by a saving of over £490,000 in expenditure. American Railroads moved upwards in sympathy with the fall in the exchange, but there has not been so much excitement in the more speculative industrial securities. Argentine Railways, after their recent spurt, were dull on profit-taking, and it was



also said that a fairly large deceased account was being liquidated.

On the whole, business in Miscellaneous securities was on a somewhat larger scale, and it is noteworthy that wherever there is the semblance of a free market it is easier to put through a transaction than in many stocks which used to enjoy a price defined by  $\frac{1}{8}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Shipping shares have been in some favour, owing to the continued demand, and high prices for freights. Bank shares were rather dull for no particular reason, unless the uncalled liability is beginning to frighten

will follow this example. What a farce Treasury interference in such cases is!

Rubber shares have been in rather better demand, and many of the leading counters have improved a fraction. The interim dividends have helped to stimulate inquiry on the part of investors, and the price of the raw material has shown enough strength to make any sudden drop highly improbable in spite of the increasing output from the plantations. Dealings have not been on a large scale, but they have been satisfactory considering the conditions. Oils also have been inclined to improve. There is some conflict of testimony with regard to the position in Galicia, but the output seems to be recovering, and it is now said to be about 50 per cent. of the normal. There has been a better inquiry for some of the more speculative shares, like Urals and North Caucasians, while the Russian group generally looks more confident after the recent reverses. Nothing much has happened with regard to the leaders like Shells, Royal Dutch, and Mexican Eagles, but the market on the whole was stoutly cheerful.

Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65½	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	98½	98½
— War Loan 3½%.....	92½	92½	— " 4½% 1922-7.....	94½	95½
— " 4½% (£60 pd.).....	2 dis	12 dis	95 New Zealand 4%.....	95	95
69½ India 3%.....	60½	60½	92 Queensland 4%.....	92	92
80½ " 3½%.....	80½	80½	— " 4½% new	97½	96½
92 Canada 4%, 1910-60.....	92	92	— Union of S. Africa		
— " 4½%, 1920-5.....	95½	97½	— " 4½%, 1920-5.....	96½	96½
92 N.S.W. 4%.....	95	95	— Victoria 4½%, 1920-5.....	97½	96½x

66 Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes.....	68½	68½
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½% (1st).....	85½	86
— " New Funding.....	68½	68½	83 " (2nd).....	83½	84½
— Chinese 1896.....	94½	94½	— Russia 4%.....	73	73
— " 1913.....	82	82	— " 4½%.....	73½	73½
— Egypt Unified 4%.....	85	85	— " 5%.....	92	92

Brighton defd.....	51½	52	London and S.-W. defd.....	23½	23½
Caledonian defd.....	108	109	— Do. new pf.....	100	100
Chatham ord.....	7½	7½	Metropolitan.....	23½	23½
Gt. Central pf.....	13½	13½	— Do. 5% New pf.....	96	96
— " defd.....	7	7	Met. District.....	14½	14½
Gt. Eastern.....	35½	34	Midland defd.....	58	58½
Gt. Northern defd.....	38½	38½	Nth. British defd.....	14½	14½
Gt. Western.....	96½	96½	Nth.-Eastern.....	104½	102½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	69½	69½	Nth.-Western.....	100½	101½
			Stn.-Eastern defd.....	23½	22½

Canadian Pacific.....	163	163x	Chesapeake.....	47½	50
Do. 6% Notes.....	108	109	Erie.....	29½	31
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93½	94½	Milwaukee.....	88	89
Grand Trunk ord.....	9½	9½	N. Y. Central.....	95½	99½
— Do. 3rd pf.....	23½	24	Southern.....	15	16½
— Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes.....	96½	96½	Southern Pacific.....	95½	95½x
— Do. 5½% 5-yr. ".....	95½	96	Union Pacific.....	130½	130½x
Atchison.....	108½	109½	U. S. Steel.....	88	81½
Baltimore.....	87½	88½			

Antofagasta defd.....	116	119	Cent. Argentine ord.....	82½	83
— Do. 6% Notes.....	100½	109	— Do. 5% Notes.....	99½	99½
Brazil Common.....	6	5	— Do. 6% ".....	102½	102½
B. A. & Pacific.....	48	49	Leopoldina.....	31	33½
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	82½	82½	Mexican ord.....	18½	18½
B. A. Western.....	88	87	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	159	160
			United of Havana.....	72	73½

Bank of Australasia.....	107½	107	London City & Midland.....	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	7½	7½	London County & West.....	14½	14½
— Do. "B".....	10	9½	London Joint Stock.....	20	20
Capital & Counties.....	19½	19½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	24½	22½
Chartered of India.....	52	52½	— Do. (£12 pd)	26½	26
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	71½	70	Parr's.....	26½	26½
Lloyds.....	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.....	10½	10½
London & Provincial.....	15½	15½	Union & Smiths.....	22½	22½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½			

Apollinaris ord.....	35/6	35/6	Forestal Land.....	33/	35/
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	2½	2½	Furness, Withy.....	29/9	32/6
Associated Cement.....	59/	57/6	Hudson's Bay.....	4½	5½
Birmingham Small Arms	21/	20/9	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.....	23/	22/9
Borax defd.....	19/6	19/6	— Do. defd. "A".....	38/	38/
Bovril.....	47½	47½	Kynochs.....	29/	30/
Brazil Tracton.....	65/	64/6	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20/6	20/9
British Amer. Tobacco.....	25/	25/	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.....	3½	3½	Marconi.....	1½	1½
Brunner, Mond.....	5	5	Maypole Dairy defd.....	22/3	23/
Cammell-Laird.....	59/6	59/6	Mond Nickel ord.....	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner.....	48	48	National Steam Car.....	11/9	11/9
Coats.....	50/	55/	Nobel Dynamite.....	16½	16½
Cunard.....	27/	28/3	Pears, A. & F.....	2	1½
Dennis Bros.....	21/	21/9	P. & O. defd.....	265	265
Dorman, Long.....	7/3	7/3	Royal Mail.....	75	75
English Sewing Cotton.....	30/3	30/	South Durham Steel.....	26/6	26/9
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	24/	23/6	Underground Inc. Bds.....	74	70½x
			Vickers.....	31/9	31/9

Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	5/	5/6	Mexican Eagle pf.....	1½	1½
Baku (10s.).....	3/3	3/3	North Caucasian.....	27/	28/3
Burmah.....	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons.....	13/6	13/6
Lobitos.....	27/9	27/9	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	43½
Maikop Combine (10s.).....	3/6	3/6	Shell.....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline.....	4/	4/3	Spies (1c/-).....	14/9	14/6
Mexican Eagle.....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian.....	1½	1½

Anglo-Malay.....	8/7½	8/7½	Linggi.....	13/10½	13/10½
Batu Caves.....	11½	11½	London Asiatic.....	5/9	5/9
Bukit Mertajam.....	2/7½	2/7½	Malacca.....	4	4
Bukit Sembawang.....	2/7½	2/7½	Malayalam.....	21/	20/9
Damansara.....	2½	2½	M. rimau.....	4/	4/1½
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.).....	11/3	11/
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	8/10½	8/10½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	13/9	14/	Vallambrosa.....	13/3x	13/3

Abbotiakoob (10/-).....	7/10½	8/	De Beers defd. (£2 10s.) ..	10	10½
Brakpan.....	42½	42½	East Rand.....	1½	1½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	42/9	42/9	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	13/	15/1½
Cam & Motor.....	12/	12/	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½x
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	5½	5½
Chartered.....	9/10½	10/1½	— Do. Deep.....	4½	4½x
City Deep.....	3½	3½	New Modder (£4).....	15½	14½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½x	Rio Tinto (£5).....	5½	5½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	4	3½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½	2½x

holders in these trying and uncertain times. Breweries were scarcely mentioned. Canadian Car and Foundry shares were subjected to profit-taking, but Hudson's Bays enjoyed quite a smart rally. Brazilian Tractions lost ground, while Motor shares, as a rule, were firm, and Marconis also held their ground well. Textile shares were dull, and Liptons did not show any appreciable elasticity. Spillers and Bakers, being refused Treasury sanction of a proposed issue of shares, invite their holders to deposit money, presumably at a rate which will prove to be attractive, and no doubt other concerns

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was a fairly good amount of business stirring in this market during the week, white descriptions again meeting with chief support, while values were kept at a steady level. Tate's cubes, No. 1, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; pieces, 19s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. White Java in outports sold, 27s. to 27s. 3d. Argentine, Moleda, spot, London, at 26s. 6d. to 26s. 7½d. American granulated, spot, London, at 29s. Cuban receipts for all ports last week, 17,500 tons, against 12,000 tons at corresponding period last year, and Centrals 4, against 2. Grocery, crystallised Trinidad sold, 26s. 6d. for fine colony; St. Lucia, 25s. 6d.; Antigua, 25s. 3d. In auction, cane sorts ruled quiet at about late rates. 725 bags crystallised Antigua sold, low mid to mid yellow, at 25s. 3d. to 25s. 6d. 440 bags Trinidad retired, 1,109 mats Mauritius syrups, partly sold, low brownish to good yellow, 17s. to 18s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies in auction passed off quietly, at generally steady prices. Vera Paz: fair to fine bold, 71s. to 90s.; mid, 73s. to 81s.; peas, 91s. to 95s. 6d. Costa Rica: good to fine bold, 76s. 6d. to 82s.; mid, 65s. 6d. to 73s. 6d.; small, 48s. to 65s. Colombian: small, 54s. 6d. Futures firm, but quiet.

**COCOA.**—At public sale fair supplies were offered, and met with steady competition. Trinidad ruled 1s. per cwt. firmer since last sales. Samoa 1s. and Costa Rica 2s. dearer. Other descriptions fully steady. Ceylon, fair to fine bold red, 79s. 6d. to 84s. Trinidad, 81s. to 82s. 6d. 861 bags ditto, being part of the gift of the colony of Trinidad to our Navy and Army, sold, at 81s. 6d. to 82s. A small quantity of Grenada was catalogued and sold, at 78s. 6d. to 80s. St. Lucia, fair to fine red, 74s. 6d. to 79s. 6d. Dominica, ordinary to fine, 72s. to 77s. Jamaica, 71s. to 73s. 6d. Costa Rica, 73s. to 76s. Samoa, 77s. to 83s. 6d. New Guinea, 76s. 6d. 2,328 bags Bahia in bond (naval prize), sold, at 71s. 6d. to 75s. Privately, Trinidad, so d, 82s. to 83s. Jamaica, fine, up to 79s. Guayaquil, fine, Caraquez, 87s.; and Machala, at 84s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met with a better demand, especially for the better liquoring sorts, which realised full to occasionally firmer prices. Common and commonest kinds, however, displayed irregularity and weakness. Ceylon auctions went steadily for the finer descriptions and late rates were well maintained, but prices were again rather lower for the commoner kinds. Java offerings passed off with a good demand, prices were generally easier.

**SPICE.**—Pepper in quiet request, but values ruled steady. Black Singapore, on spot, basis fair, buyers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, 5½d.; Lampong, 5½d.; fair white Singapore, on spot, sellers, 5½d.; Muntok, 9½d. To arrive: black Singapore, September-October shipment, sold, 5½d. to 5½d.; Lampong, September-November, sellers, 5½d.; white Singapore, September-November, buyers, 7½d.; Muntok, ditto, sold, 8½d., c.f. and i. Cloves met a slow demand. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.; August-October delivery, 6d.

**RICE.**—Market firm and business checked. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d., and Rangoon, two stars, 13s. 9d. to 14s. 500 tons, C.3, September-October, sold, 9s., c.f. and i., U.K. Rangoon beans, afloat, sold, £17 12s. 6d., c.f. and i., London. JUTE ruled firm and a fair demand existed, but closed quieter. Native first marks, September, sold, at £24 12s. 6d. to £24 15s. and £24 12s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila parcels ruled dull at first, and prices tended in buyers' favour, but became firmer. New graded, fair, September-November shipment, buyers, £38 5s.; medium, ditto, sold, £34 15s. to £35; coarse, ditto, £29 10s., buyers; and coarse brown, ditto, £27 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand firm. G.F., October-December, buyers, £32 15s.; H.P.F., ditto, sold, £31 15s.; and fair at £30 15s., and buyers, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot market firmer, and a fairly good business was effected. Fair T.N., orange, sold at 64s. up to 66s. 6d. A.B., T.N., free, done 75s. to 76s. W.B., T.N., free, at 76s. A.C. garnet, slightly cakey, at 61s. to 62s. 6d. Futures moved in holders' favour. October delivery sold, 65s. to 67s. 6d.; and December at 67s. to 69s. 6d. and 69s.

**GAMBER.**—Good marks, September-October shipment, sold, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.** met a fair demand and with holders acting reservedly values ruled firmer, but closed with a quieter tone. Plantation, standard crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4½d.; September delivery, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d., and 2s. 4½d.;



October-December, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 3½d., and 2s. 3½d. Smoked sheet, on spot, done 2s. 4d. to 2s. 4½d.; September delivery, sellers, 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d.; and January-June, 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, on spot, sold, 2s. 4½d.; September-October delivery at 2s. 4½d.; October-November, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; November-December, at 2s. 4½d. Soft fine, spot, 2s. 3½d., buyers; October-November, 2s. 3½d. Ball, spot, 1s. 8½d., sellers; September-October and October-November, 1s. 8½d., buyers. Scrappy, spot value, 1s. 8d.; and September-October, 1s. 8½d. per lb.

COPRA.—Market firm, and a moderate inquiry prevailed. To London: Ceylon, August-September, sellers, £24 12s. 6d.; Malabar, buyers, £25; F.M.S., Singapore, August-September, buyers, £23 15s.; South Sea Islands, ditto, buyers, £22 12s. 6d.

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt. duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb. Australian	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Scoured Merino	1 3½-2 6	1 3½-2 6
Ditto No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 0½-2 3	1 0½-2 3
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Greasy Merino	0 8-1 7½	0 8-1 7½
Lyle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	Greasy Crossbred	1 0-1 8	1 0-1 8
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 7-2 7	1 7-2 7
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9½-1 6	0 9½-1 6
French Cubes prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 0-2 5	2 0-2 5
Crystallised, West India	24 6-27 0	24 6-27 0	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb. Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crape	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton. Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9½-1 1½	0 9½-1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10-1 2	0 10-1 2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11-1 6½	0 10½-1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11-1 8½	0 11½-1 1½	Steamers, best	1 0 0	1 0 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1½	0 9½-1 1½	Seconds	0 17 0	0 17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10-1 1½	0 9-1 1	<b>Lead</b> —per ton. English Pig	23 10 0	23 15 0
Broken	0 10½-1 2	0 9½-1 1½	Foreign soft Sept.	22 35 0	23 2 6
Orange	0 10½-1 2	0 9½-1 2	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	17 5 0	16 15-17 0
Broken	0 10½-1 4	0 10-1 2	<b>Tin</b> —per ton. English Ingots	£ 154-£ 155	£ 155-156
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1½	0 8½-1 0½	Do. bars	£ 155-£ 156	£ 156-157
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt. duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard cash	£ 152 15 0	£ 154 10 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	77 0-82 0	78 0-84 0	Tin Plates, per box	18 0-18 3	18 0-18 3
Grenada	73 0-78 0	74 0-80 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton. English, Tough	£ 84-£ 85	£ 84-£ 85
West Africa	nom.	nom.	per ton	£ 84-£ 85	£ 84-£ 85
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-90 0	72 0-90 0	Best Selected	£ 80-£ 81	£ 77-£ 78
Guayaquil Arriba	89 0-92 0	89 0-92 0	Sheets	£ 98	£ 98
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt. duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard	£ 71 10 0	£ 67 12 6
East India	67 0-96 0	62 0-94 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton. Native firsts for shipmt. Sept.	£ 24 10 0	£ 25 0 0
Jamaica	47 0-118 0	47 0-120 6	<b>Oils</b> —per ton. Linseed	£ 26-£ 26½	£ 25½-£ 26½
Costa Rica	55 0-82 0	55 0-82 0	Rape, ref. English	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Provisions</b> —			casks	£ 36-£ 38	£ 36-£ 38
Butter, per cwt. Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Brown, English, naked	£ 34-£ 35	£ 34-£ 35
Irish Creameries	154/-160/-	152/-156/-	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 26 15 0	£ 26½-£ 27
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£ 30-£ 35	£ 30-£ 35
Russian finest	134/-138/-	134/-138/-	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Normandy baskets	118/-145/-	120/-146/-	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
Danish finest	164/-166/-	163/-170/-	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	14 0-16 6	14 6-17 0	Calcutta—per 4½ lbs.	2 16 6	2 16 0
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt. Irish	96 0-105 0	96 0-105 0	Rape, Guzerat	2 19 0	2 19 0
Continental	98 0-105 0	98 0-105 0	Sept-Oct.	2 19 0	2 19 0
Canadian	80 0-95 0	80 0-95 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton. Cleveland Cash	3 5 0	3 4 10
American	64 0-75 0	69 0-70 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured 3/8, 4/13 per lb.		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt. Irish	108 0-126 0	112 0-124 0	Maryland & Ohio per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian	72 0-76 0	72 0-80 0	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
American	44 0-71 0	46 0-81 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt. Edam	82 0-86 0	82 0-86 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
Canadian	72 0-74 0	72 0-76 0	Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Gouda	74 0-78 0	74 0-78 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
English Cheddar	78 0-94 0	78 0-94 0	Cigars, duty 7½ lb.	2 0	2 0
Wilt's leaf	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood. Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/	130/-150/
New Zealand	71 0-74 0	74 0-76 0	Indian Teak	280/-600/	280/-600/
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Flour</b> —per sack. Town households, official	45/	44/
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	American, 1st patents	44/ upds.	43/ upds.
Bassein	nom.	nom.			
Saigon c. f. and i.	nom.	nom.			
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120. Dutch	15 0-17 0	15 6-18 6			
Russian	11 0-12 0	9 6-11 0			
Danish	14 9-18 0	15 0-17 6			

To Marseilles, F.M. Straits, August-September, buyers, £23 12s. 6d., and September-November, £23 12s. 6d.; Manila, August-September, and September-November, buyers, £22 12s. 6d.; Cebu, August-September, quoted £23 5s., c. f. and i.

TALLOW ruled steady. At public sale, 1,384 casks were brought forward, and 1,307 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. to 36s. 3d.; dark to dull, 30s. 6d. to 34s. 6d.; hard, 36s. 6d. Beef: fine, 36s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 34s. 6d.; dark to dull, 30s. 3d. to 32s. 3d.; sweet, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter unaltered. Town tallow, 34s. 6d.; smelted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6½d. per 8 lb.

OILS.—Linseed market quiet. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 10s.; barrels, £26 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 7s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked),

spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), August-September, £29 5s., c. f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £26 15s. to £27; refined pale, spot (pipes), £30; sweet (barrels), £34 to £35. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £42 to £43. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, July-August, £22 10s., c. f. and i. Turpentine dull. American spirits, on spot, 34s. 6d.; Spanish, spot, 30s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet. Calcutta, spot, 56s.; afloat, 56s.; August-September, 56s.; September-October, 56s.; La Plata, August-September, 52s.; September-October, 52s. 3d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (3 per cent.), 59s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 52s. 6d. Cottonseed dull. London: Egyptian, spot, £9 15s.; September, £9 10s.; October, £9 5s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—There was no expansion in the volume of business which took place at this Exchange since last Monday, the attendance being moderate, and prices in some directions weaker. Wheat (English): New crop whites and reds now range up to 47s. per quarter (504 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 58s. 6d.; and No. 3, 57s. 6d., all ex ship. Choice white Karachi, ex ship, 55s. 3d. Hard winters No. 2, in similar position, arriving, 53s. Argentine, 53s. 6d. to 54s., landed terms. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 43s. to 45s.; and Manitoba patents, 40s. to 41s., both landed. Grinding barley: New Plate, near at hand, 36s. 6d.; and Japanese, due in about a fortnight, 37s. 6d.; Karachi, to arrive, 38s., all ex ship. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 29s. 3d. upwards, landed; American, white clipped, 32s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, 31s. 3d. ex ship, 32s. 3d. landed. White flat South African, 34s. 6d., quay terms.

METALS.—Tin: The tendency continues irregular since last Monday, and speculative dealings were on a limited scale. Standard cash last Monday fell to £150 10s., and three months to £152 5s. Prices rallied since, sellers being reserved from time to time, while values of these dates settled down at £153 10s. and £155 respectively. Shipments from the East last month 4,712 tons. English officially quoted at £154 to £155. Copper: The warrant market relapsed sharply at the opening of the week, but a firmer tone ensued later, and, after fluctuating, standard cash delivery closed on Thursday at £68 5s., and three months £69 10s. Spelter ruled firmer, and g.o.b. quoted £74 to £70, as to position. Lead dearer, and foreign, £23 15s. Iron easier.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has been under the influences of higher prices in the raw material. Spinners and manufacturers have been compelled to put up their quotations, but buyers as a rule have been slow to follow, progress being thereby checked. As is usual when a development of this kind takes place some people have been caught short, and orders have been placed on the best terms possible under the circumstances. It is rather difficult to account for the higher level of values, but the opinion seems to prevail that growers in the States are confident that our Government has given guarantees that prices shall not fall below a certain level, and this fact is undoubtedly a bull point. Varied reports are being received as to the progress of the crop, and, according to the official statement at the beginning of the week, it looks as though the yield will be rather less than 12,000,000 bales. There is also uncertainty with regard to the Egyptian growth, and it is too early for any definite estimate of the output to be published. The inquiry in piece goods for export has somewhat broadened. A few more offers have been about in shirtings and dhooties for India, and although at the moment shippers are not prepared to pay current rates, the feeling is growing that before very long more orders will come round. Miscellaneous sales have occurred for China, but no general buying movement can be recorded. The Mediterranean outlets are not doing well at the moment, and of the minor outlets South America is doing better than the Near East. Here and there moderate lots have changed hands in printing and finishing cloths. There is still considerable depression amongst producers of light fabrics such as dhooties. Most of the reports from the home trade are fairly encouraging. American yarns for home consumption have been dearer to buy, and in coarse counts pretty full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted. Orders have been unevenly divided, but here and there fairly substantial lots have been sold. Activity in the export section has been somewhat blocked by the hardening prices, but there has been business about for Holland and France. Some Bolton spinners have sold rather more freely, but the prices ruling are still very poor.

## FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—Market steady for refined goods, and there is a sustained demand. Grocery crystallised West India proved slow and rates weak with regard to the small quantity offered in auction. Jamaica low grey sold 24s., low mid. yellow 24s. 9d. to 25s., Trinidad 25s. to 25s. 3d., and choice colory Demerara 26s. 9d. to 27s.

COFFEE.—Spot market steady, and only a limited supply was offered in auction. Terminal market quiet, and all positions quoted 36s. 3d.

SPICE quiet all round, and quotations for pepper ruled nominally unaltered.

RICE firm, quiet. No. 2 cleaned, on spot, sold 13s. 9d.

JUTE reservedly offered, and native first marks new crop, September steamer, sold £24 15s., and August £25 2s. 6d.

HEMP firm, quiet, and new graded medium, September-November, buyers, at £35, coarse £29 15s., and brown sold £27 15s.

SHELLAC.—Market ruled steady, and T.N. December value 69s.



RUBBER steady, though in quiet support. Plantation spot crepe sellers 2s. 4½d., September 2s. 4½d., October-December 2s. 4½d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet, spot, sold 2s. 4½d.

OILS.—Linseed quiet. Spot pipes (landed) £25 10s., barrels £26 5s. Hull (naked), spot, £23 5s. Turpentine, American, spot, 34s. 3d.; Spanish, spot, 30s. 3d.

SEEDS.—Linseed quietly steady. London Calcutta, spot, 56s.; afloat, 56s.; August-September, 56s.; September-October, 56s. La Plata, August-September, 52s.; September-October, 52s.

METALS.—Copper business moved quietly in the standard market, and values tended in a downward direction, cash settling down 12s. 6d. and three months 15s. easier since Thursday's close. Standard, cash, done finally £67 12s. 6d., and three months at £68 15s. to £69 and then £68 17s. 6d., closing £67 12s. 6d. and £68 15s. respectively. About 200 tons sold. Settlement price £67 15s. Electros steady at £84 to £85. Tough £84 to £85. Best selected £77 to £78. Strong sheets £98. Tin showed a further rising tendency, while holders acted reservedly. Dealings, however, were only moderate. Cash and also three months closed £1 dearer compared with previous day's final. Standard cash sold £153 10s. to £154 10s., and three months £155 10s. to £156, closing £154 10s. cash and £156 three months. Some 150 tons sold. Settlement price £154 10s. Lead again firmer. English £23 15s., foreign, September, sold £23 2s. 6d., December sellers £22 15s., and October buyers £22 17s. 6d. Spelter steady. G.O.B. officially quoted at £74 to £70. Tin plates I.C. cokes 18s. to 18s. 3d. basis, f.o.b. Wales. Antimony nominal. Iron quiet. Cleveland cash 64s. 6d., one month 65s. 3d., and three months 65s. 11d. Quicksilver £16 15s. to £17.

### American Business Notes.

There is not only childishness, but a singular uniformity in the legerdemain resorted to by the Berlin Foreign Office in its attempt to trick the United States into a sham acquiescence in Germany's claim to be as infamous as it likes, similar to that exhibited towards England in 1912, when Berlin tried to wheedle us into the position of skunk and traitor, of watch-dog chained up. When the feeling of the United States was at its hottest over the *Arabic* crime it was insinuated from German sources that the Kaiser was disposed to climb down. Nice stories were sent about to the effect that "Grand Admiral Tirpitz had been thrown over" and that the Kaiser and his head servants had decided to stop or soften down the piracy of German submarines on the high seas. No ship carrying passengers was to be torpedoed without due warning, the inspired legends declared, and forthwith a great calming down of opinion took place in the United States; but it does not follow that some mockery of concessions is not being elaborated. It seems probable that the design is to offer a concession that may divert the American people from demands for compensation for crimes already committed or to try and lure President Wilson to take some step calculated to break down the British blockade or weaken our fleet in its control over ocean commerce. That President Wilson will lend himself to any trick we do not for a moment believe, but even if the tortuous sophistication is attempted and fails it will have had the effect of allowing resentment to cool down amongst the people of the Republic and give the Prussians the time in which to prepare for and execute other crimes. Happily, their power to do evil is by no means on the increase. They even play pirates only in bursts, and the bursts are becoming less frequent because the fleets of the Allies are—slowly, it is true, but steadily—overcoming the submarine menace, which will soon be reduced to an impotence as futile as that of the much-overrated Zeppelins.

As the above leaves for the printer a report is published to the effect that Berlin has really climbed down a trifle on the submarine infamy, and without qualification. Mr. Lansing is said to have received a letter from the German Ambassador, Count Bernstorff, announcing that "liners shall not be sunk by our submarines without warning and without provision for the safety of the lives of non-combatants provided they do not try to escape or offer resistance," and, he went on, "although I know you do not wish to discuss the *Lusitania* question till the *Arabic* incident has been definitely and satisfactorily settled, I desire to inform you of the above because this is the policy my Government had decided on before the *Arabic* incident occurred." In other words, the German Government assumes an attitude of righteousness after the event,

and will probably lay the blame for the *Arabic* crime upon the captain of the submarine that sunk it. This is, we judge, a safe line to pursue for reasons the Admiralty could probably explain. But is this really the whole truth about the German attitude? No, it is only the truth as dictated by the terrible straits of German finance. A lather of peace babblement, of neutral friendliness, must cover the lowering countenance somewhere, if but for a day, for the German peoples begin to wonder why the men who bungle in Berlin seem to have succeeded only in making all mankind their enemy. That wonder would not further war subscriptions.

As bearing on the question of the American exchange and its gravely adverse position towards European countries, especially towards France and the United Kingdom, we now have some particulars of the United States trade for the fiscal year ended June 30 last. These indicate that the excess of exports over imports to Great Britain, France, Canada, and Russia amounted for the year to £225,000,000 as against £102,454,000 for the preceding year closed at the same date. That is to say, United States exports to the United Kingdom in its past fiscal year amounted to £182,200,000 as against £119,000,000 in the preceding twelve months, while United States imports from the United Kingdom fell from £58,740,000 in 1913-14 to £51,370,000. The United States exports to France also rose from about £32,000,000 to £74,000,000, while imports from France declined from £28,300,000 to £15,432,000. Canada took some £8,500,000 less last year than in the previous year and United States imports from Canada were also slightly lower, and so the excess of United States exports to Canada actually declined from £35,000,000 to £28,225,000. The trade with Russia was small in both years, and United States imports from that empire shrunk last year from about £4,200,000 to £503,000, or thereby. As the state of tension the statistics indicate continues and probably grows more acute with each month that passes, it is inevitable that demands of accounts due by the Allies for payment in the United States continually increase in urgency. There being no adequate trade offset in commodities, these payments can be made in two ways, and two only—either by remitting gold as the only universally acceptable commodity available or by raising loans in the country to which the European Allies owe the money, so as to satisfy the individual creditor and postpone until the end of the war the final and full liquidation of the account. Gold cannot conveniently be sent to the United States in quantity from Europe just now, and the United States have no immediate use for the gold were it available. It is an unproductive commodity to them in the present repletion of their bullion vaults. Therefore the only course left to the debtor countries is to borrow and to raise a loan, or loans, in the United States, as this journal has all along insisted should be done.

Apparently it is now to be fallen back upon, and the figures just cited enable one to guess how much assistance United States lenders may be asked to give us. Last year's excess of United States exports to the Allies was more than double that of 1913-14. There is thus upwards of £120,000,000 more due by the Allies now than there was then. The debt is still growing in magnitude, therefore at least £200,000,000 ought to be borrowed in America. We should make the credit £250,000,000 to be on the safe side, because the costs of the war and their drafts of supplies from the United States are likely to continue on something like the present scale of magnitude throughout the coming winter. Better therefore raise a credit large enough to see us through the crisis of the second year of the war, so as to make us financially free from worries than be obliged to send a second deputation of Ministers and bankers to New York in order to arrange for a second credit.

So acute, meanwhile, has become the pressure of European accounts unpaid in the United States, that



the New York exchange on London has fallen to a quotation equivalent to a discount of from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. upon the sovereign. That is a position of affairs which must be remedied, but the remedy is not quite so easy as some of our carping Carmelites of wisdom appear to think. It is not we alone who are debtors to the United States. France owes much there, as the above-quoted figures show, and since the end of the United States fiscal year it is certain that the debts of both Italy and Russia, of us all, to the United States have increased. All the payments have to be financed through London, and as gold is not handy or wanted in its usual way for the liquidation of the adverse balance, we must finance it. So the question is: Are the American banks ready to lend us what we want, and is it merely a haggle over the rate of interest which delays the loan? We shall soon know when the strong representative body going from this side gets in personal contact with American financiers. That New York has the money to lend appears to be unquestionable, for the deposit averages again increased last week by nearly £7,000,000 to a total of £550,000,000. To be sure, loans were also £2,630,000 up at about £510,000,000, but that proves the existence of an increasing free lendable margin, and New York bankers should not be too exacting as to terms, because a long-continued adverse exchange would force the Allies to scour the world in search of other sources of supply to the injury of American trade. Already Japan has come into the field, and, as her Ambassador here quite justifiably boasts, has been doing great things and will continue to do her utmost to supply the deficiencies of the nations linked together to resist Prussian aggression.

## Answers to Correspondents.

\*. \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Bog (Glasgow).—You could not sell these shares just now if you tried, so it is better not to try. The position of the company is not hopeless.

Brownie.—There is no reason at all why you should not carry out your intention to convert, as nothing has essentially altered in the position, and as the operation proceeds the market for the old stock is likely to become more restricted just as that for the new will broaden.

Hard Hit.—(1) Sentiment will send the price up again. We should not sell now. (2) We see no present prospect of a recovery here, profits are so mean—but its coal property is full of promise, so hold on. (3) The gambling risks here are so many that something may turn up. Do not sacrifice your shares. (4) Here, too, there is immense property and possibilities after the war, and meantime the dividends keep good. Why throw your property away? (5) Capital too heavy, and debenture debt also. Still the shares might see £2 some day. (6) Seems dear enough in view of the short life remaining, unless new deposits are struck. But your fine dividends should have paid you back long ago.

Comp.—No, not at present. War Loan much the more safe.

S. O. S.—It is a risk giving any advice of the kind you want, but we think you should wait. A stock like your No. 1, for example, pays at present price nearly 6½ per cent., and seems bound to jump on favourable news. The weakest is your No. 3, and though it will probably rise when the war ends, it is at present the best to sell.

Phil.—No such improvement can be looked for as will enable you to recover all, or half, your lost capital, and we think you should convert, because when the loan is renewed you may get better terms than by sticking to the old stock.

H. C.—The company made rather a serious loss last year, but it used to pay substantial dividends, and ought to do well again when normal conditions return. Round about 7s. the shares are a fair speculation.

Motor.—This concern started with a good enough idea, but it has not done well, and there are rumours that the business is to be sold to another company.

J. M. F.—Over-capitalisation, not enough free cash, and excessive advertising expenses are the chief causes of the company's troubles. The prospects are far from bright.

F. B.—We think you should hold on and buy to average. The price is certain to recover when the present troubles are over, and the return will be nearly 6 per cent.

E. G. Y.—Do not sell unless compelled to raise money. The company is well managed, and bound to come right in the long run.

## BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

TYNE-TEES STEAM SHIPPING CO., LTD.—Profits for the 12 months ended June 30 decreased £14,524 to £40,077, but as £6,939 more at £14,807 was brought forward, the available total was only £7,686 lower at £54,884. From this the usual charges are deducted, depreciation on steamers and depreciation on freeholds, leaseholds, goodwill, &c., taking respectively £766 and £4,441 less, while the special addition to the company's insurance and boiler fund, and for general purposes is only £246, a decrease of £4,441. A final dividend of 7½, making, with the interim of 2½ per cent., 10 per cent. for the year, or the same as before, will then be paid, leaving £13,948, or £859 less to carry forward. A new steamer, the *Novocastrian*, was added to the company's fleet in April, but the *New Oporto* was stranded on Haisbro' sands in January last and became a total wreck. The steamer *Juno*, too, is detained at Hamburg, but under her "war risk" insurance her value has been received from the underwriters. The valuation of freehold land, premises, leases, fixtures, ships, goodwill, &c., has been reduced by £15,328 to £332,915. Cash is £5,959 up at £18,954, and debts due to the company have risen £3,638 to £46,225. Sundry liabilities, however, are £2,160 lower at £19,333.

BRIGHTSIDE FOUNDRY AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD.—This company has evidently benefited by the war, for its profit, after providing for depreciation and all charges, has more than doubled for the year ended June 3, being at £15,240, £8,079 higher. Adding £1,865, or £89 less, brought in, the amount divisible is £7,990 larger at £17,105. The preference shares get their dividend, and 10 per cent., as before, is paid on the ordinary shares, but in addition they this year get a bonus of 2½ per cent., free of income-tax. £4,000 is placed to reserve towards extensions, against nothing last year, and the reserve account receives £3,000, or an increase of £2,000. The balance then left to carry forward is £990 larger at £2,855. Stock-in-trade, &c., has risen £6,076 to £33,485, and debtors owe £25,046 more at £53,283. Sundry creditors, on the other hand, show an increase of £22,252 at £41,483. Other changes in the balance-sheet are too slight to need mention.

LEIGH MILLS CO., LTD.—Gross profit for the year ended July 31 rose £5,449 to £20,617, and after deducting the usual charges and transferring £386 to long-service pension fund there is £17,005, or £5,381 more, available. This is including £1,949, or £418 less, brought in. Out of this the ordinary shares get a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum as before, £7,500, or £500 more, is added to the reserve fund, and an additional £453 at £2,403 carried to the next year's account. The directors state that, having acquired a favourable site adjoining the Stanningley Mills, they are erecting a new mill for additional spinning. Value of the land, buildings, plant, &c., including stock-in-trade and sundry stores, has risen during year by £3,976 to £92,335. Cash is £14,740 up at £33,616, and sundry debtors owe £5,847 more at £64,750, against £17,304, at £57,041 owed to sundry creditors. Loans and advances are also £3,189 higher at £16,145.

ANDREW WHYTE AND SON, LTD.—Despite the war, this company's profit for the year ended June 26, including the balance brought in, was £1,988 larger at £7,678. The directors state that, although the profit for the year to June, 1914, was sufficient to pay the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, in view of the crisis it was not thought prudent to make any declaration then; but as the position of affairs improved, they felt justified in paying an interim dividend of 5 per cent., and they now recommend a further distribution at the rate of 7½ per cent., free of income-tax. £1,000, against nothing, is then added to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £16,000, and £2,526, or £1,518 less, is left to carry forward. In the balance-sheet cash has risen £1,784 to £4,042, and bills receivable, a new item, amount to £1,209. Debtors are £1,711 lower at £38,299, and creditors £990 down at £20,317.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB RAILWAY CO., LTD.—For the six months to March 31 nett revenue, after allowing for administration expenses, interest on debenture stock, and the share of surplus profits due to the Secretary of State for India, was £98,417, or £5,188 less than in the corresponding half-year. The dividend on the £2,300,000 4 per cent. cumulative preference stock, paid on June 1, took £46,000 of this, and as an interim dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of £10 per cent. per annum, or the same as before, is now declared, there will be £2,417, or £10,495 less, to be carried forward.

JOHN HETHERINGTON AND SONS, LTD.—As against a profit of £36,900 a year ago, this Manchester firm now shows a loss on trading for the 12 months to June 30 of £9,600, and this is increased to £28,544 by debenture interest and depreciation. Fortunately the large amount of £33,830 was brought forward, and there still remains a balance of £5,286 at the credit of profit and loss. The report laconically remarks that "the unsatisfactory result of the year's trading is owing to the complete paralysis of our trade brought about by the outbreak of war at the commencement of the financial year." No more need be said, and the changes in the balance-sheet do not call for comment.



## Letters to the Editor.

AN APPEAL TO BE GENEROUSLY  
RESPONDED TO.

SIR,—The further outrage on humanity in the sinking of the non-combatant liner *Arabic* is yet another reminder of the dangers to which our brave seamen are subjected. Since the declaration of the blockade by Germany, the crews, and in many instances the passengers also (including men, women, and children), from no fewer than 42 ships have been received into the various sailors' homes and institutes of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. The rescued seamen have received food and shelter and medical attention at the hands of our missionaries, and in not a few cases an entire outfit of clothing has been provided. This work has been undertaken in our homes at Aberdeen, Barrow, Falmouth, Milford Haven (where the victims of the *Falaba* were received), Weymouth, Havre, Las Palmas, and Buenos Aires.

In addition to this practical ministry the society has distributed nearly 50,000 warm woollens to the men of the British Navy and Mercantile Marine, the mine-sweepers, lighthouse and lightships keepers, &c. At least two tons of bright, readable literature have also been despatched. In view of the coming autumn and winter, may I venture to enlist the sympathy and practical support of your readers in this great work? In addition to funds, the society would be very grateful for gifts of clothing—suits of clothes as well as underwear—woollen garments, magazines, books, games, &c., to be sent to our headquarters, the Sailors' Palace, Commercial-road, London, E.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

RADSTOCK,

President, British and Foreign Sailors'  
Society.

The Sailors' Palace, Commercial-road, London, E.,

September 1, 1915.

## Notes on Books.

*Les Causes et les Conséquences de La Guerre.* Par  
Yves Guyot. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan.  
Prix Fr. 3.50.)

Yves Guyot is one of the most up-to-date and indefatigable journalists we know, and the volume before us embodies an immense amount of work, historical, economic, and, one may say, speculatively political. It is, therefore, seasonable, and, like all M. Guyot's writing, easy and interesting to read. Sometimes, perhaps, he scarcely differentiates enough the weight of the authorities cited, but his facts and statistics are in the main judiciously selected and valuable. Those who wish, for example, to know the ins and outs of Anglo-German commerce will find much information in chapter eight, part two, and always M. Guyot is a staunch Free Trader. The first section, dealing with the political causes of the war, although traversing ground already trodden by many, is also fresh and valuable. Had we space we should like to discuss some of the statements in the second part of the volume dealing with the economic causes of the war, but war-time gives us no elbow-room, and we must therefore rest satisfied with the advice to those interested in the future relationship between not merely the Allies and the Teutons, but between the Allies themselves, to consult the book. This notice cannot be closed without a word of commendation in regard to the lucid *résumés* of history embraced in the book. Where we have tested these we have found them correct: as, for example, in chapter four of part three devoted to "The Historical Causes of the War," where we get a most lucid review of the history of Prussia and Austria from 1847 to 1866.

## The Week in Mines.

The outstanding incident in the Mining markets this week has been the marked strength and comparative activity of Eastern Rand descriptions, particularly Modders, Gedulds, Springs, Modder Deeps, and Modder "B's." The shares of the finance companies interested participated in the upward movement, and diamond descriptions were bought on the news of an increasing demand for stones from the United States. Copper shares have been supported on the recovery in the metal market and bullion advices from America, but the bulk of the buying emanates from New York, and thanks to the low exchange good prices are being realised by holders here.

## SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market Modderfonteins were well supported on the news of the extension of the plant, and advanced from  $14\frac{3}{4}$  to  $15\frac{3}{4}$ , but subsequently relapsed on profit-taking to  $14\frac{1}{8}$ . Gedulds were strong, touching 32s. 6d. at one time, and Springs advanced from 24s. 6d. to 26s. 6d. Modder "B's" rose from 5 1-32 to 5 9-32, and Modder Deeps were dealt in up to 5, a rise of  $\frac{3}{16}$ . Central Minings improved in sympathy to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  and Great Modder Areas were carried up 1s. to 23s. 6d. Welgedacht, another Eastern Rand property, attracted attention, and the shares were actively bought up to over 15s. on rumours of a pending amalgamation of the concern with others developing properties in the neighbourhood. Rand Klips have been firm at 4s., and Cloverfield rose 6d. to 5s. Brakpans at  $2\frac{1}{8}$  and Daggerfonteins at 8s. have been in request. Consolidated Main Reefs have risen to par on provincial buying, stimulated by good development results. Crown Mines at  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , Rose Deeps at  $1\frac{1}{16}$ , and Village Deeps at 1 25-32 have been firmer, and Knights have changed hands around 3. Goerz at 11s. 9d. and Johannesburg Consolidated at 14s. 9d. have been supported, but East Rands, Gold Fields, and Rand Mines have been rather on the dull side. Among Rhodesian shares, Willoughbys weakened to 4s. 6d. on the reduced profits for the past year, but Mashonaland Agency was harder at 6s. on the postponement of the reconstruction meeting. Shamvas have been supported at  $1\frac{1}{8}$ . Diamond descriptions have been distinctly firm, De Beers deferred rising to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Premier deferreds to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and Jagersfonteins to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Among West African shares Abossos rose 1-32 to  $\frac{7}{16}$  on a development report and Ashanti Goldfields improved to 16s. 3d.

## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been stronger on the recovery in the metal market. Anaconda old shares have risen  $\frac{5}{8}$  to  $7\frac{3}{4}$ , and the new shares have been dealt in above  $15\frac{1}{2}$ . Utahs have risen  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $14\frac{1}{2}$ , and Rio Tintos have jumped up 2 points to 55. Hampdens, after being weaker, hardened to 27s. 3d. In the Russian group, Kyshtims weakened to  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , and Spasskys to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  on the preliminary statement of profits.

West Australian shares have moved irregularly. Ivanhoes have been firmer at 2 5-32, but Golden Horse Shoes declined  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $2\frac{1}{16}$ , and Great Boulder, after rising to 15s. 3d., reacted slightly. Indian shares have shown a further improvement, Mysore rising  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $3\frac{1}{16}$ , and Nundydroogs to 25s. 3d.

In the Broken Hill group Broken Hill Proprietary have remained at about 42s., but the debentures have risen  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 100 on the news of the good progress made with the iron and steel works and the arrangements made for financing further extensions. Zinc Corporation shares were not affected by the hearing of the company's suit for declaring the German contracts invalid, but should the Court's decision favour the company, the shares will doubtless respond, for it will then be free to make fresh arrangements for disposing of its ore.



## MINING NEWS.

**WEST AFRICAN GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The output of gold last month amounted to £140,290, a decrease of £12,633 as compared with July, 1914. For the year to date the total shows an increase of £11,388. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
	£	£	£	£	£
Jan. ..	143,649	128,862	144,262	107,262	66,107
Feb. ..	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270	63,681
Mar. ..	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376	67,673
April ..	149,978	131,097	146,220	114,796	70,890
May ..	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678	96,409
June ..	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697	94,174
July ..	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,800	91,955
Aug. ..	—	150,386	126,090	136,407	103,753
Sept. ..	—	154,316	132,394	142,397	109,039
Oct. ..	—	159,410	137,153	142,414	109,503
Nov. ..	—	154,674	132,694	137,700	99,299
Dec. ..	—	147,699	127,472	144,382	99,509
Totals	1,009,133	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179	1,069,442

**NEW MODDERFONTEIN.**—Development in the quarter ended June 30 amounted to 4,017 feet. Main reef disclosures along 2,935 feet sampled were 191/6 over 11 ins., against 169/5 over 12 ins. in the preceding quarter. Tonnage treated was 6,400 tons larger at 155,500, and the yield advanced £23,442 to the new "high record" of £311,988. The value per ton milled was 1s. 6d. up at 40s. ad., but costs rose 2d., and the profit was only 1s. 4d. higher at 23s. 6d. The aggregate profit increased by £16,924 to the record total of £182,615. Orders have now been definitely placed for the additional treatment plant with a capacity of 40,000 tons of ore monthly, to be installed adjoining the circular shaft. At present the reduction works have a capacity of 52,500 tons monthly, but the ore reserves stand at well over 6,000,000 tons, so that they are sufficient to feed even the enlarged plant for nearly six years, and the mine is expected to have a minimum life of 20 years. The new plant is not expected to be running until the end of next year.

**BROKEN HILL SOUTH SILVER.**—In common with most Broken Hill companies, the South Silver company did better in the past half-year. The net profits for the six months to June 30, including £68,221 in respect of zinc tailings sold, totalled £123,772, as compared with £54,000 for the second half of 1914, and £144,000 at the first half of the year. During the period the mill treated 130,320 tons of ore, which yielded 24,961 tons of leady concentrates, as compared with 112,750 and 20,375 tons respectively for the preceding half-year. Costs declined 3d. to 20s. 3d. A dividend of 3s. per share has so far been paid this year, as compared with 14s. for the whole of 1914, 8s. in March and 6s. in June.

**TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED.**—With a view to avoiding the payment of English income-tax on dividends distributed in New Zealand, the directors have been requested by the local board of Wellington, N.Z., to take the necessary steps to alter the articles of association so that the direction of the company may be transferred to New Zealand. Before taking this drastic step, which would transfer the control wholly to New Zealand, the board feels that every shareholder should express his, or her, opinion on the proposed change.

**SPASSKY COPPER.**—Difficulty of communication with Russia owing to the war has delayed this company's report, which, however, it is now hoped to present at the annual meeting in October. The profit earned is given as approximately £115,000, calculated at the rate of exchange prevailing before the war, making with the sum of £45,000 brought forward a total of £160,000, out of which a substantial dividend could have been paid. But the cash representing this profit balance is in Russia, and could only be transmitted at a loss of 40 per cent. Having regard to the exceedingly satisfactory manner in which the Atbasar Mines are opening out, there would have been no difficulty in meeting the situation by a debenture issue, but the Treasury declined to authorise such an issue. Expenditure on plant has increased, but at the meeting a dividend will be declared, the payment of which will be deferred until it is possible to raise the money necessary to complete the work at Atbasar and Spassky. For the 15 months to December, 1913, the net profit was £210,702, and the total dividend was 5s. rd. per share.

**DOLCOATH MINE.**—Operations for the half-year ended June 30 show a further slight recovery on the results obtained in the first half of 1914, when the net profits amounted to £511. For this past half-year the profits increased from £3,383 to £5,636. This profit was arrived at after providing £979 for depreciation of Consols, which now stand in the books at 65. During the six months there were crushed 43,676 tons of ore, a decrease of 5,382 tons. Sales of tin fell in quantity by 32 tons, but realised £5,576 more in value, the totals being 679 tons and £65,248 respectively. The average price of tin was £96 2s. 8d. as compared with £83 18s. 7d. Costs rose by 2s. 9½d. to 27s. 4½d. per ton. After writing off £2,493 and adding £8,323 brought in there is a total of £11,466, which it is proposed to carry forward. No dividend has been paid for the past three half-years, the last distribution being 1s. 6d. per share on account of the six months to December, 1913.

**FERNHILL COLLIERIES.**—A further instance of the way in which higher prices have more than compensated the collieries for loss of output is furnished by the report of this company. About 30 per cent. of the men joined the colours, and the output

consequently declined by 118,000 tons to 554,600 tons, and working expenses were raised by £2,000 in allowances made to dependents of those who volunteered. Nevertheless, profits were materially higher, the net balance being £31,700, or £6,200 more than last year. The dividend is raised from 10 to 16 per cent., £10,000 is placed to reserve against nil last year, and the balance carried forward is only £1,300 down at £11,100.

**NEW MONCKTON COLLIERIES.**—After deducting depreciation and debenture interest the accounts for the year to June 30 show a net profit of £19,746, or £5,321 less than that for 1913-14. So the ordinary shareholders who received 10 per cent. last year get nothing on this occasion, only the preference dividend being paid. Nothing is placed to reserve against £10,000 allocated last year to that fund, but £17,823 is carried forward. With the higher prices now being obtained and authorised by the Government, the directors anticipate being able to submit satisfactory results for the current year. The new shaft has been sunk to the Barnsley bed, and has reached the coal, which is of excellent quality and thickness.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

## CLYDE VALLEY ELECTRICAL POWER CO.

Supplying as it does a large district containing many works which have benefited by war contracts, it is not surprising to find that the receipts of this company from sales of current showed a substantial increase of £18,541 at £86,917. Expenses were £7,791 heavier, owing mainly to the higher cost of fuel, but miscellaneous receipts rose slightly, and the net profits were £11,895 better at £42,560. The balance of £11,535 brought forward was also £2,058 larger, but there is no suggestion yet of the £600,000 of ordinary capital sharing in the profits. After adjusting interest the directors, in view of the present exceptional conditions, transfer £18,710 or £6,210 more to the contingency fund for depreciation, &c., making it £125,000, and put an extra £2,351 at £4,276 to the special reserve. The £10,000 written off cost of Acts in the December half-year is followed up by a similar appropriation now, reducing the item to £8,353, and a new departure is made by providing for the preference dividend to October 31, which leaves £12,430 or £4,942 less than a year ago to be carried forward. During the six months £22,385 was spent on capital account, and after allowing for the £10,000 now written off, the debit balance will stand at £25,997.

## SINGER AND CO., LTD.

Apparently this cycle-manufacturing company was not altogether successful in securing sufficient business of a special character to compensate it for the falling off in its ordinary trading during the year ended July 31. On the whole, however, it did very well, although profits showed a small shrinkage of £3,817 at £49,870. The allowance for depreciation of plant, &c., was increased by £854 to £3,100, and in addition £1,374 was written off investments, while income-tax absorbed £2,906 more. Including £1,280 less at £10,895 brought forward, the available balance was therefore £10,231 smaller at £47,664, but there are no special appropriations this time, compared with £5,000 written off shares in the Singer Motor Co. and £12,000 to eliminate goodwill a year ago. The directors, therefore, are able to increase the dividend from 10 per cent. to 15, and after repeating the transfer of £25,000 to reserve, still have £16,101, or £5,206 more, left to carry forward. The balance-sheet shows a comfortable enough position. Freehold property remains at £25,500, but plant, &c., has been increased by £10,260 to £47,225. Debtors owe £25,841, or £14,306 more, and stocks are £11,490 larger at £67,315, against a small reduction of £997 to £27,237 in the amount due to creditors, and although cash is £13,862 smaller at £13,571, the greater part of the decrease is accounted for by an investment of £10,245 in the War Loan, which has been paid up in full.

**Ural Caspian Oil.**—Total production week August 26, 191,300 poods (3,086 tons).

Messrs. Henry Bucknall and Sons, Ltd., have removed to No. 90, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened agencies at Brandvlei (Calvinia district) and Kakamas in the Cape Province.

**New Schibaieff Petroleum Co.**—Production week August 29, gross 98,624 poods (or 1,590 tons), net 58,117 poods (or 937 tons).

**Bibi Eibat Oil Co.**—Production week August 29, 65,433 poods, or 1,055 tons.

**WILSON BROS. BOBBIN CO., LTD.**—The war and the industrial dispute with the company's workers at Garston are blamed for the considerable decrease in profits, which for the year ended July 15 declined £14,575 to £10,942. Adding the balance of £3,886, or £867 more, brought in, the total available is £13,708 smaller at £14,828. A year ago £5,000 was transferred to reserve, but no such assignment can be made now, and the dividend on the shares is reduced by 3 per cent. to 4½ per cent. Even then the balance of £878 left to carry forward is £3,008 less than that brought in. Expenditure on property account during the year amounted to £10,299, bringing that item up to £244,087. Stock-in-trade is £2,364 down at £91,209, and cash shows a decrease of £13,301 to £20,862. Sundry creditors, however, owe £4,405 less at £22,835, and the depreciation and reserve funds amount to £70,000 and £35,000 respectively.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## THE WORKINGTON IRON AND STEEL CO.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Workington Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., was held at the registered office of the company, Moss Bay, Workington, on Friday, August 27. Present:—Sir John Scurrah Randles, M.P. (chairman of directors), Messrs. William Burnyeat and Joseph Ellis (managing directors), William John Dalzell Burnyeat, Richard Critchley, Wilfrid Ellis, George Geddes Glen, Major Arthur Handley, Franklin Mallalieu, Albert Henry Mallalieu, Harold Mallalieu, Herbert Valentine, and Henry Westlake (directors), and the following shareholders:—Messrs. J. P. Miebach, John H. Heworth, Thos. W. Little, J. A. Eadie, jun., John C. Glenn, H. C. Horobin, Jas. Kirkwood, Ralph C. Ellwood, W. Mallalieu, George J. Valentine, J. Huntrods, J. G. Oldfield, W. Whittle, John Warwick, H. Spencer, J. Barlow, P. Wedgwood, O. Kirk, William Dixon, J. Tickell, Jos. Monkhouse, R. McIntyre, Tom Brown, C. H. Rees, S. Booth, E. Valentine, W. Bruce, J. Burchell, R. E. Highton, J. Lister, Thos. Bennett, I. H. Armstrong, W. Wilkinson, J. R. Thompson, R. D. McCowan, and Major Burnyeat.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Wiley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Well, gentlemen, the first business that I have to put before you is to move that the directors' report and statement of accounts to June 30, 1915, be approved and adopted. I do not think that to-day you will expect a very lengthy discussion of the affairs of the company. You, like all of us, are aware that the circumstances of the past year have been unusual. In our report the directors indicate—and that is, perhaps, as much as it is desirable to do—the conditions, and, in view of the special circumstances, they consider that their report is satisfactory for the year. At the commencement, for the first half of the year, we had a very difficult position to face in respect, for instance, of old contracts that we had to execute, which were loyally carried out with all our customers on a pre-war basis, though, as a matter of fact, costs of materials, wages, and everything else very rapidly rose after the outbreak of the war. We readjusted ourselves to the new circumstances, and, I think, the whole year's result will be satisfactory to the shareholders, as the report indicates it is to the directors.

I may mention that we lost over 800 of our staff and employees. From all sections of those employed by the company men were ready to volunteer to join his Majesty's Forces, and we are very proud, those of us who have been associated with the management of the company, very proud of the very loyal response which the men made when they were called upon by representatives of the Crown to join the Forces. We have lost men from every department. I am afraid that some casualties have occurred amongst our staff and employees who have been at the front, but, at any rate, we have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which those men who have volunteered have done their duty.

The company, as you will be aware, has made what I think it would be fair to describe as a somewhat liberal provision for the wives and families of those who have gone to the front, who volunteered before the end of last December, since which date we have been obliged to say that it was more advantageous for the company that the men should remain in their employment than go to the front, as the provision of the requisite material for war had become, perhaps, quite as urgent as the provision of men to do the fighting; so that since December we have not been urging our men to go, though some have gone even under these circumstances, and you will understand that the withdrawal of 800 men from employ left blanks. We have had no serious trouble with the workmen who remain; they have loyally done their duty. We sometimes in some departments—not in all—wish they would give us a little more output, but, speaking generally, we have been on very good terms with the men who have remained to do their duty and have done their best to keep up their output of our productions. I am sure we have had no monetary trouble with them. We agreed to pay the extra moneys that were required, owing to higher prices and conditions and the demands of labour. We agreed with the representatives of labour, so that we have had no stoppage owing to labour disputes during the year. On the whole, on that side of things I think we may say that we have been well served by our staff and employees, and we are able to give to the shareholders—the proprietors—a satisfactory report in this particular matter.

The profits are dealt with in the balance-sheet. As you will see, our profit has been somewhat reduced for the year. There were vague notions in the minds of some sort of people, I believe, that concerns like ours would make huge war profits. If they had had the management of this concern, they would know that we had anxious moments, wondering whether there would be any profits rather than whether we should make huge war profits. The result, as you see, is that we report a total profit of £183,917, making, with the amount brought forward, a total of £206,529, which we have dealt with in the report. The preference dividend is as usual, and we recommend a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares. As you know, there was no interim dividend paid, but at this period the shareholders will, as a matter of fact, receive a larger dividend than they have usually received at this time of the year, although a smaller dividend by 2 per cent. on the year.

A shareholder had written suggesting—and a somewhat similar comment had been made in a newspaper—that we should

write off more for depreciation. On the whole, the directors think the amount written off is a fair amount to write off for depreciation. My own view is that depreciation should have some reference to capital expenditure. If you look at the capital expenditure for the year—the addition—you will see it was £22,092, but the previous year it was £82,859, bringing it to over £100,000 for the two years, so that one year it may be more and another year less. But I think £50,000 is a right figure which we should deal with in this manner, year by year, in our concern.

The next item is the item of reserve. I will refer to that in a moment. It is the same as last year—£30,000.

With regard to the items on the balance-sheet, there is no great variation, except in one particular, and that is the Harrington matter, to which I shall refer in a moment. The other items are practically about the same, allowing for the increased values which have to be put on to everything we manufacture. Stocks and debts due both ways are, of course, affected by this, by the higher range of values during the year.

The matter to which I said I would refer concerns investments. You will notice in the investments on the balance-sheet that Harrington Harbour and Workington Harbour remain the same, but there is a little change in the Beckermat Mining Co. investment, which is now £11,180, as against £8,968. It has increased somewhat by reason of the taking up of additional shares that were issued by that company. But the principal change arises in connection with the Harrington Coke Ovens purchase, which you were made aware of 12 months ago. Now that transaction, of course, materially affects the balance-sheet. You will see that there is an item now of unpaid purchase money in connection with the acquiring of shares in Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd., £122,339 15s. 4d. That is the amount that was owing at the time this balance-sheet was made up. It has since, by payments made, been reduced to £105,700. We hold 125,000, the whole of the shares in this company. The number of shares which we have handed over as security for the loan referred to in the balance-sheet is 75,500, so that 75,500 out of the 125,000 shares are held by the persons who have lent the money.

I said I would refer to the item of £30,000 to reserve. You will notice that we had already put to the reserve fund £60,000. My idea is, without being too exact in the matter, that the reserve fund should find its way by investment into the shares of the Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd., so that your reserve fund will not be a vague lost figure, that is dissipated all over the place, and may be anywhere; but you will have ultimately your reserve fund in the shares of the Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd., which are a good investment and a good security. It is an investment which will pay us very well, and I think you will find that will be a satisfactory method of liquidating the liability on those shares, a liability which in the course of time will disappear and leave you the shares freely, the property of the company, without having added to your capital commitments, an important consideration. We don't wish to add to the capital account more than is necessary, and I think this will be a very healthy way of keeping our capital account in good order.

It may interest you to know that, taking the whole of our investments together, which stand at £245,399, the dividends we received during the year from these investments were £17,904, so that our investments give a fairly good return.

I do not think I need dwell on any further figures, except in reply to questions, if there are any that are asked, but I conclude by saying that I think we have readjusted matters in such a manner, so far as our manufactures are concerned, that we shall be able successfully to get through the year in which we are now entered. As you will readily understand, the manufacture of our usual products is somewhat in abeyance, and practically the whole of our manufactures, in some form or some shape—not literally so, but practically so—find their way into the service of the Government, to enable the country to secure the end that we all so ardently desire—a successful and happy termination of the present war. We are doing our share; we have assured the Government that every resource that is at our disposal is at their disposal, and we will adapt ourselves, so far as we can, to the requirements of the situation. I conclude by moving that the directors' report and statement of accounts to June 30, 1915, be approved and adopted, and I will ask Mr. Ellis to second it.

Mr. Joseph Ellis: Sir John and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in seconding the proposal you have made. It has been, as Sir John says, a very anxious year, especially the former part of it. You cannot, taking a business like this, paying over £10,000 a week in wages, when so many of the best of your men have gone, you cannot replace them in a day or a year or in a few years. Now, we have got on very well during the last year, and I hope and believe we shall get on very well this year. I don't think I need add anything more to what the Chairman has said, but I do trust that every effort will be put forth by the men employed to give the Government all the help they can at this trying time.

There being neither question nor comment, the Chairman put the resolution, and declared it carried unanimously.

Mr. W. Burnyeat: I beg to propose that Sir John S. Randles be and is hereby re-elected a director of the company for a further period of three years, on the same terms and conditions as before. I don't think I need say anything in support of that. We all know the capabilities of Sir John, and I will only say that he has had a very hard job this last 12 months in conducting the business of this company.

Mr. Joseph Ellis: I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal made by Mr. Burnyeat. We could not have a better man at the helm than Sir John. (Applause.)



The motion was carried unanimously. The retiring directors and the auditors having been re-elected, The Chairman: The business on the agenda is now completed. You have been very good to us. You have not criticised us either adversely or otherwise. We are grateful to you for your consideration.

Mr. T. W. Little: I beg to move a vote of thanks to Sir John and his fellow-directors and the staff of the works for their services and the splendid manner in which the state of affairs has been put before us to-day.

Mr. J. Warwick: I have very great pleasure in seconding the proposal.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman: Well, gentlemen, I don't want any thanks, but I appreciate your appreciation very highly, and I do think if you really feel that way it is valuable to know it, from the point of view of the staff, who are not in your presence and do not know you, the proprietors. It is a valuable thing that they should feel that the proprietors are satisfied with their work. We have very wide ramifications—we have 30 miles of railway in India, and we cover a deal of this coast—and if all the staff feel that the shareholders appreciate their efforts it is somewhat of an encouragement and a stimulus. Therefore, I am glad Mr. Little has proposed that, not on my own account—that is a very small part—but for the staff.

This concluded the meeting.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Anglo-Malay Rubber.—First interim of 8 per cent. (actual) for the year ended Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1, equivalent to 192d. per share, against 6 per cent. a year ago.

Bandarapola Ceylon.—Interim of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. (actual), less tax, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Brazilian Traction, Light, and Power.—Quarterly of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the fully-paid cumulative preference, payable Oct. 1.

British Bank of South America.—Dividend on account of 5 per cent. (10s. per share), less tax, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14.—9 6d. per share on the preference and 6d. per share on the ordinary, both less tax, payable 30th prox. For the preceding half-year to March 31 last the dividends were the same, but for the corresponding half of 1914 a dividend of 3 6d. on the preference shares only was paid.

Canadian General Electric.—Quarterly of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for three months ending Sept. 30, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the common.

Cheviot Rubber.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Sept. 23; for 1914  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was paid, but no interim payment.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia for half-year ended June 30 shows a net profit of £25,788, as compared with £8,093 at June 30, 1914; in the 12 months the savings bank deposits have increased from £4,645,268 to £7,420,647, and the total figures of the balance-sheet from £9,773,690 to £16,768,466.

Cope Brothers.—For the past year of 4s. per share, free tax.

Equitable Loan of Scotland.—Final of 10s. per share, less tax, against 10s. and a bonus of 3s. 6d. last year.

Fairbairn Lawson Combe Barbour.—On account of the conditions prevailing owing to the war, the directors of this company deem it advisable not to declare an interim dividend on the preference and ordinary shares for half-year ended June 30; a year ago no interim was declared on the ordinary.

General and Commercial Investment Trust.—Interim for half-year to Aug. 31 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 29 (same as a year ago).

Great Northern Railway (U.S.A.).—Quarterly of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on the preferred, payable Nov. 1.

Highland Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, against 3 per cent., free tax, a year ago.

Kapar Para Rubber.—First interim of 15 per cent., less tax, in respect of current year, payable Sept. 14, same as a year ago.

Kelani Valley Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. actual, less tax, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Kombok (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (1 1-5d. per share), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Sept. 7. For the whole of 1914  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per share) was paid.

Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Sept. 16. For 1914 15 per cent. was paid, but no interim payment.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—At the rate of 1s. per share, payable Sept. 30. No dividend was paid in Sept. last.

Poonagalla Valley Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, payable Aug. 27. There was no interim dividend in 1914, 5 per cent. being paid for the whole year.

Rosehaugh Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax, payable 15th prox.

St. George Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. actual, less tax, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson.—Interim of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., same as a year ago.

Swift and Co.—Quarterly 2 per cent., payable Oct. 1, against  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

Ulu Rantau Rubber.—First interim of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. (less tax) in respect of current year, payable Sept. 14, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Webley and Scott.—On the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Sept. 1. Last year no interim dividend was paid, the dividend for the whole year being  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and August 28, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 28, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to August 29, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	15,798,000	14,163,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	22,565,000	14,325,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	14,518,000	11,627,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	2,403,000	3,516,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	14,574,000	7,599,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	50,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	11,300,000	11,230,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	200,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,002,000	202,583	784,466
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,116,656	1,145,912
Revenue .....	267,232,000	83,058,239	64,970,378
Total, including Balance .....		166,509,191	75,344,897
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		330,000	675,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		351,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		404,500,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £226,963,000 in 1915-16 and £31,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		227,963,000	47,470,000
Total .....		835,342,944	124,239,897

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 28, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to August 29, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	12,054,811	9,430,661
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	1,041,677	—
Road Improvement Fund ....	1,451,000	694,395	636,462
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	2,806,740	2,713,447
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,000	774,078	702,104
Supply Services .....	740,496,000	480,833,394	82,570,150
Expenditure .....	804,476,000	498,205,095	96,052,824
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		475,000	1,070,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		30,061,000	900,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		980,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		60,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		27,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		60,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £41,271,000, in 1915-16) .....		41,271,000	8,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Aug. 28.	1914. Aug. 29.	
Bank of England .....	85,791,190	15,450,860	
Bank of Ireland .....	778,622	633,049	
Total .....		835,342,944	124,239,897

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 28, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. ..	£62,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. ..	£170,363,000
Total .. ..	£232,863,000

\* Includes £82,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August 30, 1915.

BOURNEMOUTH GAS AND WATER CO.—Thanks to an increase of 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. in the amount of gas sold, and to the raising of the price 4d. per 1,000 feet from Lady Day last, the revenue from gas for the half-year to June 30 was £10,600 higher, and this almost exactly balanced the increased cost of manufacture. Residuals brought in £2,655 more, and the nett revenue of £28,580 shows a gain of £2,780. This allows the directors to write off £3,500 for works superseded, and the poor original shareholders have to be content with a modest 15 per cent. or 1 per cent. less than last time, while, sad to relate, the margin carried forward is cut down £4,710 to £23,875. It is terrible to be a gas and water shareholder in these dreadful times.



# The Investors' Review.

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New Series.

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## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

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**Private Letters** in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

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## Passing Events.

It does not, this Friday morning, look quite as if the Austrians are to be released in time to go to the help of the Turk or in pursuit of their own ambitions in the Balkans. The Austro-German armies in South-Eastern Galicia, west and south of Timopol, have received several such satisfactory hidings, in which they have lost over 17,000 prisoners, 33 guns (14 of heavy calibre), 66 machine guns, gun-limbers, and other booty, as will bother them awhile. Perhaps the gratifying Russian successes will not only cause the foe to hesitate, but incline Roumania also definitely to join the Allies. Had the Russians been defeated Berlin might have pushed Austria on to attack Roumania, whose refusal to permit supplies to pass through her territory to the Turk has given the "all-highest" bully deep umbrage. And the tremendous efforts of Mackensen and Hindenburg up north do not appear to be progressing at all in the way the Prussians would like. How the swaggers are going to stand that Russian winter campaign we really do not know, but it is their look-out, not ours. The Kaiser's loan No. 3 though, if hit badly by Russian facts and prospects, should have got great help from the German Admiralty and War Office accounts of the latest Zeppelin display over here. They are so good as to force us to make room for them:—"Our naval airships attacked during the night of September 8-9 with good results the western part of the city of London, great factories near Norwich, and the harbour works and ironworks at Middlesbrough. Heavy explosions and numerous fires were observed. Our airships were heavily fired at by hostile batteries. All returned safely.—*Chief of the Admiralty Staff.*" . . . During the night before last and yesterday the docks as well as other port establishments of London and the vicinity were bombarded with explosive and incendiary bombs. The effect was very satisfactory.—*German Army Official.*" Good as these lies are, we think they could have been improved upon in several respects. For instance—but no, we cannot really stoop to teach the Germans how to lie artistically and with effect. The unscrupulous wretches might get hints from us useful to them in floating that "loan"—not that there is really much danger, because there is little or nothing save debts left out of which subscriptions to the loan could be manufactured. Truly it is a hard case, but yet we had

rather not help. And to think of it, that the foolish Teutons thought they had only to show us their scowling faces and let off a monster gun or two to make us all happy ever after on *Junker* boot-grease for nourishment! But they are beginning to learn things, these *Junkers*, and by the time they are nearly all slain they may have discovered that the soul of a man cannot be hit, still less captured, by any machine yet invented.

So the news is altogether rather cheerful this morning. Not only are the Germans finding things in Russia they never expected to find, but discovering the absence of much more there which they had counted on finding. Was ever a world more perverse? We have not even heard that "port-admiral" von Tirpitz has sailed forth in all his panoply at the head of his skulking fleet and defiantly assumed by paper proclamation, or a Wolff Bureau message, the domination of the Baltic in the name of his Picrochole master. Nor is any success appearing to attend the efforts of the Crown Prince of Prussia—except success in procuring the slaughter of the German people. Is there any other race in Europe that would have stood what the Germans have stood at the hands of this bungling creature and who would not before now have called him to account? Poor German sheep! Their abjectness compels us to go on killing them, and that gruesome *besogne* is being faithfully and consistently carried on, not merely in the Argonne, but in Flanders, in Gallipoli, in Asia Minor, and more or less uninterruptedly all along the 700 miles of the Russian battle line. Experienced French observers now set down the German wastage of human pawns at 300,000 a month, which is 3,600,000 a year. At this comforting pace another year ought to about finish the disagreeable job, and we have strong hopes that a Russian winter may accelerate the speed. To be frozen to death is to die easy, we have been told, and assuredly it would seem to be a less repulsive mode of quitting the earth than by the brusquerie of the high explosive.

Away from the actual fighting, the Allies of the Entente have from many points of view no more effective backer and "pick-me-up" than the Teuton himself. If our hearts faint for a moment—which they don't—in pauses of the fight, if the strain forces out a sigh for peace now and then—which it may—straightway the barbarians endow us with a new vigour with



which to quicken our energy and deepen the sternness of our resolve to persevere "until victory is complete," as the Tsar proclaimed to the members of the special conference of National Defence in his heart-stirring speech at its first meeting. "War until victory is complete." That is our watchword, the watchword of us all; that our motto, and the Prussians do their best to keep us up to it by perpetrating some fresh crime or blunder almost every day. In the end of last week a would-be cunning bid for United States friendliness was made, and the sentimental multitude resumed "talking peace." That encouraged Berlin to send out through the "greatest circulation" newspaper potentate in the States a list of terms that would be acceptable to the all-highest Kaiser and his Junkers. It included such provisions as the rendition of Belgium, a "kingdom of Poland," "liberty for the Jews," "freedom of the seas," and an indemnity to be wrung from the ravaged victims of Teutonic fiendishness. The reception of this grotesque effusion was so contemptuous in America that the Kaiser's officials, surprised, as usual, at our obtuse thanklessness, condescended to soften or drop for the moment some of their ground plan of peace, and told tool Bernstorff to manoeuvre so as to draw President Wilson into a mediation trap. "Peace! Oh, yes, we shall welcome peace on our easy terms—and will you be so good meantime as to tell England to modify her blockade at sea now that we are so generously agreeing to stop sinking ocean liners without warning?" Apparently the German Ambassador got no encouragement from the President over this latest display of clumsy trickery, and on Monday morning the news came that the *Allan*, i.e., the Canadian Pacific liner, *Hesperian*, with 314 passengers and a crew about 240 on board, had been torpedoed without warning in the dark off the Fastnet. Happily, the explosive struck the fore part of the vessel, and she did not sink at once—floated for 34 hours—so that all except about three dozen of those on board could be saved. But it was through no fault of the pirates that all were not drowned, and 35 people in all seem to have lost their lives by drowning, while one woman was killed. Coming so soon after the impishly cunning attempts of the previous fortnight to placate the indignation of the American people by lying words and the clumsy insolence of the "peace" suggestions, this further display of the ruthless spirit of crime thrilled the world with one more horror. But what do the Germans care? Are they not winning, winning everywhere? Will they not soon have all nations at their feet—Kings and Tsars and Presidents bowing low before their "War Lord," even as the fallen potentates of an earlier day did before the first Napoleon at Dresden. Don't you think you see us cringing, besotted Teuton?

"Oh, but it was another mistake; we never intended again to murder passengers and crews without warning. The *Arabic* was a mistake, and so is this, too. The captain had not been advised of change of plan. He shall be reprimanded—as the other commander who sunk the *Arabic* will be when he comes home." Ay, when. Will anybody believe that sort of talk now? No prudent person or people will; but the conceit-blown Prussians remain incapable of imagining that such abominable crimes can matter to them either during the war or after. Their prowess renders them immune. Happily, in this latest display of brutality great loss of life was averted, and we, the Allies, got our rouse-up in a manner cheap. But it proves none the less powerful on that account, and was certainly not required. Probably enough the crime was really ordered in the hope that it would multiply subscriptions to the sorely needed loan, for all German words and deeds are directed supremely, if not exclusively, to that end just now. In Germany it may perhaps have the hoped-for effect—only there can be little but debt already in existence to subscribe with. What is the much-cabled "subscription of £2,000,000" by Krupps except taking a new promise to pay for part of a debt, probably by now amounting to from five to ten times as much—a

debt which the Government of the "All Highest" could no more pay now than we could? We deal though in Teutonia with races gone insane, and therein lies our greatest difficulty. Peace there can be none, nor hope of peace until the madness has been bled out of them. It is a long, disgusting job, but we shall go through with it.

If we required assurance that Russia stands fast—which we do not—the news that the Tsar had assumed command of his armies—of Russia's armies—in person would have given it. "But the Tsar is not a renowned soldier," the ever-ready anti-British croaker objects. Perhaps not, but whether he is or not is nothing to the point, since he is surrounded by able and proved commanders. To the Russian people their Tsar is God's vicegerent on earth. "They Thee and Thou me," he said to M. Cruppi. He is their "Little Father," representative of the all-holy and all-powerful Father in heaven, and therefore his presence at the head of his armies will be at once a stimulus to their energy and a strengthening of their confidence in victory. It is ominous news for the megalomaniac of Potsdam. And the news from the Russian front cannot be particularly cheerful either for the man who pledged his word to the duped inhabitants of his withering Empire that he would give "peace in October." His generals may lay hold of Riga, but of what use will it be to them unless they also crush the Russian Baltic Fleet? Its possession will certainly tie a formidable army all winter in Russia. Hindenburg the headlong will then become Hindenburg the held, and when spring returns what will the fighting value of the remnants of that or any German army be? As we write General Falkenhayn is pressing on, not to try and get between Riga and Petrograd, but to clear the way to Vilna. Further south the shove eastward continues in a manner highly promising for the Russians, who, while making the progress as costly to the invader as possible, yet in a manner invite him to come on and come in. "We mean to have our Borodino," say the Prussians, only it is to be a smashing one for the Russians. Well, they assert many things, and truly fancy helps their undoing. What is now going on cannot be at all campaigning according to the "All-Highest" posturer's notion of the way things should go, but it must prove eminently contributory to the ultimate attainment of *our* peace.

But down South, although the Russian Army may have thrashed the Austrians as usual, in Galicia, the Russian Government has been "outmanoeuvred in the Balkans" by the Prussian, and an agreement has been concluded between Bulgaria and Turkey "that should perhaps open the road by which German-Austrian troops can reach the Dardanelles and spoil our enterprise there—hold Constantinople perhaps against us." That may possibly be the meaning of the Dedeagatch railway concession, also it may not—but does any sensible person imagine that the enemy's troops could get through the Balkans unopposed? An alliance between Bulgaria and Turkey might renew the strife between the Balkan peoples, but it would bring Serbia, Greece, and Roumania to our side, and in the end probably enable us to build *our* peace on a firmer foundation than could be obtained were a discontented Bulgaria or disappointed Serbia left to ferment. What the Tsar's plan of campaign may be we know not and do not dream of trying to guess, but the transfer of his uncle, the Grand Duke Nicholas—the man who has worthily presided over the most ably-conducted retreat known in history—to the chief command in the Caucasus may well imply closer, more intimate, association between the Russians in Asia Minor and the Allies in Gallipoli. For Russia can land an army anywhere the Grand Duke pleases on the Black Sea littoral.

At the Dardanelles progress is slower than we would like to see it; but it is sure. By degrees the Turks are being worn down and their resisting power reduced; just as in Italy, where the campaigning of the Italian troops becomes more and more Garibaldian—magni-



ficient always in its daring and resource. That kind of valour always wins. It is only the type of mind which feeds on what the *Star* has smartly nicknamed "pressimist" garbage—the mind that craves for a "Waterloo" at least twice a week—which sees nothing good in the position anywhere. You even hear that unhappy sort of creature grumbling over our "waste of ammunition" along the Western front. "We have been at it a fortnight and see no results," is the grumble. Do people of that mental colour suppose that General Joffre and Sir John French are firing off their guns just for the fun of the thing? Do they imagine that the stupendous machine elaborated by the Prussians during the last 40 odd years—a machine perfected by, and equipped with, every contrivance ingenuity could invent, and wielded by a race brutalised by systematic, rigorous universal training to a perfection in all methods of destruction—was to be destroyed in a week, a month, or a year? If they did, surely it is high time now to abandon the delusion. A nation unperverted and whose sentiments had not been depraved by instruction, by careful training in the doctrine that robbery and murder are the noblest occupations on earth for a people chosen of God—as the Germans believe themselves to be—would perhaps have given over fighting when they found that the objects sought by them in the beginning could not be attained. Not so the serf race fashioned by the Prussian drillmaster. To the Kaiser and his *Junkers* human life is nothing, human suffering a display to be laughed over. They reck not the loss of wealth, of means of livelihood, inflicted on the humble folk whose sons and brothers, and fathers even, they drive by millions to be consumed in the shambles of war, by machinery; but when a sigh or a moan reaches their ears they are impelled to mock them with promises about the lavishness of the "profit" they are to receive when the plunder wrung from the nations to be subdued comes home for division. What are the threatened nations to do against a race thus sunk in bestiality? What but fight on, heeding not the reverses and disappointments of the day, but fixing the eye firmly on the distant goal, the deliverance of mankind, if possible for ever, from the most appalling curse it was ever struck by. Our splendid Army knows its duty and the object of its manly devotion; the French, Italian, and Russian armies know it, and they all glow with the like enthusiasm, all stand ready to fight to the uttermost of human endurance and beyond, until the hydra of German militarism has been slain. Is it not about time that we here at home should attain to something of the same heroic spirit of endurance and resolution? We believe the great majority of our people has attained it and that soon all might do so, were it not that so much of the darkest, and least true, side of the struggle is constantly laid before us. Probably the grumblers and shriekers of "Woe, woe!" sin from ignorance more than from evil intent; but they sin none the less. Heed them not, take courage and stand fast. We have, in all probability, another winter campaign to face—and the Government is busy getting ready for it—but we must console ourselves with the reflection that all this time and more may be needed to awaken among the misguided Germanic peoples that spirit of humility and contrition that they require to make them ready for *our* peace. That we shall halt and stop short of that peace—why, we could not if we would. The brutal Prussian would not let us. It is victory or death in this conflict, and victory for the Quadruple Alliance it shall be.

How proud the Prussians must be of their latest Zeppelin exploits! On two nights in succession they managed to reach our East Coast and to kill men, women and children. Among the whole number there were four soldiers. Wonderful exhibition of heroic valour, was it not? And they raised a few fires also, and knocked down a few poor houses in mean streets—and went home triumphant! They will say so, and their insolvent banks—they are every one insolvent to-day—will pluck up stagey courage to augment their faked subscriptions to the fake war loan. Twenty times

altogether German aircraft have paid our shores a visit, and their unparalleled courage has brought them a harvest of 50 men, 39 women, and 27 children killed. They have also succeeded in wounding 168 men, 114 women, and 58 children, a grand total of 456 casualties. Also a certain amount of damage has been done to property, but none whatever of a kind that could be regarded as contributory to victory for the brutes who devised and carried out these atrocities. Spectacularly even the incursions have served the foe in nothing. They doubtless expected to intimidate us, and their comic journals found much inspiration for their coarseness—Teutonic humour—in depicting our prostration. That pleases the German serf apparently, and disturbs us no more than the Zeppelins themselves. What, however, these displays of demoniac savagery have done has been to intensify the loathing of everything German among people of all classes throughout the land, and the resolution to maintain the war with steadily increased vigour until the danger of a renewal of Prussian aggression has been abolished for ever. There is no "peace in October" for the Kaiser. He and his may yet be arraigned before a common jury at the Old Bailey, tried, sentenced, and hanged as just retribution for the crimes they and their fellow-countrymen have committed. For what are their lives worth more than that of the poorest woman they have outraged in Belgium and France, or that of the feeblest child their random-flung bombs have murdered in England?

In reading the letter of Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, we felt but one disappointment—that he did not give the number of German submarines destroyed to date, or to a safe date of, say, a month back. It was strongly rumoured a week ago that he had determined to do this. There are very solid reasons why the main facts should not be known immediately, except where concealment may be impossible. But after



D A 12

## LITTLE COUNTRY WALKS FOR ALL.

### LONDON'S NEW FOREST.

Richmond Park is the New Forest of London. The Park is five miles by motor-bus from Hyde Park Corner, and every one of the seven gates in its one mile fence—Roehampton, Sheen, Richmond, Petersham, Ham, Kingston, and Kingston Vale (Robin Hood)—is adjacent to the route of a town motor-bus. Thus, the wayfarer can shape a course at will through bracken-fern and plantation, knowing that by whichever gate one leaves the motor-bus awaits for the return to town. Each gate bears a map of the Park, showing how Charles I. converted Sheen Waste and its adjoining Common lands into a new hunting ground. By the map a course may be shaped across to Richmond Hill, Henry the Eighth's Mound, Kingston Vale and Wimbledon Common, or to "Ham's embower'd walks." The tints of the Fall are upon the foliage, the fallow deer and their fawns nestle deep in bracken, or come down to the pools to drink, and birds hover around the Pen Ponds. Amid the tranquil beauty of Nature in the Forest seek an hour's respite from the turmoil of London.

#### ROUT

- 37. } Isleworth and Peckham.
- 37A. } Herne Hill and Teddington.
- 33. } Richmond and Liverpool Street.  
For Roehampton, Sheen and Richmond Gates.
- 105. } Ealing and Surbiton.
- 105A. } Ealing and Leatherhead (Sundays only)  
For Richmond, Petersham, Ham and Kingston Gates.
- 85. Putney Bridge Station and Kingston.  
For Robin Hood and Kingston Gates.
- 27. Highgate and Twickenham.  
For Richmond Gate.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
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the lapse of a month or so the German naval authorities must know or suspect that the "U" boats Nos. So-and-so have gone never to return, and in adding together and making public at safe intervals the numbers we have accounted for, it would not in the least be necessary to give a hint regarding localities or exact dates. However, the Admiralty may have other very cogent reasons for maintaining silence, and we are not going to grumble. To observant people Mr. Balfour's letter has been quite sufficient to dispel every doubt about the splendid work of the fleet in vindicating the freedom of the sea, and the equally calm resolution with which our mercantile marine, down even to the humble trawler, have faced the danger, and helped to remove it. The damage done has been by no means insignificant, and the sacrifice of innocent lives has been loathsome in the extreme, "but," says Mr. Balfour, "the British mercantile tonnage is at this moment greater than when the war began." He is generously of opinion that nothing but the hopes of a decisive success would have induced the German Ministers to inflict this new stain upon the honour of their country, and draws the inference that if they are now meditating a modification of the infamy, it is because submarine "frightfulness" has been a failure. "It is not only the innocent who have suffered. The criminals also have paid heavy toll." So, in Mr. Balfour's opinion, the reason prompting towards greater humanity is not to be found in the attitude of the United States Government, or in a revolt of German opinion against the lawless cruelty of submarine piracy, but in the fact that the policy of outrage has cost the German navy too much. "Deeds which were merely crimes in May, in September are seen to be blunders." All this is acutely reasoned and admirably phrased, but yet Mr. Balfour seems to fall into the same error as the rest of us. He credits the German serfs with a moral standpoint of even the existence of which they would appear to have no consciousness. Therefore the reasoning of the letter on this point is at fault, as is proved by the sinking of the *Hesperian* in the usual inhuman fashion, and by the gloating of the German mind over every infamy of the kind. What evidently the Germans do fear at the moment is a revelation of the number of their submarines already sunk by us. That fear is indicated in the Berlin official announcement that German "U" boat No. 27 has probably been lost. Nothing so definite was ever published before. Why this air of frankness? Probably the thing is done to provide a basis for plausible denials of our statistics when they do appear. It will simply be alleged by the Prussian officials, "We have told you the truth; the English are liars," and to the German slave mind that will be enough. Bolstered subscriptions to the new loan will continue as before.

In going down to Bristol at the invitation of the Trades Union Congress Mr. Lloyd George did a wise thing and the right thing. For although there can be no question at all of the patriotism of our working classes it is as little to be denied that they are still burdened with unredressed grievances—as that they have only too good reason to be. To have put the delegates off, therefore, or to have treated them patronisingly—as is the habit of boards of directors, especially of railway boards—would have been a mistake of the first magnitude. "We are men and demand that as men you shall treat us" is their attitude, and it is one the workmen of this realm have every right to assume. Jealous of their rights, suspicious, on grounds only all too solid, of the aims of employers, the men cling to their trade union rules—rules whose very existence constitutes the most formidable indictment of employers it would be possible to frame—willing to work, but afraid of being taken advantage of after the war has ended—just as they have too often been in the past—the men demand guarantees before agreeing to do their utmost. And the Minister of Munitions did his best to reassure them. He has employers and their profits well in hand, he said, and made it clear that he will not allow the workmen to be imposed upon. The

speech was one of the most powerful Mr. George ever delivered, and as persuasive as it was powerful. It is for the workmen to respond, and for the capitalist loyally to help them to respond. That trade unions should, at this crisis in our history, hang back, keep in force regulations designed to fetter a man's freedom to labour, is sad to think of. Labour ought to systematise itself in such a thorough way as to secure the maximum output without overstraining the worker. As a first step to that every help, skilled and unskilled, ought to be welcomed. "We require 80,000 more skilled and 200,000 more unskilled workmen," Mr. George announced, and he should have no great difficulty in procuring them provided the union rules whereby the lives of the men who try to do their best are made miserable are held in abeyance. Even Belgian workmen now in the service of the Minister of Munitions, "the greatest employer of labour in this country," have been "warned not to work too strenuously." Has that warning been prompted by the Union of Democratic Control? It is the counsel of the traitor wherever it came from. Could not the Government, without making any fuss or martyr, get some patriotic body to organise lectures and exhibitions by help of which workmen might have the horrors of war brought home to them? Mr. George's persuasive eloquence will go far to convince for the moment, but minds are fickle and need lessons oft repeated. Labour, in short, remains suspicious and restive everywhere, and still another railway strike is threatened. "Traitors!" cries the man who knows nothing of the conditions under which many thousands of railway men perform their daily duty. No, friend; the men are fully as patriotic as, say, the bulk of our special constables, but they have had little reason to forget directorial superciliousness and, too frequently, arbitrary treatment. They are therefore not going to suffer hunger for the benefit of any board of directors, however betitled, and if they insist that they must have another rise in wages they will have to be satisfied, even at the expense of shareholders' dividends. Have the fees of any board of directors been reduced or given up in consequence of the war? Are railway boards doing anything to assist the War Office in the management of the lines? Let us have done with cant and postured patriotism, and learn to look all things, disagreeable or other, squarely in the face. It looks to us as if the working man is our master, and that the Minister of Munitions at least recognises the fact.

Quite the most interesting event which occurred at the one hundred and thirty-fourth half-yearly meeting of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, held in that city on July 20 last, was the announcement that Mr. T. A. Dibbs, the well-known and honoured general manager, had decided to retire. His disappearance from the ranks of Australian bankers would have been a loss to mourn over at any time, and just now it is a great loss. But Mr. Dibbs has surely earned rest from labour and care, for he entered the service of the bank in 1847, and became general manager 20 years later. At the time of his resignation, therefore, as the chairman, Mr. George J. Cohen, pointed out in a speech of generous appreciation and cordiality, Mr. Dibbs had been 68 years a servant of the Commercial Banking Co., during 48 years and four months of which time he had been general manager. Is there any other bank manager living who can point to such an experience? No one, we are sure, can excel Mr. Dibbs's record in success. Aided loyally by his board always, he has seen the bank grow and grow from small beginnings to occupy one of the first positions in stability and resources among the great banks of Australia. When he became general manager, as Mr. Cohen reminded the shareholders, the paid-up capital was £400,000 and the reserve £118,000, and now they are respectively £2,000,000 and £1,853,000; the total assets stood at £2,332,000 and they are now £29,707,000, while in course of the intervening years £5,669,000 has been paid in dividends. Well may the man with this record behind him say, "I have borne the burden long; now give me a little rest ere I go home." What ups and downs he has seen—with the "ups," though, on the



whole prevailing—and what tempests he has weathered, proving true grit, fine tempered steel, amid them all. Well may the directors welcome him on the board, well may his colleagues and the loyal staff of his own selection and modelling wish him long years of evening calm. There were, by-the-by, only 37 branches and a staff of 700 when Mr. Dibbs became manager, whereas the branches now number 208 and the staff 907. A word now about the accounts for the half-year ended June 30 last. Naturally profits were down, but only £9,279 down, notwithstanding war's upsets—and that is after providing the bonus to the staff. The usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum is paid, but only £25,000, or half the sum assigned a year ago, is put to reserve, and consequently £14,879 more at £72,734 is carried forward. Deposit and other liabilities are £2,793,267 higher at £25,071,778, but coin and bullion £1,023,718 lower at £4,611,434. The note circulation has nearly vanished, and we should guess that the £16,952 of its own paper money still outstanding will in some considerable part represent notes lost. In place of its own notes the bank now holds £4,809,666 of Commonwealth legal tender notes, an increase of £4,251,257 on the year. At June 30, 1914, the bank had £1,831,563 of floating money on the London market; at the end of June last it had only £279,737. But its holding in "British Consols and War Loan stock and Government and municipal securities" has risen during the same interval by £922,000 to £3,361,525. Bills discounted and have gone up by £273,656 to £14,236,405, but "bills receivable in London and remittances in transit" show a decline of £573,398 at £1,495,216.

One cannot help regretting to see that the net profits of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Ltd., fell off £20,260 in the June half of this year to £44,273, for it struggles bravely to surmount its afflictions. With the £7,650 brought forward there was just £51,923 to be dealt with, and after giving the preference shares their 4 per cent. £9,576 remained to carry forward. Last year £5,000 was written off premises account and £15,000 placed to reinstatement of capital account, but there is nothing available for either this time, the more is the pity. And to make matters wear a perplexing look bank premises are entered in the balance-sheet at £41,605 more than a year ago, making their book value £462,240, which seems a good bulky figure. Coin and bullion and cash at bankers, on the other hand, are up £680,652 at £2,300,616, while call and short notice moneys in London are down £897,000 to £688,000. Bills discounted and advances have dwindled a mere £100,621, and are still at the substantial figure of £5,071,075.

The interim report of the National Bank of India covering the half-year to June 30 shows evidence of restricted business, but the gross profits were nevertheless a shade better at £255,978, and at the same time expenses were reduced by £825 to £121,481. Nett profits were therefore £2,714 up at £134,496, bringing them back to about the level of two years ago. Adding £92,996 or £14,371 more brought forward, the available total of £227,492 is £17,085 up, and the dividend, which a year ago was reduced from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent. actual, for the six months, is now restored to the old rate, leaving £2,915 less at £147,492 to be carried forward. Deposit and current accounts are £682,549 higher at £16,392,710, and

liabilities on bills payable come to £141,967 more at £727,754, but acceptances for customers have been reduced by £75,009 to £910,446. On the other hand, cash and bullion has been increased by £1,164,710 to £5,216,934, investments in Indian Government rupee securities are £21,556 up at £249,712, and other investments £488,215 up at £1,119,267. Bills of exchange have risen by £870,288 to £7,066,168, but this total includes what is apparently a new item of £1,200,000 for Treasury bills, and discounts, loans receivable, &c., come to £5,716,070 or £1,642,049 less.

It is well known that the past year was a very trying one for the Australian pastoral industry, owing to the long-continued drought, which not only caused enormous losses of stock, but was responsible for delay in marketing the wool. The wool-selling season usually closes at the end of February, but has had to be extended, and even in June some of last season's shearing had not reached brokers' stores. Prices, too, although better than was at one time expected, were substantially below those of the previous year, while there was a large quantity of wool which it was very difficult to realise, except at an extremely low value. In these circumstances the amount of business done by Goldsbrough, Mort and Co., Ltd., in the year ended March 31 naturally showed a considerable shrinkage, the number of bales of wool handled by the company being only 99,952, as against 138,222 in the preceding 12 months. Gross profits were £46,737 down at £272,565, and although moderate reductions were made in administration charges and interest, the greater part of these was offset by an increase in land and income taxes, so that the nett profit of £110,347 was still £43,806 lower. Adding £77,807 brought in, the divisible surplus was £188,154, or £33,842 less, and with a view to strengthening the company against the bad times which are expected in the current year, the directors keep the dividend down to 10 per cent., and pay no bonus, compared with one of 10 per cent. last time. Out of the balance they transfer £25,000 to reserve, as against nothing, and as the omission of the bonus means a saving of £70,274, the balance carried forward is increased by £11,432 to £92,880. Liabilities on debentures have been reduced by £18,895 to £1,623,223, but deposits come to £83,936 more at £145,127, and sundry creditors have risen by £5,372 to £60,324. On the other hand, cash is £67,862 up at £196,184, and advances on stock have been increased by £184,125 to £2,154,765, but freehold and leasehold properties and stock are £79,295 down at £280,859. Deposits are £133,500 lower at £9,000, and shares in other companies £11,564 up at £32,694. Since the close of the year climatic conditions have improved, but they are a long way from being favourable even yet, and further losses of stock are expected, which natural increase will only go a very little way towards replacing, so that the outlook for the current year is none too encouraging.

Since August, 1914, the engineering and shipbuilding works of R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Ltd., have been running continuously on Admiralty and other Government orders, with the result that the year ended June 30 was the best the company has had since its formation. The directors, however, fully recognise that the prosperity is due to exceptional causes, which will in all probability be followed by a

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## NO DELUDING PEACE

ESSAYS on THE MAIN LINES UPON WHICH ALONE PEACE CAN BE GRANTED TO THE AGGRESSOR IN THIS WAR.

Reprinted from  
'The Investors' Review,'  
with an Introduction.

By A. J. WILSON.

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lean time after the war, and they have therefore dealt with the additional profits in a most conservative and prudent fashion. Profits amounted to £201,611, or an increase of £90,941, but in order to provide for the excessive wear and tear of the machinery and plant it has been thought advisable to write off an extra £24,784 at £42,215 for depreciation. In addition, £50,000 or £27,000 more is transferred to reserve, making that fund £236,000, and £48,067, or £33,360 more, is set aside for extensions and improvements. A year ago the dividend was reduced from the 10 per cent. at which it had stood for the three previous years to 7½ per cent., but the company was doing so well that in March last the directors took the unusual course of declaring a further dividend of 2½ per cent. on account of 1913-14. Why they should adopt this plan is not clear, except, of course, that an unbroken record of one rate will look better than one of ups and downs. Having buttressed the company so effectively, the distribution now made on the shares is again 10 per cent., which leaves £29,932 to be carried forward, as against the £20,046 left from 1913-14, after paying the additional dividend just mentioned. Expenditure on the property charged to capital account was only £5,210, so that this item is £37,005 down on balance at £604,157, and against this there are various reserves aggregating £245,800, none of which is separately invested. The expansion of the business has led to some big changes in the balance-sheet, stocks, work in progress, &c., being £117,119 up at £343,567, while debtors owe £75,781 more at £158,032, and sundry creditors have risen by £98,147 to £271,559. Cash balances, however, are £30,382 larger at £216,592, so that the company is very comfortably situated.

The suit successfully brought by the Zinc Corporation against the German firm of Aron Hirsch and Sohn is of considerable importance. It may be regarded as a test case in which all the Broken Hill companies seek to rid themselves of the disability imposed upon them under the contracts which they have made for the sale of lead and zinc concentrates to German smelters. These contracts, which placed Germany in control of the lead and zinc markets of the world, run for long periods, and under German law are void by reason of the war. Under English law the position has hitherto been rather obscure, but Mr. Justice Bray holds that these contracts are also void in English law, so that the various schemes for treating the Broken Hill concentrates which have now been prepared may be proceeded with. These were held up owing to the fact that the German contracts do not expire until 1919. The Australian Government has introduced legislation to annul these German contracts, as it was feared that unless some form of indemnity was forthcoming to the companies they might be mulcted in heavy damages after the war if they did not hand over their concentrates to the German firms; but some of the contracts were made in this country, and it was therefore necessary that the English law on the subject should be clearly defined by a test case. We understand that the German defendants intend to carry the case to the Court of Appeal. The Broken Hill companies have suffered severely from the suspension of the contracts by the German firms, for they have not been able to make arrangements to dispose of their ore elsewhere, but have been spending money accumulating ore and receiving nothing for it meanwhile.

Judging by the results obtained by the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Co. in the 12 months ended June 30, the demand for rubber articles was exceedingly good. Last year's increase of £13,724 in the trading profits was followed by one of £20,130, making the total £64,030, of which administration charges, depreciation allowances, &c., absorbed £15,724, or £6,705 more. With £24,427 brought forward, the divisible total was £21,260 larger at £72,734, and the directors increase the dividend on the ordinary shares from 7½ per cent. to 12½, but this time it is paid less tax instead

of tax free. The appropriation to reserve is then doubled at £10,000, raising that fund to £45,000, and £2,884 more at £27,311 is carried forward. Provision for depreciation has been made on the property and plant account at rates ranging from 2½ to 10 per cent., as set out by the auditor, and exceeded the allowance for 1913-14 by £1,223, but £13,274 was spent on additions, and the total outlay, including goodwill, is £8,329 up on balance at £253,536. Debtors have risen by £2,816 to £108,884, a big reduction at the Buenos Aires branch having been more than offset by the increase in the home trade, while current liabilities are £8,970 up at £78,434. Stocks are £5,009 larger at £83,673, and, with an increase of £19,271 to £31,385 in cash, the position looks very comfortable.

### Labour, Conscription, and the Harmsworths.

Amid our anxieties feelings of gratitude are sometimes excited towards those who provide us with amusement, with a diversion from our preoccupations. And this week we really owe ungrudging thanks to the Harmsworth Press for one half-hour of genuine, if contempt-inspiring, fun. Lord Northcliffe, as many people doubtless have heard, has lately been carrying on a violent and unseemly as well as unnecessary "hustle" in favour of conscription. It was a hubbubboo destined to fail from the first, and had his lordship been a politician of parts and experience he would never have allowed the *Times*, *Daily Mail*, and other newspapers controlled by him to go astray and risk their ruin in any such anti-British display of ignorant malignity. Unfortunately for them and him, Lord Northcliffe is not a politician, is, on the contrary, profoundly ignorant of politics as well as of the instincts, prejudices, and general mentality of the English people. So he frequently plunges into the most appalling blunders with a recklessness which will one of these days bring him, journalistically, to a bad end.

We are sorry on some grounds that it should be so, for in sub-editing technique, in the arrangement and "get up," in its general selection of padding to read—when not a question of editorials paid for as advertisements or written in gratification of Harmsworth spites and prejudices—there are few better general newspapers than the *Times* and *Daily Mail*. The *Daily Mail* in particular is usually a model of sub-editing, and we often turn to its columns in order to find at once what we may have to waste time in searching for elsewhere. For all that we are assured on irrefragable authority that the paper is losing ground fast to its rivals, the *Daily News* and *Daily Chronicle*, especially to the *Chronicle*. And it is all because of Lord Northcliffe. His ambition to play statesman, or rather to be the Richard Neville of Ministries, has betrayed him into a false position. Neither in education or experience, still less in intellectual capacity, is his lordship qualified for the part he has chosen to assume. Occasional successes in the nature of flukes—as when, by coincidence, he appeared to clamour Lord Kitchener into the post of Secretary of State for War—have drawn him on, Prussianised his brain. So when he "took a pique" against Lord Kitchener for reasons about which Fleet Street, focus always of acidulous gossip, chattered much, he set on his journalistic jackals to worry, or at least bark and snarl, that great organiser of armies out of the position he swaggered over having placed him in. This fine "patriotic" effort coming to rather ignominious grief—the frontal attack failing—Lord Northcliffe next tried a flanking movement. Without any regard whatever for the country's perils and needs, giving not a moment's consideration to the probable consequences of his success upon our ability to play our part efficiently in this life-and-death war, Lord Northcliffe raised the cry, "Conscription, we must have conscription, give us conscription; we shall be beaten unless the Government obeys my orders and imposes at once compulsory, or 'national,' military service on all alike, worker, slacker, fit or unfit. Turn out the Ministry if it does not yield to my outcry. Never mind if what I



proclaim in my 'largest circulation' news sheets heartens the foe by belittling everything we have done, by mocking at our progress while magnifying the tiniest feats of the enemy into presages of our imminent defeat. You must take the consequences of failing to do as I ordered you—conscription or ruin, national service at once or defeat; the Germans deserve to be the winners in this war if you dare to disobey my orders."

Was ever such "why for what" seen or heard of—and all grounded on nothing unless on Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe's ungovernable insolence? "You have not done as I bid you; look out, I shall make you pay for it," is his attitude towards the Ministry, especially towards Lord Kitchener.

Happily the country has begun to take Lord Northcliffe at its own valuation, not his, and all his bawling, scare-postering in the *Mail* and *Evening News*' contents and placards, even in the pretentiously too-respectable *Times*, left the nation cold, the Ministry unharmed. For very shame the unprincipled yapping ought to have been stopped. Even the interests of the shareholders to whom the risks attending newspapers have perhaps been sold demanded a cessation of this frothy turmoil. Happily his sense-defying lordship persevered and gave Trade Union Congress its opportunity. And here is where the fun comes in. We enjoyed reading Wednesday's *Daily Mail* no end. Other newspapers informed us that the resolution passed unanimously by the Congress was a deliberate and carefully framed decision. It is long, but much to the point, and because Labour is going to rule us more and more when the war is over, as well as now, we reproduce it here:—

That we, the delegates to this Congress, representing nearly three million organised workers, record our hearty appreciation of the magnificent response made to the call for volunteers to fight against the tyranny of militarism. We emphatically protest against the sinister efforts of a section of the reactionary Press in formulating newspaper policies for party purposes, and attempting to foist on this country Conscription, which always proves a burden to the workers, and will divide the nation at a time when absolute unanimity is essential. No reliable evidence has been produced to show that the voluntary system of enlistment is not adequate to meet all the Empire's requirements. We believe that all the men necessary can, and will, be obtained through a voluntary system properly organised, and we heartily support and will give every aid to the Government in their present efforts to secure the men necessary to prosecute the war to a successful issue.

"The small pro-German minority voted for the resolution," the *Morning Post* tell us, "because whatever may be their views on the subject of continuing the war, conscription simply represents to them a hateful means towards a detestable end." That is the Tory way of saying that the vote was unanimous, and the few speeches made—led off by the chairman, Mr. J. A. Seddon, who vigorously denounced the Carmelite Street band of hustlers—demonstrated that the minds of the delegates required no stimulus to clinch their determination. The vote was therefore the decision of about three million workmen, an act not lightly to be put aside. But this is not the opinion of the *Daily Mail*. Its "descriptive reporter," writing from Bristol on Tuesday, is of opinion that "the debate was a weak and disappointing affair," in spite of the language used about Lord Northcliffe, and Mr. J. Havelock Wilson's assertion that if he had his way, "he would take half a dozen of the most prominent newspaper proprietors and editors and hang them up at a lamp-post." Working men have been known to do that sort of thing before now, and the mood seems likely enough to overtake the world again one day.

Undeterred by such language, the *Mail*, bold as a *Junker*, in its leader assumes the serene and disinterested patriot pose. Mr. Seddon asked "for more light, and we have every sympathy with his demand," for "when the Government really takes the country into its confidence, the whole nation"—and not merely Lord Northcliffe—"will see that it is faced with the alternative of losing the war by the voluntary system or winning it by national service." As a friend of ours is given to say, "Isn't that fine?" So patriotic and wise! "Party purposes?" the office-boy embodiment of zeal without knowledge for the country's hurt ex-

claims. "The *Daily Mail* has nothing to do with party politicians except—if possible"—ah, how sweetly modest that "if possible"!—"to sting them into activity, and our experience of them is that activity is a thing they loathe almost as much as the loss of votes." *Junkers* will please note the fervency with which their Harmsworth blackens his countrymen and "keeps up their end" by trying to belittle the Government. "But among the Labour leaders we shall never find a national leader fit to cope with the present crisis so long as they doubt their own powers." Lord Northcliffe never doubts his, wouldn't he do now? He is equal to anything up to the compilation of dazzling circulation statistics about the *Daily Mail*—by the by, he has not dared to repeat that feat, bold as he may be, after what was last said about it in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. For all that he is a brave fellow, and does not at all mind goading the working classes to revolution, if need be. Has he nothing to lose? Is he merely an ill-conditioned bounder in a rage? Ah well, no matter, Wednesday's *Daily Mail* was very funny. "That the voluntary system will suffice for victory—which is the one and only end worth thinking about—neither the Trade Union Congress nor anybody else can assert." Why, then, does this disgruntled and spleenful advertisement contractor keep bawling for conscription? Is not our voluntary army doing its duty? Has it not now provided the largest army in existence of all the Allies except the Russian? How long is a too patient Government going to stand this malignant kind of sedition?

### "Germany is Beaten," but the Slaying Must Continue.

Were this a time to be amused, much might be made of the criticism of friends. It is usually directed with most piquancy on the confidence so often expressed by us at the beginning of the war that it could not last long. In that confidence, may it be interjected, we were much outdone by the Prussians, by the whole German people, and, most of all—though that is no honour—by the Kaiser himself, who thought the war was to be only an affair of weeks; but that by the way—our confidence is not excused because the Germans were fools, but it may be pointed out that it had for strong foundation the costly magnitude of the Prussian onslaught on Belgium and France at the start. As a matter of fact, that onslaught was brought to a stop sooner even than we expected, and in the West the war has never resumed the tremendous rush of the first four or five weeks. The very last hope of successful Prussian aggression in the West was definitely shattered by November 20, and although the Allied initiative in attack has been spasmodic, and, as at Neuve Chapelle, occasionally in appearance ineffective since then, the Prussians have ever since they were beaten back to the Aisne been an invader besieged, contained, hemmed in. To the meteoric, triumphal early career of Buonaparte that of the would-be Prussian world-subduer presents at this point the greatest imaginable contrast.

But in Poland and Galicia, where their next great effort was organised and launched, surely the Prussians and their slave gun-fodder have grown in might and carried out a career of apparent conquest unparalleled in its success since the days when the first Napoleon promenaded his Grand Army all the way to Moscow? It may have cost the Austro-German hosts a million to a million and a-half of men to get where they are to-day, but at least they have succeeded in pushing back the Russians to such an extent as to be now, or lately, puzzled whether to advance north upon Petrograd, east upon Moscow, or south-east upon Odessa, whichever course seems to them best, most calculated to protect them from hunger and the winter's cold. "Is not this," we are asked "more than you bargained for?" And the answer must be, "Yes, unfortunately, yes." We regret it is most keenly, for heroic Russia's sake, because the sufferings of the populations left to



the tender mercies of the savages in Poland and Galicia, all through the Baltic Provinces, are now intense, and because the further the Teutonic swarms penetrate, the wider grows the area of oppression, an oppression nothing in Belgium even has exceeded. There may be at the present time 10,000,000 of dislodged and robbed refugees clinging to their homes or pouring back into the very heart of Russia from the occupied territories. The calamity of war and its indescribable inhumanity thus falls heavily indeed upon the Russian Empire, and at the present time it is impossible to say when its deliverance will be accomplished. But that it will be delivered we have no doubt at all, never have had any doubt that the Allies would in the end succeed everywhere. And our confidence as regards Russia does not rest merely in the devastating effects of a winter campaign, upon the length and intensity of the winter, but even more upon the skill with which the Russian armies have been kept in being and in vigour.

Those who accuse newspapers that have taken the same view as we have and fallen into the same errors are altogether mistaken in attempting to fasten upon us an accusation of having hindered the Government or tempted the nation to slackness by our optimism. Neither these papers nor *THE INVESTORS' REVIEW* have ever done any such thing; for whatever might be the differences of estimates about the length of the war, differences creditable to the hearts, if not always to the heads, of the people who made these estimates, no influence except that of the malingering section of the Press which is ever carping, ever whining, ever finding fault, has tried to instil into the people's minds the notion of our defeat—sometimes of present, more often of ultimate defeat.

"Be it so, but you also said and kept on repeating the Germans are beaten. Do you adhere to that statement now?" Yes, most assuredly yes, and adhere to it in the present tense, too. We have no desire to hedge or qualify by turning it into "the Germans will be beaten," because they *are* beaten, have been beaten in everything that relates to their ultimate aims and to the calculations and speculations upon which they and their Picrochole of a Kaiser based their long-meditated aggression ever since von Kluck had to turn back from Paris and dig himself in behind the Aisne. At no point, not even in the Gallipoli Peninsula, still less in Russia, have the servile hosts of the Austro-Prussian-Turkish brotherhood in infamy scored a real, a determining victory. They have never once been victorious as the first Napoleon often was until he tackled us in Spain and invaded Russia, and they have no abiding secured hold on any thing or spot they have grasped or swarmed upon; while outside their lines—on the sea, in distant lands—they have lost everything. And do they now go forward to anything except to defeat, oblitative, overwhelming? Can they hope to sustain themselves in Russia throughout the coming winter? Are they able to replace the thousands daily lost in the never-ending scientifically arranged and conducted artillery assaults all along the Belgian and French frontiers? Can Austria keep up the struggle long against Italy which is being carried on by the Italian troops with such admirable foresight, resolution, and skill? Is there a possibility that the Turks can long maintain themselves in the Gallipoli Peninsula, or that they can be sufficiently reinforced by German troops and munitions sent overland through Serbia and Bulgaria?

Those who think that there can be success in any of these directions are welcome to their opinion; but what we should like to be enlightened about is why people cannot see that the Allies, great though the strain is, are unswervingly accomplishing the highest purpose they set before themselves at the beginning in this war. Systematically, with irresistible certainty and without pause, they are beating down and on the way to destroy the fighting power of the foe, and doing it in a manner that ensures the prostration of that foe within what will in reality prove to be a brief period of time. It took Europe more than 20 years

to beat down the might of effervescent revolutionary France, stimulated as it was and led by the genius of the first Napoleon. Will it take three years, think you, for the Allies of liberty in the present conflict to reach a victory as thorough as, nay far more thorough than, that won by Great Britain—with but slight, though much-crowded-over, help from Prussia—at Waterloo? We think not, and are sure of this, that as long as we remain united with Russia, France, and Italy there can be but one end to this war, and no intrigues, no displays of German-Junker wolf-cunning, no false friendship proffered by insincere neutrals, no sense of pity for the impoverishment and sorrow the war is now busy accumulating on the heads of the aggressor nations must be allowed to mar the thoroughness with which the work of emancipation from militarism is being carried to completion. Still, as ever, the watchword must be "no deluding peace." We have an unshakable belief that the Allies are of one mind in this resolve; their stern unity of purpose increases with every shock and disappointment, with every delay in the accomplishment of their task, and to-day all of them are better prepared for a long war, more resolute than at any previous time in the history of civilisation in the determination to wage that war until it brings them the peace upon which we have resolved.

The half-apathetic and misinstructed public we have amongst us do not often perceive that cardinal fact or understand that all our own British victories in the past have been won in spite of discontent and of opposition—often strenuous and well-grounded opposition—at home. Was England united even over the Spanish War when her seamen destroyed Philip the Second's Armada? Had not Queen Elizabeth to struggle all her life long against sedition at home, against traitors, and did not the Empire grow amid and triumph over the wrangles? Was the Government of our country free from opposition during the Napoleonic Wars? On the contrary, that opposition, fired by the noble ideals that glorified the Revolution at its beginning, was almost victorious in the early stages of the conflict, before the horror of Robespierre first and later and more profoundly before the shadow of Napoleon loomed large over the world and threatened the destruction of our Empire—the establishment of a universal despotism almost Prussian in its stupidity. There has never been a critical or other fight in which this country has been engaged which did not excite more or less opposition amongst the citizens. This journal itself, to its heavy loss, was amongst the most strenuous and persistent opponents of the last Boer War, and it must always be the case that in a free country such as ours or as France opinions will be divided about the rights and wrongs of war, although in this present conflict there is less room for difference of opinion as to the war's justice, as to the essential inevitableness of it if we are to remain free, than there was about any previous fight in all our history.

Accordingly in the present instance there is far less native and national opposition to the war than we ever remember to have read about, certainly infinitely less than there was to the Boer War. But we are told that the country is full of discontent over the war, and that the "pro-German" feeling runs strong in places. We take leave to doubt this, although it may be that the attitude in Leicester, which can be matched at Shrewsbury and other towns within the kingdom, is lukewarm by reason of its large German and Teuto-Semitic population. Does that lukewarmness, by the way, account for the curious tortuosities of speech and conduct exhibited by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, one of the town's members of Parliament? We neither know nor care much, but that even Leicester is disloyal we in nowise believe, and sure we are that the power of the anti-war factions within the kingdom are on the wane. Yet there can be no doubt at all that powerful influences with much money behind them are still working incessantly in this country to delude the public about the causes of the war, the aims of the



Teutonic aggressors and our motives for joining in the fight. We go so far as to say that our anti-war parties of to-day are usually German inspired, or at least under the influence of perverted German sentimentality, and that a great deal of the literature and of the meetings-activity shown is directly or indirectly German suborned. An easy early peace is essential to many trade interests here, and the further public sentiment revolts against any but the sternest peace conditions, the more unscrupulous grows the criminal propaganda. Yet the whole agitation and cunning underhand working will be as nothing when confronted by the ever-hardening resolve of the nation and its Government to fight this fight out to the end in order to deliver mankind from the devastation of militarism, if possible, for ever. To drive the Turk as a Power out of Europe for good and all, to end his existence as a race or caste possessed of liberty to tyrannise over his fellow-men, is alone a deed worth all the costs of this war. And his friend and beguiler, the remorseless, brutal Prussian, must disappear with him. Oh yes, "the Germans are beaten"—but unhappily for them their arrogant tyrants are too proud and obstinate to admit their defeat, too overcharged still with inbred conceit to be willing to accept our peace terms, and therefore the slaughter has to go on—remorseless, un pitying—until the more than decimated races the Prussians have beguiled or driven to their ruin have only a remnant left. When that remnant has thrown down its arms and crawled back to its home—desolate if not as ruined as Belgium—then will it begin to know what indulgence in robbery and murder means, then will be the time to arrange *our* peace.

### Letters to the Editor.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVANCES TO FARMERS.

SIR,—Referring to the report of Lord Milner's Committee, would you consider it good finance if the Government could see their way to advance money to impecunious farmers on the security of their farming stock on condition that the money was spent on manures or livestock under supervision? Would you consider it sound financially to increase the crops of the country by such means?

Yours truly,

"ENQUIRER."

Rochester, September 8, 1915.

\* \* No. Advances of the kind should be made by special agencies—by mutual loan banks best—but no farmer can offer valid security even in his stock so long as landowners have an unlimited first lien.—ED.

### Critical Index to New Investments.

#### S. SMITH AND SONS (MOTOR ACCESSORIES), LTD.

Originally established in 1851, this business began to manufacture motor accessories in 1904, and in July, 1914, it was converted into a public company, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, of which half went to the vendors. After the war broke out the directors made a determined effort to capture the German trade by opening branches in the British colonies, Dutch East Indies, and Russia. This has apparently proved successful, and as the company has also obtained Government orders for munitions as well as for large quantities of lighting sets, aeroplane accessories, &c., it was decided to provide further manufacturing facilities. A new factory has been erected at Cricklewood, which has been so designed that it will be suitable for manufacturing the bulk of the company's specialities which have hitherto been made for it. The cost, together with the additional plant on the original premises, is put at £60,000, and in order to provide for this and for further working capital 100,000 new £1 shares have been created, which were sold to the British, Foreign and

Colonial Corporation, and by it offered for subscription at 21s. per share. Profits are certified by the auditors to have risen from £7,993 for the year ended March 31, 1912, to £15,181 for 1914-5, while for the year ended July 31 last, the first of the new company, they are estimated at £20,772, and a dividend of 10 per cent. is to be paid. With the increased facilities it is expected that the profits for the current year will amount to over £40,000, but obviously a good part of this is due to special circumstances, and although the directors are optimistic about the future in view of the wastage which will have to be made good, and of the establishment of their new branches, the outlook is sufficiently uncertain to make the shares decidedly speculative.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Official advices from Kuala Lumpur state that the export of plantation rubber from the Federated Malay States in August amounted to 3,796 tons, compared with 3,687 tons in the preceding month and 1,850 tons a year ago. For the eight months the exports were 26,673 tons as against 18,571 tons last year and 14,525 tons in 1913.

Judging by the interim dividends, both tea and rubber companies have done extremely well recently. Rubber consumption, of course, has benefited greatly from war demands and wastage, but it is not so evident at first sight why tea plantations also should have secured exceptional profits. The explanation, doubtless, is that the troops are very liberally supplied with the refreshing beverage, and that it is not so economically used as would be the case in normal circumstances. Moreover, when costs, including freight and insurance, go up producers generally get an extra turn somewhere and somehow. Consequently we find, for instance, that Anglo-Malay Rubber can pay 8 per cent. against 6 per cent., Bandarapola Ceylon 7½ per cent. against 5 per cent., Cheviot Rubber 4 per cent. interim against nil, Highland Tea and Ceylon 5 per cent. against 3 per cent., Kelani Valley Tea 10 per cent. against 5 per cent., Kombok (F.M.S.) Rubber 5 per cent. interim against nil, Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber 7½ per cent. interim against nil, Poonagalla Valley Ceylon 5 per cent. against nil, St. George Rubber 10 per cent. against 5 per cent., and so on. Almost in every case there has been a substantial improvement, and although present exceptional conditions cannot be expected to last indefinitely, well-managed estates have nothing to fear from the future, as they ought to be able steadily to reduce their costs of production.

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General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Attention has lately been so concentrated on the United States that the possibility of gold withdrawals for any other quarter appeared to have fallen into the background. Japan, however, has been quietly active in the supply of munitions to the Allies, and especially Russia, and the Money market was reminded of the fact this week by the announcement of £2,000,000 having been taken for that country. In addition, large sales of gold have been announced by the Bank, which has lost altogether £4,886,000 since Monday against £3,255,000 either bought or released from various funds previously set aside. The heavy withdrawals had the effect of steadying the discount market, which had been inclined to give way owing to the scarcity of bills, and the firmer tendency was further strengthened by a belief that the Government will raise its rate for Treasury bills to  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. next month. Business was done in three months' paper in the beginning of the week at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., but the general quotation is now nominally  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., while some houses gave  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. as an alternative. It is, however, exceedingly difficult to get bills even at the lower of these figures, and those who wanted bills had to give  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. The market is suggesting that the Government would be doing a service to many people if it would depart from its traditions in respect to Treasury bills, and reduce the minimum for Treasury bills from £1,000 to £500.

The advance in the deposit rate of the joint-stock banks has been followed by the withdrawal of a good deal of floating money from the market, and supplies have been further reduced by the calling in of large amounts by an American institution. Borrowers have consequently been unable to obtain accommodation at anything under 4 per cent., and have had to pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for a good proportion of their requirements. Although seven-day loans could still be arranged at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. in the beginning of the week, it has been increasingly difficult to do business at that figure, and to-day  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was the almost universal quotation.

Any doubts as to the Financial Mission to the United States which may have been caused by the Treasury's statement that the details disclosed were premature, have now been set at rest by the official announcement made last Saturday. In addition to the three names given by us a fortnight ago the British repre-

sentatives include Mr. Blackett, of the Treasury, who accompanied Sir George Paish last year, and an international character is given to the Mission by the inclusion of two French colleagues, M. Octave Homberg and M. Ernest Mallet. All these gentlemen were probably in New York by the time the announcement was made, but it is too early yet to look for any results from their consultation with American interests.

Business in the New York exchange was more or less at a standstill in the beginning of the week, owing to the market there having been closed, but there have since been some rather sharp fluctuations, and at the close the cable rate is rather lower. The Continental exchanges have been inclined to harden, Paris rising to 27.70, and both the Dutch and Italian moving in our favour. Owing to the increasing demand for remittances to India, which has led to some large special sales of drafts by the India Council, the rate on Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras has risen to 1s. 4d.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Monday next for £1,300,000 Metropolitan Water Board bills, of which £1,000,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on the 18th inst. The bills will be dated September 18, and will be payable at six months after date, viz., on March 18, 1916.

During the week ended on Wednesday the Bank of England lost on balance £2,113,000 in gold for abroad, but sovereigns are still flowing in steadily from the country, and the stocks of coin and bullion were only £954,000 down at £67,479,000. With a contraction of £534,000 in the note circulation, the decrease in the reserve was very much smaller than had been anticipated, being only £420,000 at £54,138,000, and the proportion to liabilities is nearly 1 per cent. up at 25.1 per cent. Treasury disbursements in excess of receipts amounted to £8,348,000, but the market did not benefit, as there was a reduction of £10,000,000 in Government securities, which was ascribed to the repayment of Treasury bills, and Other Deposits were £1,979,000 down at £85,942,000.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended September 8 £3,828,801 in £1 notes, £1,297,610 in 10s. notes, and £120,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,541,279 in £1, £488,604 in 10s. notes, and £120,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,096,528, leaving a total of £60,843,562 10s. outstanding, made up of £45,595,619 in £1 notes and £15,247,943 10s. in 10s. notes. There is also an investment reserve account of £443,299 os. 5d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £15,000,000 in Government securities, and £17,101,561 10s. 5d. at the Bank of England, while £214,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £471,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

Owing to a continuance of the purchases of silver by the U.S. Mint, the supplies of the metal available in this market remain very restricted. Buying orders from the Continent and a little support from the Indian bazaars on Monday sent the quotation up to  $23\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz., which is the highest recorded since the middle of May. The market, however, then wavered on offerings from the Far East, and the closing price is only  $23\frac{1}{8}$ d. up on the week at  $23\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 20,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,20,000 in bills, Rs. 78,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 83,05,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs. 59,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 8,19,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 11,22,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 3 31-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4d. receiving about 11 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 65,000 in bills at 1s. 4d., and Rs. 19,35,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is further increased to Rs. 40,00,000. Between April 1 and the 7th inst. the total sales were Rs. 3,27,18,963, realising £2,178,600, compared with Rs. 5,38,46,332 for £3,593,680 to September 8 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 8, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 85,198,565	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	66,748,565
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 85,198,565		£ 85,198,565

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,533,000	Government Securities ..	£ 34,418,357
Res .. ..	3,672,843	Other Securities .. ..	145,230,005
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	53,407,705
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	730,656
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	129,587,552		
Other Deposits .. ..	85,942,422		
Seven Day and other Bills	30,906		
	£ 233,756,723		£ 233,756,723

Dated Sept. 9, 1915.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Sept. 9.		Sept. 1, 1915.	Sept. 8, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,729,729	Rest .. ..	3,637,107	3,672,843	35,736	—
24,406,346	Pub. Deposits ..	137,935,493	129,587,552	—	8,347,941
130,704,462	Other do. ..	87,921,638	85,942,422	—	1,979,216
13,051	7 Day Bills ..	35,050	30,906	—	4,144
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
25,747,587	Gov. Securities.	44,418,359	34,418,359	10,000,000	—
116,922,759	Other do. ..	145,105,473	145,230,005	—	124,532
30,736,844	Total Reserve ..	54,558,458	54,138,361	420,097	—
				10,455,833	10,455,833
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,221,585	Coin and Bullion	32,324,800	31,790,860	—	533,940
47,508,429	Proportion ..	68,433,258	67,479,221	—	954,037
192 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	24.2 p.c.	25.1 p.c.	0.9 p.c.	—
5 "		5 "	5 "		

Foreign Bullion movement for week £2,113,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Foreign Coin ..	Monday—Foreign Coin ..
Wednesday—Bars ..	Wednesday—Bars ..
" Sovs. ..	" Japan ..
" (released) ..	" Egypt (set aside) ..
	" Straits ..
Nett Efflux ..	Wednesday—Bars ..
	" Malta ..
	" Egypt (set aside) ..
	Thursday—Straits ..
	Friday—Egypt (set aside) ..
£ 4,886,000	£ 4,886,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £5,581,000 Treasury Bills had been repaid, while £7,768,000 was received from the sale of new bills, making a nett increase of £2,187,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
7,500,000	12 months	Sept. 19.	3 8 3/4
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6.	2 13 1/4
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5/8
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
* 174,550,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1/8
235,050,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,332,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,767,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	7 300,466,000	348,453,000	—	47,987,000
" 14 289,141,000	356,222,000	—	—	67,081,000
" 21 394,307,000	295,707,000	98,600,000	—	—
" 28 332,781,000	337,450,000	—	4,669,000	—
August 4 260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—	—
" 11 273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—	—
" 18 283,050,000	179,421,000	103,629,000	—	—
" 25 258,873,000	150,432,000	108,441,000	—	—
Sept. 1 275,985,000	135,707,000	120,278,000	—	—
" 8 255,092,000	107,196,000	87,896,000	—	—
Total ..	9,175,895,000	11,142,469,000	—	1,966,574,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 4.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs .. .. .	1,015,000
Excise .. .. .	365,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	343,000
Stamps .. .. .	140,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	640,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—
Land Values Duties .. .. .	—
Post Office .. .. .	600,000
Crown Lands .. .. .	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	156,892
Miscellaneous .. .. .	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	*4,943,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Re- demption Act, 1910 .. .. .	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 .. .. .	9,715,690
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Issue of War Stock and War Bonds .. .. .	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments .. .. .	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal .. .. .	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. .. .	—
Ways and Means Advances	2,841,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. .. .	—
	£ 53,600,892

National Debt Service .. ..	81,864
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	3,169,885
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	—
Other Consolidated Fund Charges .. .. .	19,617
Supply Services .. .. .	32,849,361
Bullion Advances .. .. .	100,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	*4,943,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Re- demption Act, 1910 .. .. .	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 .. .. .	9,715,690
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 .. ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .. ..	—
Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..	23,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Public Buildings Ex- penses Act, 1903 .. .. .	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid .. .. .	5,581,000
Increase in Exchequer balances .. .. .	7,003,475
	£ 53,600,892

\* Decrease.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 20, 1915.	Aug. 13, 1915.	Aug. 6, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 41,190,200	£ 41,939,400	£ 41,564,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	220,800	216,800	216,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	10,986,000	10,698,000	10,458,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,423,400	4,189,800	4,913,200
Total reserves .. ..	57,820,400	57,044,000	57,224,400
10-day bills and loans ..	895,000	688,200	844,400
30-day bills and loans ..	2,052,800	2,043,000	1,770,200
60-day bills and loans ..	3,233,600	2,993,600	3,017,000
90-day bills and loans ..	1,831,200	2,034,000	2,137,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	337,600	404,800	416,400
Total Investments .. ..	66,170,600	8,163,600	8,185,200
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,748,000	1,721,400	1,700,600
Municipal Warrants ..	3,710,600	3,711,600	3,620,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	2,518,000	805,600	1,197,400
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,361,000	2,253,200	2,515,600
All other assets .. ..	955,400	1,124,600	1,052,600
Total assets .. ..	76,493,600	74,824,000	75,493,800
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,865,800	10,866,200	10,863,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	62,019,000	60,385,200	61,200,400
Note circulation—nett.	3,169,400	3,144,600	3,084,400
All other liabilities ..	439,400	428,000	346,400
Total liabilities .. ..	76,493,600	74,824,000	75,493,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	82.1 %	84.3 %	82.8 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	90.6 %	90.9 %	90.7 %

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Sept. 5, 1914
Loans .. ..	£ 530,918,000	£ 529,620,000	£ 526,962,000	£ 427,392,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	99,776,000	95,968,000	94,936,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	27,816,000	26,770,000	26,770,000	78,200,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,220,000	6,676,000	6,060,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	534,544,000	529,332,000	523,128,000	380,478,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	28,436,000	28,406,000	28,654,000	—
Circulation .. ..	7,398,000	7,408,000	7,480,000	22,872,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	41,904,000	38,830,000	37,158,000	* 7,426,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

\* Deficit.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 4, 1915.	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 21, 1915.	Sept. 5, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 117,902,000	£ 118,192,000	£ 118,502,000	£ 114,000,000
Specie .. ..	9,994,000	9,995,000	10,004,000	8,360,000
Deposits .. ..	121,534,000	122,044,000	122,460,000	111,860,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,690,000	1,694,000	1,710,000	2,460,000

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 30, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,616,750	£ 122,753,700	£ 122,644,500	£ 80,994,400
Treasury Notes .. ..	12,479,100	10,526,500	11,800,250	8,016,750
Bills discounted .. ..	253,370,050	247,084,950	237,227,650	233,988,450
Advances .. ..	—	638,050	638,050	5,440,600
Note circulation .. ..	277,994,250	278,216,600	265,860,900	206,903,300
Deposits .. ..	98,401,250	86,815,600	90,852,050	120,947,100

Clearing House returns during Aug. £210,073,490 against £252,034,605 in July.



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 9, 1915.	Sept. 2, 1915.	Aug. 26, 1915.	Aug. 19, 1915
Gold in hand ..	175,097,640	173,054,160	170,652,760	175,694,440
Silver in hand ..	14,573,040	14,668,649	14,670,160	14,716,560
Bills discounted ..	10,569,200	11,350,400	11,008,800	11,118,960
Advances ..	23,573,240	23,491,400	23,491,360	23,563,960
Note circulation ..	528,921,320	522,400,400	513,011,160	515,974,440
Public deposits ..	2,291,360	1,231,520	2,762,720	4,452,120
Private deposits ..	99,149,760	99,963,160	98,939,080	98,502,840
Foreign Bills ..	62,680	57,320	49,680	69,450

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35 per cent., against 36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £260,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £39,891,600, decrease £275,166, and at the branches to £41,008,200, decrease £613,800.

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915
Gold .. ..	28,931,172	28,707,881	28,618,927	28,285,978
Silver .. ..	29,530,136	29,759,651	29,641,864	29,531,372
Foreign Bills ..	4,859,649	4,629,812	4,540,218	4,831,184
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,210,432	26,018,991	26,292,795	26,109,095
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,908,594	29,884,457	29,739,049	31,059,353
Notes in Circulation ..	80,846,749	80,459,725	80,409,054	80,188,904
Current Accounts, Deposits	25,782,869	26,330,997	26,068,869	26,495,248
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,358,397	1,742,726	1,636,732	1,686,371
Government Securities ..	2,780,465	1,961,941	1,983,631	2,207,995

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 31, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	12,017,892	11,976,032	11,940,988	8,899,884
Bills .. ..	5,496,942	5,250,435	5,369,828	11,310,164
Note circulation ..	16,305,915	15,549,797	15,734,608	18,097,760
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,318,800	3,966,771	4,120,904	2,767,178

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1914.
Gold .. ..	6,299,000	6,298,000	6,299,000	5,734,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,603,000	5,723,000	5,098,000	2,926,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,734,000	2,743,000	2,757,000	144,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,838,000	6,075,000	6,558,000	9,336,000
Notes in circulation ..	14,877,000	14,920,000	15,197,000	15,032,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,899,000	4,902,000	4,529,000	3,904,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 31, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915.	Aug. 15, 1915.	Aug. 31, 1914.
Gold .. ..	3,519,000	3,462,000	3,434,000	3,118,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,698,000	3,738,000	3,627,000	1,302,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	764,000	802,000	637,000	496,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,136,000	4,091,000	4,108,000	6,514,000
Notes in Circulation ..	7,937,000	7,762,000	7,856,000	7,726,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,766,000	1,770,000	1,354,000	1,154,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 4, 1915.	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 21, 1915	Sept. 5, 1914
Gold .. ..	31,572,132	31,536,462	31,499,842	13,517,190
Silver .. ..	153,252	193,503	199,555	225,840
Bills discounted, &c. ..	12,443,532	12,869,533	13,075,960	26,052,190
Note circulation ..	42,350,683	42,808,858	42,279,154	37,099,530
Deposits .. ..	1,677,792	1,764,815	3,362,710	2,452,171

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 7, 1915.		Sept. 9, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.14	11.16*	11.14	11.16*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.52	11.57	11.53	11.58
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.50	30.65*	30.45	30.60
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.00	30.15	29.95	30.10
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	35½d.	35½d.	36d.	35½d.
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.10	38.20*	28.15	28.25
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	27.69	27.74	27.74	27.79
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers ..	134½	135½	135	137
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	18.05	18.25	18.10	18.25
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	18.35	18.55*	18.40	18.55
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	45½d.	46½d.	46½d.	45½d.
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.90	24.95	24.90	25.00
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.40	25.60*	25.40	25.60
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.90	25.10	24.90	25.10

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .. ..	chs.	27.60	27.80	Antwerp .. ..	short sight	—	—
Brussels ..	chs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	3 mths	29.85	30.10
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.48	11.52½	Constantinople ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Berlin .. ..	chs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Hamburg ..	chs.	—	—	Buenos Ayres ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	135½	136	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/3½d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.63	4.68	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/9½d.
Lisbon .. ..	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	24.95	24.92½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½d.	2/0½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½	4½
Three months ..	4½	4½
Four months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	5-5½	5-5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
" for call loans ..	3½-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Why is the War Loan stock firmer? The public does not see any immediate end to the war, and *les Boches* have been doing their impish best to terrify our civilian population, just as if it had been German, by a display of Zeppelin antics, but for all that Stock Markets are cheerful. Why? Well, War Loan stock has taken to rising in price because more people want to buy it than to sell. Some folk have saved a little, and think the stock good enough for them, others have, wisely, as we think, realised some of their American investments, tempted to that course by the high prices the adverse exchange has induced, and there again War stock has benefited. At the same time the people who got more of the loan at allotment—not an important contingent, probably not nearly so many as the number of prisoners captured this week by the Russians in Galicia—have mostly sold what they did not intend to keep. Thus, while buyers are more numerous, sellers are scarcer, and the market stiffens up. We see no valid reason why it should not keep firm, for things are going the right way with the war, if not so fast as we may desire.

Nearly all sections of the Exchange benefited by the hardening of what we are accustomed to call the Consol market, but there were good grounds for firmness in some of the stocks themselves. The reports about both the United States and the Canadian harvests are of the most stimulating description, good enough one would think to ensure us cheap bread this harvest year, very cheap bread should the Dardanelles be cleared of obstruction soon. The prospect has spurred up buyers in Canadian things as well as in Yankees. The market should be watched for opportunities to unload where inconvenient amounts of securities of this class may be carried. The time has not yet come to proffer the like hint regarding Argentine railway stocks, but prospects are good there also.

For some time back a sub-committee of the Stock Exchange has been examining the minimum prices list with a view to its modification. Apparently the way does not yet seem open to the entire abolition of this clumsy barrier against panics. This is a pity, because a mere reduction of minima where they now prove too high for business may hurt sellers unnecessarily. If all minima cannot be abolished then, surely it may be possible to strike the fetters off a large number of securities. What is the Stock Exchange, what is the Treasury afraid of? If anything goes wrong with a stock at any time what is to hinder the authorities from applying instantly an effective bar to dealings without keeping in force a general rule most hurtful to business, to both buyer and seller?

There has been a tendency for business to fall off, but at the same time the tone of markets has been much more cheerful than might have been expected from the existing conditions. If the Germans thought that their Zeppelin raids on London would have any effect on public feeling they must have been bitterly disappointed, for the only result was that people shrugged their



shoulders at the outrage, hardened their hearts, and made a mental note of the extra retribution to be exacted. Apart from that there has not been much for the Stock Exchange to lay hold of one way or another. The American exchange problem has not yet been solved, but the Commission sent to New York will doubtless be able to find a satisfactory solution, and in all other respects there is little to complain about the situation when the major aspects of the world war are considered. War Loan stock has become the real barometer of the investment markets,

of support. They give a wonderfully generous yield, and they have probably seen the worst of their troubles. American Rails have not been quite so confident, but the rate of exchange is still so much in their favour that professional operators are bound to take advantage of the opportunity to sell stock for delivery in New York. Canadians have hardened up on the reports of a most excellent harvest, and in the case of Grand Trunks the supply of stock has not been equal to the demand, so that prices have improved more than the conditions actually warrant. Argentine Rails have not shown to much advantage, because the traffics are not up to the figures of two years ago, although generally showing an increase over last year's poor returns.

In the Miscellaneous sections one of the most prominent shares has been Hudson's Bay, which spurted to 6½ at the beginning of the week, for no particular solid reason that could be discovered. Perhaps the price had fallen too low, but there was nothing in the situation to account for the rapid recovery, unless dealers were caught short of stock. At the same time, the intrinsic value of the undertaking is probably greater than the market valuation, if holders can await final results. Shipping shares were in good demand, Royal Mails being particularly in request. Banks were firmer, on the whole, although business was on a very small scale, and scarcely a movement occurred in the Brewery section. Armament shares were just steady, and little occurred in the Textile group; but some of the Motor companies were in demand. Generally speaking, however, the Commercial group was idle and neglected.

Rubber shares have shown a considerable amount of strength, owing to the better position of the raw material and the practical certainty that the price will hold good while the demand for war purposes continues. In the same way the big Oil concerns are bound to benefit for the time being, and they naturally hold their ground; but the smaller concerns are almost neglected, and there cannot be any great speculative interest in shares that do not at present yield a very handsome actual return.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A steady tone prevailed in this market, and a fair amount of business was effected, though continued restricted supplies of white descriptions tends to check operations. Tate's No. 1 cubes sold at 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Of imported kinds, white Java, lying in outports, sold, 27s. to 27s. 3d. American granulated, on spot, London, at 29s. Cane sorts ruled steady. St. Lucia crystallised, sold, 25s. 9d. for good middling yellow. Antigua, low middling yellow at 25s. 3d.; Trinidad, 25s. 4½d. to 26s. 6d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week amounted to 11,500 tons, against 6,000 tons in 1914. Centrals at work 3 against 2. Cane sales ruled generally easier. 1,095 bags Demerara crystallised, sold, low mid to good yellow, 25s. 3d. to 26s.; choice, 27s. to 27s. 3d. 6,874 bags Trinidad, mostly found buyers, low brownish, 25s.; mid to good yellow, 25s. 4½d. to 26s. 375 bags Jamaica muscovado, sold, good greyish, 21s. 270 bags Demerara syrups, sold, fine yellow, 21s. to 21s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies in auction went quietly. Costa Rica, fair bold, 72s.; mid., 70s. Futures ruled firmer. September, sold, 37s. 3d., 37s. 4½d., and 37s.; December, 36s. 9d.; and March, 36s. 9d.

**COCOA.**—Fairly good supplies in auction met with moderate support. Trinidad ruled barely steady. Grenada, &c., about 2s. per cwt. up since previous sales. Ceylon steady. Ceylon, fair to good, sold, 82s. to 84s. Trinidad, good, 82s. Grenada, common to fine, 75s. to 82s. 6d. Dominica, good to fine, 79s. to 82s. Jamaica, common to good, 72s. to 78s. St. Lucia, common to fine, 74s. to 81s. Demerara, fine, 80s. Java, good to fine bold, 86s. 6d. to 94s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met with a more general demand. Common and low medium experienced better competition, and realised full to occasionally dearer prices. Good to fine grades, especially those with character in the cup, brought fully steady prices. Ceylon auctions occupied good support, the lower grades also participating, and full to firmer rates were obtained. Medium, especially broken pekoes, showed an advance of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. Java offerings passed off with a good demand at firm rates.

**SPICE.**—Pepper firm for arrival, with a moderate inquiry. Fair black Singapore, on spot, buyers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, 5½d.; and Lampong, 5½d. White Singapore, spot, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d. To arrive: black Singapore, September-October shipment, sold, 5½d. to 5½d.; Lampong, September-November, 5½d., buyers. White Singapore, September-October, done, 8½d. to 8½d.; Muntok, ditto, 8½d. to 9d.; and Penang, ditto, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves in slow request. Fair Zanzibar, sellers, 6½d. At public sale, supplies consisted largely of West India nutmegs, which met a good demand at ½d. to ¾d. per lb. advance respecting good kinds. Defective easier. A good supply of mace sold well at fully steady rates for good sorts, common, however, being lower.

**RICE** remained firm, and holders reserved. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d., and Rangoon, two stars, 13s. 9d. to 14s. Broken C 3, afloat, London, sold, 9s., c.f. and i.

**JUTE** market firmer, and a fairly good business transpired. Native first marks, September, sold, £24 12s. 6d. to £25 15s.; ditto, October-November, £25; green B.N., P.M. in circle and red D.S. in diamond, September, at £25; lightning D, September, £24 5s.; ditto, D to E, September, £23 7s. 6d. to £23 10s.; Daisee 2, September-October, at £25 12s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila descriptions ruled firm, and a moderate business was effected. New graded, fair, September-November ship-

Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week
66½	Consols.....	65x	65x	—	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	98½	98½
—	War Loan 3½%.....	92½	92½	—	" 4½% 1922-7..	95½	95½
—	" 4½% (£60 pd.).....	12 dis	12 dis	95	New Zealand 4½% ..	95	95
60½	India 3½%.....	60½	60½	92	Queensland 4½% ..	92	92
80½	" 3½%.....	80½	80½	—	" 4½% new	96x	96½
92	Canada 4½%, 1940-60 ..	92	92	—	Union of S. Africa	—	—
—	" 4½%, 1920-5 ..	97½	98	—	4½%, 1920-5 ..	96½	96½
92	N.S.W. 4½%.....	95	95	—	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	96½x	97
66	Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	—	French Rentes .....	68½	68½
—	Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½	Japan 4½% (1st) .....	86	87
—	" New Funding .....	68½	69	83	" (2nd) .....	84½	85½
—	Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	—	Russia 4½% .....	73	73
—	" 1913 .....	82	82	—	" 4½% .....	73½	73½
—	Egypt Unified 4%.....	85	85	—	" 5% .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	52	52½	—	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	23½	23½	
Caledonian defd. ....	82	82	—	Do. new pf. ....	100	100	
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	—	Metropolitan .....	23½	23½	
Gt. Central pf. ....	13½	13½	—	Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	96	
Gt. Eastern .....	7	7	—	Met. District .....	14½	14½	
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	34	34	—	Midland dfd. ....	58½	59	
Gt. Western .....	38½	39½	—	Nth. British dfd. ....	14½	15	
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	96½	97	—	Nth.-Eastern .....	102½	103½	
—	69½	69	—	Nth.-Western .....	101½	103½	
—	—	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	22½	23½	
Canadian Pacific .....	163x	164	—	Chesapeake.....	50	52	
Do. 6% Notes .....	109	108½	—	Erie.....	31	31½	
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	94½	94½	—	Milwaukee .....	89	89	
Grand Trunk ord. ....	92	102	—	N. Y. Central.....	99½	98½	
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24	24½	—	Southern .....	16½	16½	
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	96½	96½	—	Southern Pacific ..	95½x	94½	
Do. 5½% 5-yr. ....	96	97	—	Union Pacific .....	139½x	138½	
Atchison .....	109½	108	—	U. S. Steel .....	81½	79½	
Baltimore.....	88½	88	—	—	—	—	—
Antofagasta dfd. ....	119	122	—	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	83	83	
Do. 6% Notes .....	100½	101	—	Do. 5% Notes .....	99½	100½	
Brazil Common.....	5	5	—	Do. 6% .....	102½	102½	
B. A. & Pacific .....	49	48	—	Leopoldina .....	33½	33½	
B. A. Ct. Southern .....	81½	81	—	Mexican ord. ....	18½	18	
B. A. Western .....	87	87	—	Sao Paulo (Brazilian) ..	160	160	
—	—	—	—	United of Havana.....	73½	73	
Bank of Australasia.....	107	108	—	London City & Midland..	7½	7½	
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	7½	7½	—	London County & West..	14½	14½	
Do. "B" .....	94	94	—	London Joint Stock.....	20	20	
Capital & Counties .....	19½	19½	—	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	22½	22	
Chartered of India .....	52½	52½	—	Do. (£12 pd) .....	26	25½	
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	70	71	—	Parr's .....	26½	26½	
Lloyds .....	22½	22½	—	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½	
London & Provincial .....	15½	15	—	Union & Smiths.....	22½	23	
London & S.W. ....	11½	11½	—	—	—	—	—
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	—	Forestal Land.....	35½	35½	
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	35½	35½	—	Furness, Withy .....	32½	32½	
Associated Cement .....	2½	2½	—	Hudson's Bay .....	52	51½	
Birmingham Small Arms	57½	58½	—	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½	
Borax dfd. ....	20½	22½	—	Do. dfd. 'A' .....	38½	38½	
Bovril .....	19½	19½	—	Kynochs .....	30½	30½	
Brazil Tracton .....	47½	46½	—	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½	
British Amer. Tobacco ..	64½	64½	—	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½	
Brown (John), & Co. ....	25½	26½	—	Marconi .....	1½	1½	
Brunner, Mond .....	32	32	—	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	23½	24½	
Cammell-Laird .....	5	5	—	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½	
Castner-Kellner .....	59½	60½	—	National Steam Car ..	11½	11½	
Coats .....	47½	47½	—	Nobel Dynamite .....	16½	16½	
Cunard .....	55½	58½	—	Pears, A. & F. ....	1½	1½	
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	29½	—	P. & O. dfd. ....	26½	27½	
Dorman, Long .....	21½	21½	—	Royal Mail .....	75	84	
Eastmans .....	7½	7½	—	South Durham Steel ..	26½	27½	
English Sewing Cotton ..	30½	30½	—	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	70½x	72½	
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	23½	24½	—	Vickers .....	31½	32½	
Anglo-Egyptian "B" .....	5½	5½	—	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½	
Baku (10s.) .....	3½	3½	—	North Caucasian .....	28½	28½	
Burmah .....	3½	3½	—	Roumanian Cons. ....	13½	13½	
Lobitos .....	27½	27½	—	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	44	
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3½	3½	—	Shell .....	4½	4½	
Maikop Pipeline .....	4½	4½	—	Spies (10/-) .....	14½	14½	
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	—	Ural Caspian .....	1½	1½	
Anglo-Malay .....	8½	8½	—	Linggi .....	13½	13½	
Batu Caves .....	11½	11½	—	London Asiatic.....	5½	6½	
Bukit Mertajam .....	2½	2½	—	Malacca .....	4	4	
Bukit Sembawang .....	2½	2½	—	Malayalam .....	20½	20½	
Damansara .....	2½	2½	—	Merlimau .....	4½	4½	
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	—	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	11½	11½	
Highlands .....	2½	2½	—	United Serdang .....	8½	8½	
Johore Rubber Lands .....	14½	14½	—	Valambrosa .....	13½	13½	
Abbontiakoon (10/-) .....	8½	8½	—	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	10½	10½	
Brakpan .....	2½	2½	—	East Rand .....	1½	1½	
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	42½x	44½	—	Gt. Boulder (2½/-) ..	15½	15½	
Cam & Motor .....	12½	12½	—	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½x	5½	
Central Mining (£12) .....	6½	6½	—	Modder "B" .....	5½	5½	
Chartered .....	10½	10½	—	Do. Deep .....	4½x	5	
City Deep .....	3½	3½	—	New Modder (£4) .....	14½	15½	
Cons. Gold Fields .....	1½	1½	—	Rand Mines (5/-) .....	4½	4½	
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½x	1½x	—	Rio Tinto (£5) .....	55½	55½	
Crown Mines (10/-) .....	3½	3½	—	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½x	2½	

and on balance the price has gained a fraction. This improvement is not appreciable, measured by percentages, but it is enough to show a healthy feeling, and this is emphasised by a steady investment demand for short-dated Colonial bonds and similar securities. Foreign stocks have not been in much request, and the market is rather inclined to discourage transactions in these, whether in the way of buying or selling, so that temporary fluctuations cannot be regarded as a true criterion of the position.

Home Railways have shown more strength than for some time past, and the Heavy stocks especially have received a good deal



ment, sold, £38 10s.; medium, ditto, £35 10s., buyers; coarse, sold, £30; and coarse brown, at £28, c.f. and i. New Zealand firmly held. G.F., October-December, sellers, £33; H.P.F., ditto, quoted, £32; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Spot market firm. Fair T.N., orange, sellers, 66s. A.C. garnet, fair, free, 63s. 6d. Futures quiet, but rates tended firmer. October sold, 67s.; and December, 68s.

GAMBER in quiet request. Good marks, September-October, sellers, 34s., c.f. and i.

INDIA-RUBBER quiet, and values moved in buyers' favour. Standard plantation, crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; September delivery, at 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4d.; January-June, sellers, 2s. 3½d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 4d.; September delivery, sellers, 2s. 4d.; October-December, 2s. 4d.; January-June, 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 2s. 5d.; September-October, 2s. 5d.; November-December sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d. Soft fine, spot and near, buyers, 2s. 3½d. Ball, October-November, sold, 1s. 9½d.; November-December, 1s. 9½d. Scrappy, spot, buyers, 1s. 8½d. per lb.

COPRA steady, but generally quiet. To London: Ceylon, August-September, buyers, £24 7s. 6d.; Malabar, ditto, £25 5s.; F.M.S., Singapore, ditto, £23 15s.; South Sea Islands, £22 12s. 6d. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, August-September, buyers, £23 15s.; Cebu, £23 10s.; Manila, August-October and September-November, buyers, £23, c.f. and i.

WOOL.—The sixth series of public sales for the current year opened this week, and active competition prevailed from a large number of buyers. Good merinos ruled very firm, with best scoureds somewhat dearer, but faulty lots were 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. cheaper. The finer grades of greasy crossbreds marked an advance of 5 per cent., while lambs showed a 5 per cent. decline, and slips all round were 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. easier. South African wools, both snow white and greasy, showed no material change from last sales. Total nett first hand stock available for these sales amount to 192,500 bales, also 6,100 bales Punta Arenas and Falkland Islands and 500 bales River Plate.

TALLOW ruled firm. At public sale, 1,630 casks were brought forward, and 1,531 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 37s.; fair to good, 35s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.; dark to dull, 31s. to 34s. 9d.; hard, 36s. 6d. Beef: fine, 36s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 3d. to 35s.; dark to dull, 31s. to 32s. 9d.; sweet, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter unaltered. Town tallow, 34s. 6d.; smelted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 6½d. per 8 lb.

METALS.—Copper: The warrant market manifested an easier tendency last Monday on realisations and forward sales, standard, cash delivery, closing at £66, and three months, £67 5s. A hardening tendency characterised movements until the middle of the week, covering being frequent, and sellers exercising reserve. Cash reached £67 5s.; October dates £67 12s. 6d., and three months £68 7s. 6d. The market was rather easier on Thursday, while values of these dates settled down at £67 and £68 respectively. Tin: Dealings continued on a limited scale since last Monday, when standard, cash, settled down at £152 10s., and three months £154. A quiet, but steady, tone prevailed until Thursday, and after moderate irregularity, cash left off at £152 10s., three months £154. Lead: Foreign, September, £23 7s. 6d. Spelter: G.O.B., September, £74; and October £70. Iron opened easier, but became firmer.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Tranquillity still prevails more or less at this Exchange. The business since last Monday has been confined mainly to actual requirements, the attendance being limited, while price changes in some respect moved in a downward direction. Wheat (English): New crop whites and reds range at 43s. to 48s. per quarter (504 lbs.), as to quality. Foreign.—Canadian nominal, supplies remaining almost exhausted at present on spot. No. 1 Northern Duluth, 58s. 6d.; Plate, 53s. 6d., both landed terms. Indian, ex ship, 52s. 6d. to 53s. Flour.—American first spring patents, 43s. to 44s., and Manitoba patents, 40s. to 41s., both landed. Grinding Barley.—Plate (new), 36s., ex ship; Japanese and Karachi, 37s. 6d. and 38s. respectively, ex ship, to arrive in a fortnight. Maize.—Sound Plate, 31s. 3d., ex ship; 32s. 3d., ex quay, sellers; white flat, South African, 34s. 6d. Oats.—Bahia Blanca, 25s. 6d. to 30s., landed, according to quality. American white clipped, No. 2, about 32s. 6d., quay terms.

OILS.—Linseed quiet. Spot, pipes (landed), £25 15s.; barrels, £26 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 7s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), August-September, £29 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £26 15s. to £27; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £30; sweet (barrels), £34 to £35. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, July-August, £22 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine firm. American spirits, on spot, 34s. 6d.; Spanish, spot, 30s. 6d. Petroleum; American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet. Calcutta, spot, 55s. 6d.; afloat, 55s. 6d.; August-September, 55s. 6d.; September-October, 55s. 9d.; La Plata, August-September, 52s. 6d.; September-October, 51s. 6d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (3 per cent.), 60s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 52s. 6d. Cottonseed steady. London: Egyptian, September, £9 11s. 3d.; October, £9 6s. 3d.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—Prices for refined were unchanged, with a fair general demand. Cane auctions steady, with rather more competition than recently. Crystallised Antigua sold 25s. 6d. to 25s. 9d., Trinidad 25s. 3d. to 25s. 9d., and Jamaica 25s. to 25s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Terminal market slow, and September delivery quoted 36s. 7½d., December 37s. Public sales quiet, with offerings on a moderate scale.

SPICE.—Quiet, but prices for pepper marked no appreciable alteration.

RICE.—Market remained firm, but quiet.

JUTE.—Market firmer, with native first marks September steamer done £26.

HEMP.—Manila quiet, and rates were inclined to give way slightly. Medium new graded September-November sellers, £35 10s., and coarse, £29 15s.

SHELLAC.—Market steady. October, sold, 67s., and December, 69s.

RUBBER.—Quiet of sale. Plantation spot crepe sold 2s. 4½d., October-December value 2s. 3½d., January-June 2s. 3½d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet sold 2s. 4d.

#### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 1/10, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cuba No. 1	1 11 0	1 11 0	Australian		
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	1 10 6	Scoured Merino	3 2 6	1 5 — 9
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 2 3	1 3 — 2 1
Lyle's granulated	27 6—28 0	27 6—28 0	Greasy Merino	0 8 — 1 2	0 7 1 — 1 6 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 1 8	1 1 1 — 1 7
German Cubel.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	7 — 2	2 1 1 — 2 3
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 2 1	0 1 — 1 7
Crystallised, West India	24 6—27 0	24 0—27 0	Cape snow white	0 2 5	1 7 1 — 2 4
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p.l.b. Plantation, Spot		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 8d. lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Crepe .. ..	0 2 4 1/2	0 2 4 1/2
Indian Pekoe	0 9 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 9 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Broken .. ..	0 10 1/2 — 1 2 1/2	0 10 1/2 — 1 2 1/2	Durham, best ..	nom.	nom.
Orange .. ..	0 10 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 10 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	Seconds .. ..	nom.	nom.
Broken .. ..	0 11 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 11 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	East Hartlepool ..	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	Seconds .. ..	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	Steamers, best ..	1 0 0	18 0—19 0
Broken .. ..	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	Seconds .. ..	0 17 0	16 0—17 0
Orange .. ..	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2 — 1 0 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken .. ..	0 10 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 10 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	English Pig ..	23 15 0	24 0 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 1/2 — 10 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 10 1/2	Foreign spot, Sept.	23 2 6	23 15 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	16 15—17 0	16 15—17 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	78 0—84 0	79 0—84 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grenada .. ..	74 0—80 0	78 0—82 0	English Ingots ..	155—156	153 1/2—154 1/2
West Africa ..	nom.	nom.	Do. bars ..	156—157	154 1/2—155 1/2
Ceylon Plantation	72 0—90 0	72 0—91 0	Standard cash ..	£154 10 0	£153 5 0
Guayaquil Arriba ..	89 0—92 0	89 0—92 0	Tin Plates, per box	18 0—18 3	17 10 1/2
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 1d. per lb.			<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
East India .. ..	62 0—94 0	67 0—94 0	English, Tough, per ton ..	£84—£85	£82—£83
Jamaica .. ..	47 0—120 6	47 0—120 6	Best Selected ..	£77—£78	£76—£77
Costa Rica .. ..	55 0—82 0	55 0—82 0	Sheets .. ..	£98	£98
<b>Provisions</b> —			Standard .. ..	£67 12 6	£67 12 6
Butter, per cwt.			<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for sh'pmt. Sept.	£25 0 0	£26 0 0
Irish Creameries	152—156	157—164	<b>Oils</b> —		
Dutch ditto ..	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton ..	£25 1/2—£26 1/2	£26—£26 1/2
Russian finest ..	134—138	134—138	Rape, ref. English, casks .. ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Normandy baskets	120—146	120—146	Brown English, naked .. ..	£36—£38	£36—£38
Danish finest ..	168—170	174—176	.. ..	£34—£35	£34—£35
Brittany rolls ..	14 6—17 0	14 6—17 0	Cott'n Seed, crude	£26 1/2—£27	£26 1/2—£27
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Ditto, refined ..	£30—£35	£29 1/2—£35
Irish .. ..	96 0—105 0	98 0—105 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9 1/2 d.	9 1/2 d.
Continental ..	93 0—105 0	98 0—107 0	Water White ..	10 1/2 d.	10 1/2 d.
Canadian .. ..	80 0—95 0	86 0—95 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
American .. ..	69 0—70 0	69 0—70 0	Calcutta—per 40 lbs., Sep-Oct.	2 16 0	2 15 9
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Rape, Guzerat, Sept-Oct.	2 19 0	3 0 0
Irish .. ..	112 0—124 0	118 0—124 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Canadian .. ..	72 0—80 0	72 0—80 0	Cleveland Cash ..	3 4 10	3 4 11
American .. ..	46 0—81 0	46 0—74 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured, 3/8, 4/10 per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio, per lb. bond ..	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Edam .. ..	82 0—86 0	84 0—86 0	Virginia leaf ..	0 5 1/2 — 6	0 5 1/2 — 6
Canadian .. ..	72 0—76 0	74 0—77 0	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Gouda .. ..	74 0—78 0	78 0—84 0	Latakia .. ..	0 4 1/2 — 1	0 4 1/2 — 1
English Cheddar	78 0—94 0	78 0—94 0	Havana .. ..	1 0—6 c	1 0—6 c
Wilts leaf ..	nom.	nom.	Manila .. ..	0 6—2 c	0 6—2 c
New Zealand ..	74 0—76 0	75 0—77 0	Cigars, duty 7 1/2 lb.	2 0	8 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Mouline .. ..	nom.	nom.	Danish and Memel Fir, per load .. ..	130—150	130—150
Bassein .. ..	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak ..	280—600	280—600
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Town households, official .. ..	44	43
Dutch .. ..	15 6—18 6	17 0—21 0	American, 1st patents ..	43 1/2 upds.	42 1/2 upds.
Russian .. ..	9 6—11 0	10 0—12 0			
Danish .. ..	15 0—17 6	16 0—18 6			

LINSEED OIL.—Spot pipes (landed), £26; barrels, £26 10s. Turpentine: American spot 34s. 6d.

LINSEED.—Ruled quiet. London Calcutta spot 55s. 9d., afloat 55s. 6d.; September-October, 55s. 9d.; La Plata, September-October, 51s. 3d.

COTTONSEED.—London: Egyptian, September, £9 15s.; October, £9 8s. 9d.

METALS.—Copper: The market exhibited a firmer tone, cash and three months closing 12s. 6d. dearer compared with Thursday's final. Business, however, was confined to a very narrow compass. Standard cash sold £67 5s. to £67 10s., and three months £68 10s. to £68 15s., closing £67 12s. 6d. cash and £68 15s. three months. Some 75 tons sold. Settlement price, £67 10s. Electrocs unchanged at £82 to £83. Tough, £82 to £83. Best selected, £76 to £77. Strong sheets, £98. Tin met with quiet attention, but with no pressure on the part of sellers,



values moved in an upward direction, settling down 15s. firmer for cash and three months since previous day's close. Standard cash done £153 5s. and three months at £154 15s., closing at these figures. Some 80 tons sold. Settlement price, £153 5s. In the East 75 tons sold on the basis of £157 c.f. and i. Lead firmer. English, £24; foreign September sellers, £23 15s.; October sold, £23; and November at £22 17s. 6d. Spelter remained steady. G.O.B. officially quoted £74 to £70. Antimony nominal. Tin-plates I.C. cokes, 17s. 10½d. to 18s. 1½d., basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron steady. Cleveland cash, 64s. 11d.; one month, 65s. 4d.; and three months, 66s. 2d. Quicksilver, £16 15s. to £17.

## A Too-Clever-by-75-per-Cent. Prospectus.

Will German Kultur forgive us for saying that the prospectus of the German Imperial Loan No. 3 has afforded us much real amusement? No? But it has done so just the same, and therefore we cannot be robbed of our pleasure. In this respect the exercise is of far more use to us than Prussian "victories" have hitherto been to the all-highest Kaiser and his fast-thinning host of *Junkers*. Often and often in days past the form and substance of prospectuses have afforded refreshment to the jaded spirit—and we have scanned many thousands of them in our time—but we cannot recall one more innately comic than this German No. 3. Well may Mr. Wile call it "bombastic" in the *Daily Mail*. It is *kolossa-a-al*. Yet it is drawn up with all the ponderous exactness of an essay "On the Origin of Evil"—with a capital E—or of a sermon against England. We are principally indebted to Mr. Wile's summary for our knowledge. It shows the effort beginning with a layer of prosperity economics, partly intended for our consumption. Germany is not to be starved; of course not. Everything has been so regulated that there will be adequate supplies for a long time. And the scribes and Kultur pharisees evolve figures to prove themselves genuine worshippers of Teutonic truth; harvest about ten million tons of rye, four million tons of wheat, three million tons of barley, and four million tons of potatoes—not to mention sugar-beet, vegetables, and food plants. There is quite enough on paper to feed the 67,000,000 of imperial population from one harvest to another—all intact and hungry in spite of war losses—plus 15 hundred thousand prisoners, perhaps even still more hungry. Ay, two or three times as many prisoners could be fed without difficulty, such is the abundance visible to the prospectus builders. The only remark we have to make at this point is that the exhibit is too pork-sausage to be artistic, and, further, that the Russians do not yet seem to be disposed to let any portion of their harvest go to the Prussians except at a cost in bloodshed and money somewhat inconveniently high. But "bread rations" for the working classes are to be increased this winter, and the barley harvest should guarantee them their liquor in full measure. They can get drunk over "victories" to their utmost capacity. And sausages? Ah, does not the country still contain 20 million bullocks and more than 21 million pigs, and are not these enough? It is at least convenient to avoid mention of horses, as well as of comparisons with, say, the live stock of the United Kingdom. But what is a prospectus-compiler worth if he cannot select his points and adjust his perspective to the object in hand?

As they proceed the constructors of this revealing tale of wealth grow in sublimity. Their contempt for facts grows bolder, their powers of asseveration less fettered by probabilities. The war has had no injurious effects on the German steel and iron industry, and the production of pig-iron "is said to have doubled" since the war began. This, if true, would show a devouring speed in using up the Empire's wealth greater than even we should have supposed. Before the war Germany's exports of iron and steel in all forms had risen to a value of about £50,000,000 a year. All that has gone, or practically gone, and we can well believe that "Germany and her allies"—including the thrice admirable and most holy Turk, of course—"have been able to keep themselves fully supplied with guns and other munitions from their own

resources." It is notorious to all Teutons that such furniture is the most productive merchandise known to the super-man. Witness the wealth and comfort, the peace and sweet harmony the "munitions and carrion" harvest of 1870-71 has bestowed upon Prussia. Is there a mother to-day in all the German Empire who, remembering that happy "win," does not now bless the output of munitions and pray for its increase, for a continuance of the unique "prosperity" it has brought? Ah! you ask disagreeable questions.

But the prosperity must be real surely, for do not the ingenious minds who elaborated this prospectus go on to assure us that "the gold reserve of the Imperial Bank has risen" during the war by £1,500,000 a week to £120,000,000? Yes, the droll fellows do say that, and are economists of fact in saying it. By its last return the Imperial Bank does show fully the amount of gold as stated, but it represents an increase of less than £725,000 a week since the Kaiser started his "blood, lands and loot" onslaught on Belgium and France. And within that same time the note circulation of the bank has expanded at an average speed of £5,577,000 a week to a total of £385,000,000. Also, one thousand million pounds have been borrowed on earlier loans, and the £500,000,000 at first asked for by loan No. 3 now prospectused is probably already all spent and more. For did not the guile-eschewing Dr. Helfferich let it out that the war was costing Prussia—i.e., the all-harrowing German Empire—£100,000,000 a month. The cost is not being reduced either by the course of events in Russia, or indeed at any other point. Nevertheless, and the coming winter campaign notwithstanding, all is "about normal" in Germany to-day when a loan has to be subscribed—State railway freight receipts within 10 per cent. of normal since December last, and passenger income within 20 per cent. As for coal production, it has fallen off by a mere 30 per cent. in Rhineland but is within 2½ per cent. of "normal" in Upper Silesia, and in the "briquette" regions of Central Germany output is 33 per cent. above normal. Most ingenious all this is, is it not?—and it tells us just nothing, unless, it may be, that hell is a very good place to live in and German corpses good lining for Prussian trenches.

Take it altogether, this is not bad fustian, is it, now? And the ever-loyally-greedy-of-other-people's-gear Teuton is, as in servile duty bound, handing over his borrowings, and other Government contractors are imitating Krupps in accepting part of what is owing to them in more promises to pay which can now only be honoured should the Kaiser be able to destroy the British fleet, to beat the Russian, French, Italian, and British armies, and to then exact the yearned-for plunder from us. The security must begin to look rather slender even to ecstatic self-admirers in Teutonia; but what can the German banker, manufacturer, merchant, shipowner, peer, or farm servant do? Plank down his savings? He has done that twice over already. Then he must "re-pawn the pawned," and do it with that reckless contempt for consequences which distinguishes the gambler, so that at least the Berlin functionaries may be able to make a good show, even if there is little substance beneath. Thus the illusion may be kept up a little longer at home, and the uncultured inferior nations abroad be beguiled and induced to submit. How awfully clever those Germans are!

So unfortunate is it that the end of the tale is "money, money; for God's sake give us money—all the money you have, all the money you can borrow; all you can steal, money, money; for if you fail in this we shall fail in our murder and loot inroads." "Who must subscribe?" bawls the *Cologne Gazette* (quoted by the *Morning Post*):—"Every German! Middle-classes, land-owners, craftsmen, and workers alike! War costs money, a frightful lot of money, as everyone knows, and the State is compelled by means of loans to find the wherewithal to carry to a victorious conclusion the conflict that has been forced upon it. The first War Loan in September, 1914, produced over four milliards of marks, despite the fact that at this



early stage of the war the entire economic system of the country was turned upside-down. The second loan of last March brought in more than nine milliards of marks. These were astonishing figures which excited the wonder of the whole world. Does anyone abroad believe after this that Germany is poor, as she was 50 years ago? . . . Let no one think his 100 or 200 marks is of no use. *Viel Wenig gibt auch ein Viell!* ("mony a little maks a muckle"). The War Loan is a People's Loan, and everyone ought to think it an honour to subscribe to it, and so contribute to the success of our arms. . . . The Fatherland needs money, and he who can lend it but does not do so is unworthy of the name of German, and unworthy of the thousands of our soldiers who have given their life for him." Well, the demoniacs are hard-pressed. How much is the Kaiser himself subscribing? He must have had to order a great quantity of new clothes lately, and his "iron crosses," though doubtless supplied wholesale at contract prices, must run into money.

### Our Foreign Trade in August.

There is exceptional interest in comparing last month's trade with that of August, 1914, because the latter was the first month of the war, and the progress or otherwise that has been made meantime naturally invites some study, although we deprecate any attempt to draw broad conclusions from the figures of a single month. In the first place, it may be well to remember that when the "bolt from the blue" fell just over a year ago, its immediate effect was far more marked on exports than imports. The former could be (and largely were) stopped at our ports, whereas imports had been quietly making their way thitherward from the uttermost ends of the earth before any trouble was thought of, and with quite insignificant exceptions they reached us safely. It is decidedly encouraging, therefore, to find that exports last month were 34 per cent. higher than in August, 1914, notwithstanding all the exhibitions of German frightfulness and the blockade threats of that curious animal called Von Tirpitz, who must surely have been bred on "Dr. Moreau's Island." Imports increased by 64 per cent., but we are not going to enthuse about that, because a great deal of the increase is due to higher prices caused by our urgent necessities, and these heavy purchases of foreign goods must cause us serious embarrassment so long as we are not in a position to square the bill by supplying the equivalent in commodities or services, and it must not be overlooked that none of the Government's huge transactions, both out and in, appear in the returns. Perhaps one of the most encouraging items in the figures is the increase of nearly 60 per cent. in re-exports, which shows that our very valuable *entrepot* trade is returning to normal, and cannot easily be captured, in spite of the disadvantages under which we are at present working.

Coming to details, we find that foodstuffs account for a large proportion of the increase in imports, the total under this heading being £11,369,000 up. Higher prices are, of course, largely responsible. We received 56 per cent. more bacon, but it cost nearly 60 per cent. more, and in spite of the sad experience of the average consumer, that is the easiest of our burdens. Beef cost 90 per cent. more, although only 31½ per cent. more was received, and butter cost practically the same for 12½ per cent. less. Refined sugar imports increased 164 per cent. in quantity and no less than 255 per cent. in value, while raw sugar advanced 454 per cent. in quantity and 635 per cent. in value. Grain prices are higher, but not so seriously as might have been expected. Raw materials increased £6,224,000 in the month, and we find cotton up 7½ per cent. in quantity and less than 4½ per cent. in value, which will help Lancashire when conditions become more normal. Wood has jumped up 105 per cent. in value but only 30 per cent. in quantity, while wool has come decidedly cheaper. Under existing conditions it is rather difficult to understand an increase of £1,115,000 in silk imports and of £695,000 in motors, but perhaps the

latter mainly applies to commercial vehicles, for which there is a great demand both for trade and military purposes. Metals generally show a substantial increase.

As regards exports, we do not seem to be getting quite the equivalent of the increased cost of raw materials, &c. Coal has certainly risen 63 per cent. in value and only 20 per cent. in quantity, and there has been a slight improvement in iron and steel, but we have sent out 69 per cent. more cotton yarns at an increase of only 31 per cent. in value, and while piece-

#### IMPORTS.

	August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 55,975,704	£ 42,342,707	£ 69,496,695	+ 27,153,988
Gold .....	7 596,670	12,142,583	301,949	- 11,840,824
Silver .....	914,692	648,008	566,121	- 61,867
Total .. ..	64,487,066	55,133,298	70,384,765	+ 15,251,467

#### EXPORTS.

	August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 44,110,729	£ 24,211,271	£ 32,438,855	+ 8,227,584
For. and Col. M'dse..	8,150,499	4,419,833	7,323,749	+ 2,903,916
Gold .. ..	3,790,247	4,190,891	589,827	- 3,601,064
Silver .. ..	987,792	458,320	687,475	+ 229,155
Total .. ..	57,039,267	33,280,315	41,039,906	+ 7,759,591

#### IMPORTS.

	Eight Months ended August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 496,448,413	£ 477,558,545	£ 573,737,043	+ 96,178,498
Gold .. ..	39,649,946	47,631,335	6,934,244	- 40,697,091
Silver .. ..	10,130,083	7,709,287	6,479,285	- 1,230,002
Total .. ..	546,428,442	532,899,167	587,150,572	+ 54,251,405

#### EXPORTS.

	August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 348,330,745	£ 324,074,262	£ 250,783,254	- 73,291,008
For. and Col. M'dse..	75,517,419	71,522,165	68,055,559	- 3,466,606
Gold .. ..	24,283,461	29,325,256	6,679,991	- 22,645,265
Silver .. ..	9,069,537	8,839,858	5,426,759	- 3,413,099
Total .. ..	457,201,162	433,761,541	330,945,563	- 102,815,978

#### VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
Imports.. ..	£ 64,487,066	£ 55,133,298	£ 70,384,765	+ 15,251,467
Exports.. ..	57,039,267	33,280,315	41,039,906	+ 7,759,591
Excess value of im- ports over exports	7,447,799	21,852,983	29,344,859	+ 7,491,876

	Eight Months ended August.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
Imports.. ..	£ 546,428,442	£ 532,899,167	£ 587,150,572	+ 54,251,405
Exports.. ..	457,201,162	433,761,541	330,945,563	- 102,815,978
Excess value of im- ports over exports	89,227,280	99,137,626	256,205,009	+ 157,067,383

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

goods have advanced 34 per cent. in quantity, they are only 28½ per cent. higher in value. On the other hand, prices for jute, linen yarns and worsteds are all substantially higher, and on the whole our trade is doubtless being conducted on quite profitable lines. The apparent balance on the whole of our foreign commerce is very formidable for the past eight months, but the tendency certainly seems to be improving, and for August the deficiency is not seriously above the normal. It is only a temporary gap, but it will have to be filled without too much delay if we are to avoid serious, or at least irritating, embarrassment.

### Insurance News.

An interesting report has been issued by the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (of Australia) for the year ended December 31. Altogether 31,267 policies were issued assuring £2,512,931; the total revenue increased to over £735,000, and the total funds amounted is over £3,925,000, while the rate of interest earned was further increased to £4.12 per cent. per annum. In the ordinary department 7,604 policies were completed, assuring £1,646,564 (and £1,659 per



annum for annuities), the annual income arising there from being £66,965. Expenses declined by £33,000, death claims were only 78 per cent. of the expectation, and in the ordinary department the excellent profit of £85,404 was made during the year. In the industrial branch 22,898 policies were issued for £565,693. After the establishment of this department, in 1909, the ordinary life department advanced various moneys at 5 per cent. for development purposes, and the maximum amount so lent was £49,178 at the end of December, 1911. Last year the outstanding balance of £20,348 was repaid, and in addition £11,539 was handed over to the ordinary department for investment. The actuarial valuation at December 31 showed a surplus in the ordinary department of £147,756, against £81,093 in 1913, and all participating policies will again receive a reversionary bonus of 1 per cent.; £43,699 is carried forward for future distribution on policies having deferred participation, and £38,080 is carried forward unappropriated. It is an uncommon practice to distribute profits in connection with accident and sickness assurance business among the policy-holders, but this society is paying a bonus of 2 per cent. on all policies in the accident department.

### American Business Notes.

In proportion as the difficulties of President Wilson seem to increase, our language in dealing with the political tension between Berlin, Vienna, and Washington should become more guarded and passionless. It is as much as ever the purpose of Dr. Wilson to avoid war, and it is no part of our business to hound him on to fight. But the latest submarine outrage seems to make the maintenance of peace almost impossible. The torpedoing of the *Hesperian*, apparently in mockery of all promises, looks without shadow of excuse in relation to Germany's smooth words, because the Berlin alleged order to modulate the ruffianism of the piracy to the extent of warning passenger steamers was issued, so we were officially informed, before the *Arabic* was sunk. Consequently, it is hardly possible to maintain that the commander of the boat which sunk the *Hesperian* was also acting in ignorance. The Teuton mind is no doubt perfectly indifferent upon the point. Accustomed at home to find their lies accepted as truth, the Prussian officials know no reason why they should not prove equally efficient abroad. And, besides, it is a fixed idea in Germany that the President of the United States is a "peace fanatic," who can safely be made game of every time. We therefore look for the stock explanations and excuses to be put forth once more—with the tongue in the cheek—and likewise for a continuance of the revolting crimes as long as a German submarine remains unsunk, or as crews of adequate moral degradation can be forced to man one.

But the perplexities of President Wilson are not lessened by the assumption that we here get the key to Prussian callousness. They are increased. What can he do with such a Government and with such a degraded people? Did he declare war on them their vanity, as far as we can judge, would merely be increased, and with it their mockery of every pretence to morality or humane sentiment. War with the United States would merely be to the Prussian a new licence and opportunity to enlarge the boundaries of crime. And the bumptious Junker, intent upon conquering the world, doubtless believes it next to impossible for the great American public to do him much harm by buckling on its armour, and calculates rather on harm coming to the Allies through the stoppage of ammunition supplies. How strenuous the Kaiser's officials are to block the way the presumptuous contempt of decency shown by the Austrian Ambassador reveals. His organised endeavour to stir up and subsidise strikes in American factories in the hope of reducing supplies to the Allies could only have come from a man who had thrown all self-respect behind him, and

from a Government in desperation. "Dr. Dumba ought to be given his passports," we see the American Press almost unanimous in demanding. And small wonder. Such insolence of the official representative of one Power to the Government of another is paralleled only in Austria's attitude towards Serbia, the despised, but unconquered.

But just because he has to do with men and Ministers divested of every rag of decency, of any sentiment of the honour that should guide the conduct of gentlemen, we hope Dr. Wilson will not yield to the clamour. His first step shows that he and his Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, are keeping their heads. The papers seized on the American correspondent, Mr. Archibald, are to be brought under the notice of the Austrian Government in Vienna, and explanations asked for. Should these prove unsatisfactory, it might then become expedient to request that the fascinating Dumba should be recalled by his own Government. Alike in regard to both delinquent empires, one fact has to be remembered; if the Allies are joined by the United States our citizens will be deprived of the one remaining first-rank Power whose representatives are able to protect them in a measure against German inhumanity. Where would our prisoners of war have been, or our civilian citizens barbarously detained in the enemy's country, but for the never wearying assistance given to them by United States Ministers and consuls within the Teutonic empires? How would the stricken population left in Belgium have fared had not the same friendly hands been stretched out to succour? We cannot yet afford to dispense with this powerful friendly shield any more than we can afford to dispense with American supplies of ammunition.

Are the "Huns," then, to be let off unpunished? By no means; but the punishment will be moral, not that of the roused brute in man. They are so insane still, these Germans, so penetrated with a madman's conception of their virtue, power, and "mission" in the world, that it is useless to warn them about their probable reception when the war is over. Yet that is certain to bring home, even to their conceit-besodden minds, that they have made themselves pariahs among nations civilised. And none will probably be made to feel the change, the shrinking and aversion, more acutely than those who, being American citizens by adoption and allegiance, yet have played the part of traitors to their fellow citizens. From all that is best and noblest within the great Republic of North America, the German peoples stand to be excluded henceforth. Who will trust them? "But all are not guilty." No, indeed, no; and therein lies the tragedy of it. It may even be that a majority of the Germans in America—whether born there or immigrant—are out of sympathy to-day with the unscrupulous machinations of the Bernstorffs, the Dumbas and their instruments, as they certainly are revolted by the submarine atrocities. But they will be made to suffer for the misdeeds of their Prussian degraded co-racials all the same. President Wilson need not hurry himself to make war on the two empires now pressing swiftly on to their ruin. They are busy degrading themselves and compassing their own destruction.

But the tide of American resentment is rising, and the President must not "cunctate" too long. He must see that it is becoming intolerable to all lovers of their country within the borders of the Republic to see its Government treated with contempt. Greater insolence could not have been shown if the representatives of the two abandoned empires had been dealing with Hayti, or some obscure tribe in Africa. "We can do as we like in the States," the two Ambassadors appear to have said to each other; "the dollar will make all safe." Is it going to prove so? Can Dr. Wilson afford to keep silence in presence of the swiftly intensifying sense of anger and deepening feeling of shame his apparent supineness is now exciting to cyclone fury? We hope not—for the Republic's sake and his own.

[As we go to press we hear that Dr. Wilson has spoken, and to the purpose. "Dumba must go."]



## What Balance Sheets Tell.

## BANK OF VICTORIA, LTD.

Owing to the drought and the dislocation of general business, this bank evidently had difficulty in finding remunerative employment for its funds in the six months ended June 30, and its gross profits were £12,323 down at £106,922, while expenses were only reduced by £403 to £54,276. In the December half-year, however, the directors decided to cut down the dividend from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent. per annum, and to omit the usual appropriations to reserve and provident fund, in order to augment the balance carried forward. Thanks to this policy, the amount now available is £11,113 larger at £93,794, and although the reserve again gets nothing, compared with £20,000 a year ago, the dividend on the ordinary shares is restored to a 6 per cent. basis, and £31,113 more at £49,454 is carried forward. No great change in the resources of the bank is indicated by the balance-sheet. Government deposits not bearing interest have risen by £65,295 to £97,573, and those bearing interest are £41,328 smaller at £558,647, while other deposits are respectively £74,801 and £55,680 lower at £2,374,383 and £3,710,421. Bills in circulation are £142,520 down at £392,189. The cross-entry for customers' liabilities has been reduced by £204,254 to £195,967. Coin, bullion remittances in transit, and other cash assets amount to £2,360,747 or £294,201 less, but there is a small increase of £71,664 to £6,502,821 in bills discounted and advances.

## COPE BROS. AND CO., LTD.

The big demand for tobacco for our troops has proved a boon to this company, which did very much better in the 12 months ended June 30 than at any time in the previous 10 years. Its nett profits improved by no less than £15,595 to £25,691, and after providing for directors' fees, &c., the available balance, including £646 less at £1,430 brought forward, was £14,949 higher at £23,880. Advantage is taken of this to double the dividend, making it 4 per cent., and the surplus carried forward is increased by £7,449 to £8,880. It seems, however, a pity that the directors have taken this course, as the company's reserve of £4,072 is trifling compared with the value of £44,968 put upon goodwill, while nothing has been provided for depreciation of the buildings and land, which stand in the books at £84,847, and plant, trade marks, copyright, &c., have only been reduced by £1,460 to £67,069. Stocks have risen by £24,562 to £173,934, debtors owe £6,555 more at £85,287, and cash is £1,919 up at £18,354, while, on the other hand, current liabilities are £16,626 higher at £27,857.

## SAN PAULO COFFEE ESTATES CO., LTD.

During the year ended December 31 this company harvested 50,749 cwts. of coffee, or an increase of 8,872 cwts., and in spite of a further decline of 10s. 3d. to 30s. in the nett price, the profits were £5,252 better at £29,718. Unfortunately, exchange was adverse, the average of 14 1-5d. being 2d. below that of 1913, and the lowest touched since 1904, and £1,682 had to be written off for loss under this head. Income-tax also took £2,280 more, and after providing for administration charges, interest, &c., the nett surplus was only £931 better at £21,309. The balance brought in was £2,902 smaller at £3,765, giving £10,194, or £1,971 less, to be dealt with, which the directors prefer to carry forward, and do not pay even the 7 per cent. dividend on the preferred. Property account is £10,100 down as the result of the redemption of £9,200 first mortgage debentures and £900 Santa Ernestina debentures. Stocks of coffee are valued at £89,118, or £51,551 more, but cash is £10,554 down at £10,880, while sundry creditors and bills payable have risen by £33,876 to £87,233.

## SENA SUGAR FACTORY, LTD.

In spite of a small reduction in the output of sugar per acre, the total crop for 1914 was slightly higher at 28,908 tons, while the average price advanced from the previous lowest rates on record to 30s. above the average figure obtained since the company started. Not only was the company's own business very much better, but its partnership agreement with Hornung and Co. resulted in a profit of £20,929, as against a loss of £7,759 in the previous year, and altogether the nett profits showed a gain of £60,629 at £76,870. Of this, £10,000 is set aside to form a partnership capital reserve, £9,580, or £8,080 more, is used to extinguish preference share issue and other expenses, and the appropriation to general reserve is increased by £8,827 to £12,500. The ordinary shares then come into the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 7 per cent., and £2,591 is carried forward. Property and business account has been reduced by £20,381 to £323,167, and cost of terminable concessions in East Africa by £2,658 to £31,337, but investments are £50,000 up at £72,250, owing to a purchase of 50,000 preference shares in Hornung and Co., Ltd., while advances to that undertaking show a reduction of £58,483 at £209,126. Stocks of sugar are £73,018 up at £200,449, against which advances have risen by £30,687 to £284,755, and £13,846 more at £65,086 is due to creditors and on bills payable. Debtors owe a trifle less at £25,220, and cash is £3,058 higher at £17,395.

The head offices of the Law Guarantee and Accident Co. have been removed to 20, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

The National Trust Co., Ltd., of Toronto, Canada, has been appointed executors to the estate of over \$4,000,000 of the late Edward Chandler Walker, of the firm of Hiram Walker and Sons, Ltd., of Walkerville, Ontario.

## The Week in Mines.

In spite of a certain amount of profit-taking the Modderfontein and Eastern Rand group have again been prominently firm in the Mining markets this week. Business generally has been on a small scale, but scarcity of stock has helped to keep prices firm. Russian shares have been rather dull owing to the continuance of the German offensive in the East, while copper shares have reacted to some extent owing to the quieter condition of the metal market. Broken Hill shares were favourably affected by the decision given in the suit brought by the Zinc Corporation against the German contractors.

## SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market New Modderfonteins were bought, and advanced to 15 buyers. Modder "B's" were bid for up to 5½, but Modder Deeps after rising above 5 reacted to 4½. Gedulds have been firm at 32s. 6d., and Springs have been firm at 26s., the option certificates changing hands around 7s. Consolidated Main Reefs have been bid for at 20s. on good development results, and Rand Mines have recovered to 41½ and Crown Mines to 4. Diamond descriptions have been supported again without, however, affecting prices much. In the Rhodesian section, Chartereds have been firmer at 10s. and Shamvas were bought on the dividend announcement. Tanganyikas, however, have been dull at 1½ on the returns of the Union Minière. West African shares have been quietly steady.

## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have moved rather irregularly. Anacondas have weakened to 7½, but Rio Tintos have remained firm at 55½. Mount Lyells at 21s. 6d., Mount Morgans at 2½, and Hampdens at 27s. have been in demand at a slightly higher level. The Russian descriptions, however, have been dull; Kyshtims relapsed to 1 25-32, Tanalyks to 1½, and Russo-Asiatics to 4. Among West Australian shares Bullfinches have shown a rising tendency, with the price at 6s. 3d. on good development news. Great Boulders have been in some request, and Kalgurlys were unaffected by the reduction in the dividend. Tin shares have been bought on the firmness of the market for the commodity. Siamese Dredgings have changed hands at 55s. 7½d., Tronohs at 30s. 7½d., and Dolcoaths at 6s. 6d. The Indian group has been quiet, but Mysore preference shares have been steadily bought for some time, and are now over 17s. bid.

Broken Hill shares benefited from Mr. Justice Bray's decision in favour of the Zinc Corporation in the suit brought by the latter against the German smelting firm for the annulment of the contracts for the sale of zinc concentrates. Zinc Corporation ordinary rose 9d. to 11s. 6d., and Proprietaries advanced 2s. to 44s., and North Broken Hills to 1½.

## MINING NEWS.

WILLOUGHBY'S CONSOLIDATED.—The accounts for 1914 show a profit of £9,848, as compared with £15,725 in 1913, and £8,692 in 1912. With the sum brought in, the available total is £31,293. It is proposed to transfer £8,501 to reserve and to carry forward £22,792; last year £20,000 was added to reserve, and property and outlay account reduced by writing off £5,000. To meet the heavy depreciation in investments £75,000 is written off from the reserve account. Revenue from occupied land increased from £15,259 to £16,154, that from cattle rose from £8,443 to £8,710, but that from town properties declined from £7,291 to £7,112.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—At the meeting of this company at Melbourne the chairman explained that expenditure amounting to £300,000 was contemplated on the steel works, whose capacity would then be increased from 125,000 tons to 170,000 tons. At present excellent results had been obtained; 36,214 tons of pig-iron have been produced, from which 17,134 tons of billets and 11,574 tons of rails have been made, while amongst the contracts booked were one for the delivery of 47,000 tons of steel rails for the Federal Government and one for 54,000 tons for the New South Wales Government. The contract for the sale of the Port Pirie Works had been approved by the debenture-holders' trustees, who had consented to the proceeds being



utilised in providing for the necessary additions to the plant. The company should play an important part in providing the raw material for the manufacture of armaments upon which New South Wales and the Commonwealth generally was now embarked.

**KALGURLI.**—After having returned its capital in dividends many times over, this mine is now approaching the exhaustion stage. For the past four financial years 80 per cent. has been paid, but the distribution for the current year will be at the rate of 50 per cent. The decline and fall of Western Australian mining is emphasised in the official Government report for 1914. The tonnage decreased by 85,265 tons to 2,702,096 tons, and the yield by 2s. per ton to 37s., the total being £5,237,353. From the East Coolgardie goldfield, which yields over 50 per cent. of the State's yield of gold, the yield declined by 1s. to 34s. per ton, while costs increased by 1s. to 20s. 6d. per ton, so that the amount paid in dividends declined from £910,320 to £797,392.

## MINING OUTPUTS FOR AUGUST.

**Abbotiakoona.**—10,112 tons for £18,366 (including £5,607 from tube mills); costs, £14,982.

**Abosso.**—Crushed 9,276 tons, producing £16,400 (including £2,000 recovered from slimes brought forward from previous month); profit for July, £2,614.

**Ashanti.**—11,540 tons yielded £37,792; cyanide, £1,162 (July return, £38,452; profit, £14,470).

**Associated Northern Blocks.**—Iron Duke: Gross surplus, £236. Victorious Leases: 2,107 tons sulphide ore, and 1,620 tons of oxidised ore yielded £5,248. Surplus from Victorious, £1,342.

**Aurora West.**—15,230 tons for £17,893; profit, £4,074 (July profit, £4,123).

**Balaghat.**—3,000 tons, 1,174 ozs.; 8,021 tons tailings, 271 ozs.; total equal to £1,304 ozs. fine gold.

**Bantjes Consolidated.**—21,300 tons, £23,298; profit, £2,701 (July, £1,304).

**Bisichi Tin.**—Production, 23 tons; shipments, 4½ tons.

**Brakpan.**—64,200 tons; value, £88,417; profit, £32,812, an increase of £631 in comparison with the July figure, was also the highest recorded since Feb., 1913.

**Broomassie.**—4,349 tons, £4,344; costs, £4,149.

**Bullfinch Proprietary.**—6,640 tons, 2,890 ozs.; value, £8,356; profits, £3,316 (July, £3,331).

**Burma Ruby.**—95,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued at Rs. 43,000; royalties, Rs. 5,000.

**Cam and Motor.**—Treated 12,849 tons; gold recovered current ore, £20,565; accumulated slimes, £328; total, £20,893; profit, £4,401 (July, £4,653).

**Cape Copper.**—O'okiep, 1,017 nett tons of 9.0 per cent. dry assay = 92 tons fine copper; Nababep, 6,049 net tons of 2.81 per cent. dry assay = 170 tons fine copper; total, 262 tons fine copper.

**Champion Reef.**—17,575 tons, 10,048 ozs.; sand and slimes, 1,915 ozs.; total equal to 10,961 ozs. of fine gold.

**City Deep.**—62,400 tons, £121,818; profit, £62,227 (July, £62,196).

**Consolidated Langlaagte.**—54,000 tons, £70,960 (25s. 11½d. per ton); profit, £31,531 (July, £31,677).

**Consolidated Main Reef.**—28,180 tons, £39,532; profit, £12,016 (July, £12,322).

**Cinnamon Bippo.**—3,582 tons, 1,858 ozs.; profit, £2,654.

**Crown.**—207,000 tons, £266,276; profit, £97,118 (July, £101,531).

**Durban Roodepoort.**—27,520 tons, £37,165; profit, £6,212 (July, £5,829).

**East Rand Proprietary.**—175,000 tons, 53,555 ozs., including 617 ozs. from accumulated slimes; value, £22,616; profit rose from £55,548 in July to £56,049 in August, including in both cases the profit from accumulated slimes of £1,858 and £1,806 respectively.

**Ferreira Deep.**—56,850 tons, £94,181; profit, £42,482 (July, £31,490).

**Geduld Proprietary.**—26,200 tons, £39,304; profit, £12,768 (July, £12,645).

**Geldenhuis Deep.**—54,200 tons, £70,785; profit, £11,576 (July, £10,353).

**Giant of Rhodesia.**—5,800 tons, £3,591; profit, £528 (July, £375).

**Ginsberg.**—15,785 tons, yielding £17,693 (22s. 5d. per ton); profit, £4,193 (July, £4,070).

**Glencairn.**—21,780 tons, £14,058 (12s. 11d. per ton); profit, £2,135 (July, £2,387).

**Globe and Phoenix.**—6,245 tons, 7,569 ozs.; profit, £18,000 (July, £17,576); 698 ozs. carried to reserve.

**Glynn's Lydenburg.**—4,095 tons; value, £7,267; profit, £2,985.

**Golden Horse Shoe.**—20,052 tons, yielding £38,415; profit, £12,382 (July, £12,691).

**Government Areas (Modderfontein).**—48,000 tons, £65,407 (27s. 3d. per ton); profit, £17,880 (July, £17,567).

**Great Boulder Perseverance.**—23,491 tons; value, £20,790.

**Great Boulder Proprietary.**—17,213 tons for £51,663.

**Great Fingall.**—4,260 tons for £6,909.

**Ivanhoe.**—20,114 tons, 2,103 ozs. fine gold; sands, 1,114 ozs.; slimes, 2,635 ozs.; concentrates, 1,763 ozs.; value, £32,325; profit, £9,005.

**Knight Central.**—25,600 tons, £28,725; profit, £3,348 (July, £2,596).

**Knight's Deep.**—108,400 tons, value £77,237; profit, £12,787 (July, £14,081).

**Lake View and Star.**—18,800 tons yielded £21,233; profit, £2,898 (July, £2,839).

**Langlaagte Estate.**—53,480 tons, 7,375 ozs.; cyanide, 7,002 ozs.; profit, £13,281.

**Lonely Reef.**—5,000 tons, £11,492; profit, £3,892 (July, 5,174).

**Luipaard's Vlei.**—21,535 tons; profit, £5,935 (July, £3,042).

**Main Reef West.**—25,290 tons, £27,919; profit, £3,697 (July, £4,334).

**May Consolidated.**—14,500 tons, £11,005; profit, £1,029 (July, £1,042).

**Meyer and Charlton.**—15,000 tons, £33,979; profit, £20,489 (July, £20,037).

**Modderfontein B.**—43,500 tons, £95,989; profit, £62,889 (July, £50,940). The working costs for the month were lower, but the yield was higher than called for by the ore reserves.

**Modderfontein Deep.**—34,000 tons, £62,191; profit, £34,664 (July, £34,874).

**Mount Elliott.**—Smelter treated 3,055 tons ore and 400 tons matte (part of the ore and matte staked at the mine), producing 471 tons blister copper, containing 668 ozs. gold and 954 ozs. silver. The month's production was curtailed owing to a shortage of coke.

**Mount Lyell.**—27,198 tons ore treated, being 17,011 tons from the Mount Lyell and 10,187 tons from North Mount Lyell. Converters have produced 609 tons blister copper, containing:—Copper, 602 tons; silver, 28,824 ozs.; and gold, 722 ozs.

**Mysore.**—25,850 tons, 14,729 ozs.; 19,386 tons sands, 2,099 ozs.; 14,753 tons slimes, 2,147 ozs.; total equivalent to 17,373 ozs. fine gold.

**New Goch.**—30,200 tons, £29,404; profit, £8,440 (July profit, £8,061).

**New Heriot.**—13,200 tons, 5,512 ozs.; value, £23,068; profit, £8,760.

**New Kleinfontein.**—55,000 tons; value, £69,774; cos's per ton, 17s.; profit, £23,027 (July, £24,223).

**New Modderfontein.**—52,500 tons, £101,225; profit, £56,234 (July, £59,362).

**New Primrose.**—23,400 tons, £19,548 (16s. 8½d. per ton); profit, £6,165 (July, £5,631).

**New Unified.**—13,900 tons, £14,082 (20s. 3d. per ton); profit, £5,150 (July, £5,208).

**Nigel Gold.**—11,800 tons, £15,211; profit, £55. Low grade ore and also short running time owing to necessary repairs to plant.

**North Anantapur.**—2,400 tons, 976 ozs. fine gold; 2,700 tons tailings, 139 ozs.; total, 1,115 ozs.

**Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin.**—August output, 45 tons; dispatched, 48 tons.

**Nourse.**—58,100 tons, £68,980; profit, £11,437 (July, £12,627).

**Nundydroog.**—8,000 tons, 5,755 ozs.; 7,580 tons tailings and 9,183 tons slimes, 1,496 ozs.; total, 7,251 ozs. bar gold, equal to 6,481 ozs. fine gold.

**Ooregum.**—12,820 tons, 6,500 ozs.; 13,690 tons tailings and slimes, 1,437 ozs.; total equal to 7,200 ozs. fine gold.

**Pahang Consolidated.**—14,000 tons yielded 200 tons black tin, estimated 11 tons alluvial.

**Princess Estate.**—22,500 tons, £28,681; profit, £616 (July, £118).

**Randfontein Central.**—204,739 tons, 29,224 ozs.; cyanide, 205,866 tons, 29,502 ozs.; total, 58,726 ozs.; profit, £61,305.

**Robinson Deep.**—53,000 tons; value, £75,941; profit, £26,001 (July, £25,034).

**Robinson.**—55,500 tons, £80,884; profit, £41,610 (July, £41,070).

**Roodepoort United.**—33,800 tons, £30,224; profit, £943 (July profit, £81).

**Rose Deep.**—69,700 tons, £85,778; profit, £28,402 (July, £23,482).

**St. John del Rey.**—Gold produce, £39,500; yield per ton, 47s. 9d. Recovered from rusted sand during six months, £1,500.

**Simmer Deep.**—59,700 tons; value, £50,680; profit, £4,543 (July, £5,000); reserve, 1,209 ozs.

**Simmer and Jack.**—70,200 tons; value, £75,701; profit, £30,132 (July, £32,565).

**Sons of Gwalia.**—13,762 tons for £20,639.

**South Kalgurli.**—10,129 tons, 2,976 ozs.; value, £12,617; surplus, £2,574 (July, £2,171).

**Sub Nigel.**—6,930 tons; value, £13,309; profit, £2,501; reserve, 340 ozs.

**Tanganyika Concessions.**—The copper produced by the Union Minière du Haut Katanga for six months ended June 30 was 6,932 tons, for July 1,472, and August 1,368 tons.

**Taquah.**—5,867 tons for £17,559; profit for July, £5,953.

**Transvaal Gold Estates.**—13,250 tons; value, £30,155; profit, £15,099.

**Tronoh Mines.**—164 tons tin ore; value, £14,850. Dredge produced 25 tons tin ore which are included in the above.

**Van Ryn.**—38,900 tons, £46,009; profit, £19,442 (July profit, £16,244).

**Van Ryn Deep.**—42,250 tons, £79,148 (37s. 5½d. per ton); profit, £43,630 (July, £44,507).

**Village Deep.**—53,200 tons, £78,062; profit, £26,598 (July, £29,184).

**Village Main Reef.**—32,500 tons; value, £54,480; profit, £26,009 (July, £24,097).

**Vogelstruis Estates.**—14,563 tons, 1,642 ozs.; cyanide, 9,577 tons, 909 ozs.; current slimes, 5,085 tons, 298 ozs.; total, 2,849 ozs.

**West Rand Consolidated.**—30,500 tons, £38,955; profit, £10,473 (July, £9,700).

**Witwatersrand Deep.**—42,700 tons; value, £51,855; profit, £16,068 (July, £18,352).

**Witwatersrand.**—42,850 tons, £52,984 (24s. 9d. per ton); profit, £24,819 (July, £24,822).

**Wolfram Mining and Smelting.**—Output of wolfram, 27 tons.

**Woluter.**—35,900 tons, value, £43,355; profit, £14,021 (July, £13,068).



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## NOBEL-DYNAMITE TRUST.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to confirm resolutions passed on the 25th ultimo for winding up the company voluntarily and approving draft agreements for the sale of the German interests of the company. Sir Ralph W. Anstruther, Bart. (the chairman), presided.

Mr. F. A. Brayley Hodgkiss, one of the joint secretaries, read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: At the extraordinary general meeting held on Wednesday, August 25 last, the resolutions which you are now asked to confirm were duly passed. The fourth resolution has been amended in the form in which it is presented to you to-day, namely: "That there be paid to the directors of the company by way of additional remuneration for their services as directors the sum of £10,000, the same to be divided among them as they may agree, or in default of agreement equally."

Mr. Gavin W. Ralston raised the question of the proposal made for the adjournment of the previous meeting, and contended that under the articles the decision on the point ought to have been left to the shareholders instead of its being ruled out of order from the chair.

The Chairman said that he was legally advised that his ruling was correct. In any case it did not affect the proceedings of the present meeting, which was called pursuant to notice to confirm or otherwise the resolutions.

Mr. Ralston remarked that it affected it to the extent that the present meeting could not have been held if the resolution for adjournment of the last meeting had been carried.

The Chairman said they could not now argue the point, and he proceeded to move the confirmation of resolutions 1, 2, and 3 for the liquidation of the company voluntarily, with Mr. Harold J. Mitchell and Mr. Matthew B. Dickie as liquidators, and the approval of the draft agreements.

Sir Richard D. Awdry, K.C.B., seconded the motion.

Mr. Ralston said that he felt it his duty, in justice to the directors, to go to the offices after the previous meeting and examine the agreements, and, after going through them, he was bound to say that he could not understand why they should have been kept secret from the shareholders. He must say that, after reading them, he considered they were the best possible agreements that could have been made. He repeated the objections which he made at the last meeting to Mr. Kraftmeier continuing to act as a director, as he did not think they should have German directors, naturalised or not, managing their affairs at the present time.

Mr. Kraftmeier protested against certain of Mr. Ralston's remarks, on the ground that they reflected on his honour.

The motion confirming the three resolutions was carried unanimously.

Mr. R. Storry Deans said he had to propose for confirmation the fourth resolution, under which the directors should be paid the sum of £10,000, to be divided among them as they thought fit, or in default of agreement equally. He was sure that everybody would agree that that sum was a most moderate one, and that the directors might very well have expected a much more ample compensation for loss of office. There was one point to which he wished to make reference. It had gone forward to the Press that the agreements for the sale of the company had been kept secret, but, if his recollection of the notice of the former meeting was right, it contained the usual statement. It was not the practice to publish the whole of such agreements, and chairmen did not read the whole of such agreements at meetings; no one would understand them if they did; but it was stated that the agreements could be inspected by any shareholder who chose to do so, at the offices of the company, for 14 days before the last meeting was held. He felt bound to say that in justice to the directors and officers of the company.

Mr. William A. Elston seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, and the proceedings then terminated.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alabama and Vicksburg Railway.—For year to June 30 last of 5 per cent. on the common, against 7 per cent. for preceding year.

Alliance Trust.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 on the ordinary at the rate of 19 per cent. per annum, subject to tax, same as a year ago.

Bank of Australasia.—14 per cent. per annum and bonus of 12s. per share, together £3 8s. per share, equal to 17 per cent., placing £40,000 to reserve, with £113,353 forward, payable free tax, Oct. 8, same as a year ago, with £94,066 forward.

British Insulated and Helsby Cables.—Interim of 5 per cent. actual on the ordinary on account of current year.

British Tobacco (Australia).—Interim of 3 per cent. on the issued ordinary, payable 30th inst.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable 15th inst., against 12 per cent. a year ago.

Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent. on the ordinary on account 1915, payable 30th inst., less tax, against 7½ per cent. a year ago.

Edinburgh Collieries.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended June 30 last of 2s. 6d. per share, free tax, payable Oct. 15, same as a year ago.

General Ceylon Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent. on account of 1915, payable 30th inst., less tax, against 7½ per cent. a year ago.

Kalgurli Gold Mines.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 6, against 4s. a year ago.

Kamunting Tin Dredging.—Second interim of 1s. per share, free tax, payable 18th inst., in respect of financial year ending June 30, 1916.

Kern River Oilfields of California.—For 12 months ended May 3 last at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 5 per cent. for preceding year.

Kepong (Malay) Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent. for 1915, payable, less tax, Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Liverpool Exchange. Interim of 7s. per share, free tax.

Malay Rubber Planters.—Interim of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the current year, payable, less tax, Oct. 1.

Mercantile Bank of India.—Interim on the A and B shares for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable 20th inst., same as a year ago.

Molson's Bank, Montreal.—2½ per cent. (being at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum) for current quarter, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

New Orleans and North-Eastern Railway.—Year ended June 30 last on the common of 1 per cent., same as for preceding year.

North Anantapur Gold Mines.—A preferential dividend (less tax) on the 25,000 preference shares, for six months ended June 30, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, also 1s. per share, on both preference and ordinary, less tax, payable Oct. 5. For 1913-14 the preference received 22½ per cent. and the ordinary 2½ per cent.

Northern Banking.—For past half-year at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares and 6½ per cent. per annum on the "B" shares, making 13s. per "A" share and 6s. 6d. per "B" share, less tax, payable 15th inst., same as last year, but free of tax.

Panagula Rubber.—Interim of 3 per cent., actual, less tax, against 2 per cent. last year.

Poonmudi Tea and Rubber.—An interim of 5 per cent. on account of 1915, payable 15th inst., less tax, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

Powell Duffryn Steam Coal.—Interim (payable forthwith) at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preference and of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, free of tax, same as a year ago.

Sephinjuri Bheel Tea.—First quarterly of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable Sept. 20, same as last year.

Shamva Mines.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, for quarter ending Sept. 30 (being the third interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915), payable Sept. 30, same as the preceding payment.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year ended June 30 last, less tax, payable Sept. 30.

South African Real Estate Trust.—9d. per share for period ended June 30, payable Nov. 9. This is the first dividend since 1911-12, for which year 2½ per cent. was paid.

State Assurance.—Interim for half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

Talisman Consolidated.—Quarterly of 9d. per share, tax free, payable Oct. 8, against 1s. 3d. a year ago.

Ulster Bank.—Rate of 21½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for past half-year, payable Sept. 22, against 20 per cent. a year ago, tax free.

Van den Berghs.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual) on the ordinary, payable 25th inst.; payment for 1914 was the same.

Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Pacific Railway.—The directors have passed the dividend on the preferred stock for the year ended June 30 last. For the preceding year the full dividend of 5 per cent. was paid.

## Answers to Correspondents.

W. P.—(1) We hear that the company is doing splendidly, as was to be expected; therefore the reason given ought not to make you sell. (2) These might go down a bit, but they are first-rate, and worth keeping. (3) At present the company must be making fine profits; you should do nothing. (4) Here you have a speculation, and the proper way to treat it is not to sell when it is at a degraded price, as it is now, low and not easily saleable, but to buy a little more to average some day when the market is in the sulks. (5) Keep at present. Prices look going higher. This leaves 1s. 3d. to your credit.

E. L. J.—Yes, we have considerable doubts about the thing, as we indicated in dealing with its report.

Josiah T.—We see no reason for haste just at present, because the price does not seem likely to advance far.

W. P. W.—We think not. The company is very strong financially, well managed, and able to find the money to replace their present system if it becomes obsolete.

M. C. M.—Yes, as you can find other investments equally good to pay a better return. The present price is somewhat artificial.

W. A. J.—They certainly look attractive, and we see no objection to a moderate purchase.

J. J. B.—Difficult to say, but we should certainly much rather average than sell.

Mag (Glasgow).—Sorry your pseudonym was misread "Bog."



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## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

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**Telegrams** advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

**Private Letters** in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

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## Passing Events.

Beyond Lord Kitchener's speech in the House of Lords there is little to be said about the war this week. That is to say, we can offer nothing to the purpose one-tenth as well worth reading. "An optimist speech" sneers the jaundiced Press, and that is just why we like it so well. In carefully chosen language his lordship distributed praise and encouragement to ourselves and to our Allies, all of whom are fighting in this war with an altruism, a nobility of aim never surpassed in the tragic story of man on the earth. And if the result was to cheer and brace us all up, then it was good work done worthy of gratitude. We at least are grateful. Perhaps the strongest expression of confidence in all the speech was where his lordship said that it appeared to him as if the Germans "had almost shot their last bolt" in the Russian invasion. How can that be, snaps the grumbling doubter, when we every day have to move our flags eastward on the map as the Russian troops recede before the all-prevailing, artillery-invincible foe? Have we not told you how, times oft? The Germans are going eastward to their destruction. They cannot escape from the territories devastated ahead of them before winter, and the further they advance the less possible does it become for them to send troops back to the west to help the exhausted armies now being worn down there by the French, the Belgians, and ourselves. And surely the smashing defeats administered to the Austro-Prussian troops in Galicia should dissipate all fear of an effective intervention by Austria in the Gallipoli death-grapple? On that wrestle of Titans—and the Turk with all his faults—perhaps because of some of them—is a splendid fighter, by far the most magnificent fighter we have any of us encountered in this war—witness our losses of 87,630 killed, wounded, and missing in the Dardanelles' battles alone—Lord Kitchener had also good and wise words to utter, as he had, too, for the stupendous task the Italians are performing in the Alps, performing as only men inspired by the most sublime sentiments the human soul is capable of entertaining could accomplish. Wherever we turn, when guided by our War Minister, hope grows stronger in approaching triumph. The day cannot now be distant when the Allies in the west—and in Italy, and may we not say in the Balkans?—will begin to reap the fruits of all that Russia has done and

suffered for the common good. Great events impend, of that we feel sure. Let us brace ourselves up to face them, to endure, steadfast and resolute, until the triumph is complete and the enemy beaten.

In this week's Literary Supplement of the *Times* Mr. Clutton Brock—it can hardly be other than he—quotes the saying of a French officer to Mr. Kipling, "The Bosche is saving the world, because he has shown us what evil is," and remarks that "in these words there is all the peculiar wisdom and the peculiar calm of France." True, but is there not something also of that aspiration after higher intimacy and harmony between the peoples now agonised amid the horrors of this manifestation of evil, by which alone the triumph of good can be made secure when *les Boschés* have been finally disposed of? Can any thoughtful mind look forward without apprehension to a resumption of the life of national jealousies, rivalry in armaments, of overreachings and enslavings by the moneyed interests who play on and profit by the ignorance, the incohesion, the passions of the multitude? When the murder is ended will the trade rivalries between classes and nations break out again as fierce as before? They will if the minority among us—it is, we believe, a minority—gets the upper hand in the guiding of our affairs, the minority now, it seems, so eager to do Prussia service here as to be ready to wreck our Army and paralyse our power of offence on land and sea by driving the country into a contested General Election in the very crisis of the war. That same band will be just as ready to attack France, Russia, Italy, Belgium—any "foreign" country—and try to hinder their economic development after the war if they "see money in it." Its present conduct makes us think that if some among its leaders are not paid by the enemy, it must be because said enemy has no money.

A finer or more humane and far-seeing spirit is already moving in Russia, a spirit attuned to ideals already not unfamiliar to readers of this journal. Friday's *Morning Post* published a message from its Petrograd correspondent which revealed the suggestive fact that the proposal of a Customs Union among the Allies of the Entente is already being brought forward for discussion there. The *Novoe Vremya*, one of Russia's leading journals, would like to see England, France, Rus-



sia, Italy, Japan, Serbia, and Belgium embraced in such an union. The first conception of its use is, naturally, to forge a weapon to repel German trade aggressiveness, but soon that would be found too small an object. The true purpose of a harmony in tariffs and in trade aims and interests between the nations composing the Union would come to be the enlistment of the capacities of all to join together in being the help of each. Germany must be left outside, must bear the punishment of her crimes and be held apart until her sinning, servile peoples have worked out their redemption. Who here is ready to begin to lay the foundation of this healing accord? It will not be easy work, because the idea is new, because masses of men are hard to move at all times, and especially hard when nothing stirs them to take thought about the future. At present all minds are racked upon the war and distracted by the busybodies who scream "We are lost, we are lost!" unless this or that be done according to their dominating prepossession of the day. But the silent, or mostly silent, minority that looks ahead, and wonders while looking how our civilisation is to be preserved when the exhaustion produced by this war falls upon the nations, should be up and at work. The hate-cultivators must not be allowed to get the upper hand again, else why fight now?

For Australia to have spent £102,000,000, as the Commonwealth and States Governments did in the fiscal year 1914-15 ended June 30 last, was no mean feat on behalf of less than 5,000,000 of people. "It was the war." No, unfortunately, the war played only a secondary rôle in the performance. The figures before us are in part estimates made by the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, but they are near enough the official results to bear the moral. Last fiscal year, then, the ordinary expenditure of the Commonwealth was £16,875,000, and of the various States of the Commonwealth about £48,316,000, or £65,191,000 in all from revenue of all types, including the income of the railways. But besides this, the Commonwealth spent £2,127,000 and the six States within it £10,500,000 of borrowed money for what may be called the ordinary purposes of Colonial Governments, so that altogether the routine outlay amounted to £86,818,000 without direct reference to the war, and this in a year of extreme drought, when a severe wrench was being given to the self-supporting capacities of the country. Only £15,106,000 additional was borrowed for the war. In actual fact, however, the governing bodies into whose hands the destinies of Australia have been committed hardly seem to have spent as much borrowed money on development purposes last year as in 1913-14. During the six years ended June 30 last the borrowed money spent by the various Governments of Australia was £87,300,000, or an average of more than £14,500,000 per annum; and for the first year of the six, 1909-10, the outlay was only £8,384,000, whereas for the year closed June 30, 1914, it was £20,738,000, and for the past year nearly £20,000,000. An interesting exhibit is made in the *Record* between the amount of the borrowings and the value of the merchandise exports covering the like period of six years. In the first year of the six the merchandise exported was worth £62,577,000, and for 1913-14 it was valued at £81,179,000. Between the two dates the lowest figure was £66,603,000 for 1911-12. Or, to put the matter in another way, as the *Record* does, borrowings spent in the manner established came to about 12 per cent. of the value of the merchandise exports in 1909-10, but had risen to about 25½ per cent. in 1913-14, and for the past year the proportion rose to about 34 per cent., without counting the loans raised for the war.

Including everything, we see a total loan expenditure of about £36,750,000 for the past fiscal year, alongside a merchandise export valued at £57,000,000. That is to say, the borrowed money expended came to about 65 per cent. of the total visible new wealth disposable

by Australia in 1914-15. No doubt the war restricted exports, but the effects of the drought were even more hurtful, and too much stress must not be laid on the facts for a single year. Even without the war, however, the finances of Australia are undoubtedly growing dangerously top-heavy, and as soon as the politicians out there get time they will have to devote their most serious attention to the reduction of public expenditure. It would be a sore disappointment to us all to see these promising settlements lapse into a condition like that of Nicaragua or Peru. Probably arrangements will have to be devised which will curtail the loan-raising and spending freedom of the various States and throw the entire power to raise money by borrowing into the hands of the Commonwealth Government. Either that or—its abolition being now, we suppose, out of the question—the Constitution will have to be so remodelled as to reduce the revenue-consuming powers of the bureaucracy in all the States; above all in the Commonwealth itself.

Thus far the institution of the Commonwealth appears to have hurt rather than helped the economic development of Australia into the coveted position of a great and independent nation. From small beginnings—its four to four and a-half millions a year in the first six years of its existence—the Commonwealth's budget of inevitable outlays has increased to nearly £17,000,000 per annum, without counting war costs at all, but only "defence" expenses, as the following table extracted from the *Record* discloses, and war preoccupations must not allow either the Motherland or the colonies themselves to disregard the significance of this expansion. It is nice and very comforting to the troubled mind to theorise on the necessity of thrift, on practising economy in all private expenditure, but is it not for messieurs the politicians and bureaucrats to set the example? Just study this table:—

COMMONWEALTH.—SUMMARY OF INCOME AND OUTGO.

	1913-14.	1914-15.
Revenue—	£	£
Customs and Excise .....	14,978,069	14,871,569
Less paid to States .....	*6,282,999	*6,363,775
Net revenue from Customs and Excise .....	8,695,070	8,507,794
Post Office .....	4,510,917	4,586,245
Land tax .....	1,609,945	1,953,388
Probate and succession duties .....	—	39,450
All other .....	641,492	913,612
Total net revenue .....	15,457,424	16,000,489
Expenditure—		
War services .....	—	15,106,182
Other .....	16,878,328	16,875,212
Total expenditure .....	16,878,328	31,981,394

\*Including special payment to Tasmania, £90,000.

The figures for the past year closed June 30 are not official, but near enough. They show a deficit of £15,000,000, including the war outlay, and the gap has been filled for the time being from funds in hand to the amount of £1,222,401, from revenue-eking Treasury bills for £658,504 and by £14,100,000 borrowed from the Home Government. We shall have to go on lending, and that debt may ultimately react for the salvation of Australia. As leading creditor we should be able to lend an effective helping hand in bringing public expenditure down to bearable and reasonable proportions. All the Empire will be drawn together, just as all the Allies must be, to bring order and economical government into being when peace comes.

It is satisfactory to find from the statement issued by the Board of Agriculture that the area under wheat in the United Kingdom this year, according to the estimates made in June, showed an increase of 429,000 acres at 2,334,100 acres, and the acreage under oats was 270,000 higher at 4,148,000 acres, but there was a decrease of 347,200 acres under barley, no doubt partly owing to the anticipated decline in the consumption of beer. We find it difficult to accept some of the commercial estimates of the world's wheat crop for the



current year. These put the total for Europe at 271,300,000 qrs. against 245,000,000 qrs. last year and 282,000,000 qrs. in 1913. Russia is credited with 115,000,000 against 101,000,000 qrs. Germany with 20,000,000 against 18,300,000 and Austria-Hungary with 28,000,000 against 24,000,000 qrs., but, to say the least, it is doubtful whether the Central European Powers can increase their production to this extent under war conditions. However, the world at large is likely to give of its abundance, and we may accept the figure of 247,000,000 against 211,600,000 qrs. for the wheat production outside Europe as approximately correct, so that our population need not go short of bread at any rate.

It is delightful the way those office-boys in Carmelite Street fulfil their mission of instructors. We happened on an *Evening News* the other day, and found its scribe of the moment all aglow for a protective tariff. That was a matter of course, but what pleased us so much was the happy felicity with which the "d-n the foreigner" theorem was worked out. Finance is "magic" to some folks, but not to the *Evening News*, certainly not. Force of circumstances obliges us to buy an awful lot of things abroad, and the sales of what we produce to exchange for our purchases have diminished. It thus comes that we owe more than we can conveniently pay at the moment, and as "the world's shopping is, of course, chiefly done by barter and exchange," a temporary expedient is required to tide us over. All quite logical, you see, and most creditable to the beginner. But what expedient suggests itself to this budding economic philosopher? People are so stupid. They will not economise unless compelled. And the "simplest method is that of taxation of imports." By this plan—an expired patent—we would "reduce the sales of foreign-made goods automatically by putting up the price." For is not "the whole matter of taxing imports which are not necessities a simple matter of domestic economy which any housewife can understand"? To be sure it is. "Taxation of luxuries at home is needed in order to compel our saving of the money without which we cannot win the war." So! But suppose there are differences over what are luxuries and what not, who shall decide? Many people, for example, might regard sugar as a luxury, and demand such a heavy duty upon it as would put the price of lollipops up at the tuck shop in Tudor Street patronised by our promising juvenile instructor in political economy. Would he be saving money to help to pay for the war if he received three fewer brandy balls for his penny than he got before the tax was raised? It is respectfully recommended to him to cogitate this problem. When he has solved it to our satisfaction he might proceed to this other:—Four Great Powers are leagued together to resist Prussian aggression and are making success, though much harder to attain than they expected, a certainty. For purposes of war they have been compelled to club their resources. But is the clubbing to end with their triumph over the treacherous and ruthless foe? If so, where will come in the reward of victory? To go back to the old, mischievous system of hostile tariffs, effective only to generate international strife and increase poverty, useful only as support of a life-stifling militarism, would be to undo the good now already seen to be emerging for the Allied peoples from amid the carnage. Questions of tariff have ceased to be the narrow ones they have hitherto been, and our naïve young *Evening News* philosopher must open his eyes wider so as to be able to take in the affairs, the wants and the well-being, of our noble Allies along with our own. So all-important is it that we should give up our insularity on this question that we look forward with some trepidation for next week's Budget disclosures. Will Mr. McKenna also enrol himself among the false prophets of Carmelite Street and Printing House Square? We cannot believe it possible.

We have already dealt with the preliminary statement of the Calico Printers' Association, Ltd., which

showed that, although the year to June 30 last resulted in a loss of £179,176, all the trouble occurred in the first six months, and the trading in the second half of the year was fairly remunerative. The annual report just issued gives no indication of these very material facts, and merely states the loss in the baldest possible form. Surely that is a mistake in tactics under the circumstances, and a little more communicativeness would do good instead of harm, because when records have to be looked up it is the report and balance-sheet one naturally turns to for information. The trading loss of £51,176 goes against a profit of £233,500 for the previous year, when £50,000 was withdrawn from the dividend equalisation fund in order to make up a distribution of 5 per cent. Now £200,000 has to be taken from reserve to wipe out the debit balance, no dividend can be paid on the preference shares, and the balance carried forward is £25,545 against £4,720 brought in. The total reserves at £550,000 look substantial, but they are not sufficient in view of the terrible load of capital and the violent fluctuations in the business of the company, and it would be prudent to definitely suspend dividends until the finances are placed on a sounder basis. There is a standing overdraft of £500,000, and this time there is a further overdraft of £50,300 against a balance of £292,000 to the good last year, while stocks are £43,600 higher at £1,801,570, and sundry debtors, investments, &c. (all lumped together) show an increase of £182,000 at £1,282,220. These figures indicate the weakness of the position, and although this is not the time to adopt heroic remedies, a serious effort ought to be made to put the Association on a solid footing whenever the conditions improve.

Since July 12 the Birmingham Small Arms Co. has been a "controlled" firm under the provisions of the Munitions Act, 1915, and the directors therefore decided to close the financial year on July 10 instead of July 31, as usual. During that period the works were entirely occupied with Government contracts, with such good results that the company is able to pay a dividend of 20 per cent. on its ordinary shares, as against 15 per cent. for each of the preceding five years. So far this seems all right and perfectly satisfactory, but the directors do not stop there. They propose to capitalise the reserve of £350,000 and £33,491 of the profits, all representing earnings previous to the outbreak of the war, by giving the ordinary shareholders one new fully-paid ordinary share for every two held. In 1901 the company adopted the same course, taking £65,000 from reserve and £36,575 from revenue to pay a bonus of one share on every two, and the step has had the desired effect of hiding the huge profits made. Under the present conditions, however, when profits are to be regulated, it is difficult to see where the advantage of the further inflation lies.

## A TAX-FREE INVESTMENT

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An advertisement appeared in last Saturday's *Times* inviting the unfortunate holders of Wabash Railroad "first funding and extension mortgage bonds" to submit to an assessment of \$654.82 per \$1,000-bond in order that the afflicted property might be reorganised and set on its legs again. For whose benefit? Not for the benefit of the holders of those bonds. The holders of the company's receiver's certificates may get paid off, an agreeable experience otherwise improbable, and holders of the superior mortgages would in that case escape the danger of having a prior security placed ahead of them, but the "first and refunding"—the title is itself a deception—victims would gain nothing. To be sure, if they pay up, and thereby place nearly £4,000,000 at the disposal of the reorganisers, they are to receive in exchange for their surrendered bond and their hard cash together a nominal \$1,655, (1) \$1,091.38 in "profit-sharing" preferred stock, (2) \$1,200 in "convertible" preferred stock "B," and (3) \$1,027 in "common" stock, besides no less than \$20 ("with interest") in cash for coupon due January 1, 1912. It seems to us that the "\$20 bill" is about the only substantial-looking item in the whole show. The other paper prettily named will attain value only if the age of miracles or—which is the same thing—the spirit of honesty among Wall Street trick financiers returns. The wise will accept the first loss, and the lesson.

Just over a year ago the directors of the San Francisco Breweries, Ltd., issued a very encouraging circular, in which it was stated that "the company is at the turning-point of its fortunes," that the losses caused by the earthquake had been almost eliminated, and that increased trade "would undoubtedly be obtained by the introduction of fresh funds." Accordingly an issue of £40,000 prior lien bonds bearing interest at 7½ per cent. was proposed and ultimately emitted, but we search the report for the year ended April 30 last in vain for any benefits that have accrued. On the contrary, the sales of beer have fallen off 19,380 to 177,800 barrels, which we are sapiently informed is largely due to the European War. Trading profits show a decrease of £18,190 at £42,796, and after providing for rent losses (£2,000 higher at £9,656), debenture interest, &c., there is a debit balance of £33,218 for the year, raising the total loss to £40,383. Other changes in the balance-sheet are not of much account, but what a business it is that still parades preliminary expenses among its assets after an existence of 17 years! Would it not be wise to sell the whole concern to some cute Yankee who might see his way to make a profit out of it? Perhaps the local board could put the debenture-holders on the right track.

In its last report, covering the year ended June 30, the Banco Español del Río de la Plata gives us some measure of the severity of the crisis through which the Republic has been passing. Its profits fell off no less than £278,967 to £195,239, and the dividend was brought down from 11 per cent. to 4 per cent. Only £7,606 was added to the reserve fund instead of £18,727 a year ago, but its total is now £4,157,071. Holders of the founders' shares receive 20s. 3d. per share instead of £3 2s. 7d., but after assigning the usual percentages to directors, staff, &c., £5,098, or only £939 less than last year, is left to carry forward. The directors say that it has been necessary to charge off "an important amount" from profit and loss to provide for the losses of the year, and that the dividend has been reduced as above in consequence. Expenses have been reduced by £85,905, and further economies are hoped for. Even to-day the freehold properties of the bank are of a value considerably in excess of the figure they stand at in the balance-sheet. Said balance-sheet on comparison reveals a decrease of £5,575,231 in the deposit and current account liabilities, but the total is still £15,268,559. All principal assets are down, bills discounted being £3,304,969 lower at £10,019,831 and debtors (current account) £2,913,621

lower at £6,895,697, while cash has dropped £2,145,004 to £7,192,726.

From the report of Bolckow, Vaughan and Co., Ltd., it would appear that business took a decided turn for the better during the later months of the year ended June 30. In March last the directors, when declaring the usual interim dividend, stated that the payment could not have been made but for the large balance brought forward. The output of every branch of the works had been seriously diminished, and the cost increased owing to nearly 30 per cent. of the men of military age in the company's employment having enlisted, while the export of certain products had been forbidden during the war. Profits for the whole year, however, after providing £114,804 or £9,992 less for depreciation, were only £23,149 down at £223,315, a result which is much more satisfactory than might have been expected in the circumstances. The dividend is again made up to 6 per cent., but £4,026 less at £17,609 is written off extensions, new plant, &c., and the balance carried out is reduced by £9,831 to £135,707. Expenditure on the properties charged to capital account was less than the depreciation allowance, so that the total is £9,798 down at £3,842,803. Stocks are valued at £853,104, or an increase of £104,301, debtors owe £73,533 more at £298,049, and although cash is £33,693 down at £5,479, the decrease is accounted for by an increase of £32,750 to £78,225 in investments. On the other hand, the debenture debt has risen by £258,800 to £921,400, and current liabilities are £47,467 up at £359,710, but loans and deposits have been reduced by £5,445 to £129,595. Allowances to officials and workmen who have joined H.M. Forces amounted to £59,520, and have been charged to reserve, bringing that fund down to £90,480. The repairs and renewals reserves have also been reduced by £17,402 to £85,444.

Considerable benefits were derived by the Steel Co. of Scotland in the 12 months ended July 15 from the enormous consumption of war materials. In spite of the reduced demand for ordinary commercial steel the output of finished steel exceeded that of the previous year, and with higher prices the trading profits were doubled at £149,324. Special expenditure amounted to £17,356, or £3,620 less, and only £3,443 was written off for payments to dependents of workmen on military service compared with £6,000 paid as the company's contribution towards the initial expenses of the Appleby Iron Co. and £1,026 for duty on new preference shares a year ago. Including £21,041 brought forward, the available surplus was therefore £80,679 larger at £135,233, and had the directors been so inclined the dividend could easily have been restored to the level of two years ago, when 10 per cent. was paid. They have, however, preferred to take the more prudent course of strengthening the company's position, and use only about £10,000 of the increase to raise the dividend from 5 per cent. to 7½. Out of the balance £20,000 is written off for depreciation "as the amount of the special expenditure is this year below the average of former years," £40,000 as against £10,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £250,000, and £41,292, or £20,251 more, is carried forward. The balance-sheet shows some big movements arising out of the larger business done. Stocks have risen by £50,975 to £211,838, debtors owe £90,595 more at £258,330, and cash is £15,824 up at £39,147, while current liabilities are £64,710 higher at £148,274. Property account has been reduced by £23,178 to £556,815, but the investment in the Appleby Iron Co. remains at £53,125. The erection of steel works by that undertaking has been postponed in consequence of the war, but the directors state that the work necessary to improve and extend the blast furnace plant is well forward, and that meanwhile there has been a satisfactory increase in the production of pig-iron.



The report of the Denver United Breweries for the year ended June 30 is far from cheerful reading. Business during the year was bad owing to a variety of causes, including the unsettled conditions caused by the Prohibition vote in November, the prolonged strike of coalminers, and an additional tax of 50 cents per barrel. Sales fell off by 18,311 barrels, with the result that the total income was £9,270 down at £29,594, and at the same time the company had to make exceptionally heavy provision for bad debts. This was to some extent offset by a reduction in the cost of repairs, but the available surplus, after writing off £3,855 for depreciation and adding £6,300, or £5,555 more, brought forward, was £4,050 smaller at £12,348. Debenture interest requires £10,098 of this, so that the preference shareholders are as far off receiving a dividend as ever, and the arrears now amount to £120,000. Bad as the record is, the outlook for the company seems to be worse. In November last the Prohibitionists gained their object, with the result that the manufacture and sales of beer throughout the State will cease as from December 31 next. An attempt is being made by the directors to prevent the company's operations from being entirely suspended by the manufacture of a non-alcoholic beverage, but it is feared that considerable further losses will arise on the realisation of the book debts and loans to customers.

Another shipping undertaking which did exceedingly well last year is the Rowland and Marwood's Steamship Co., Ltd. Out of ten vessels owned one has been detained in the Baltic since the beginning of the war, and five others have been requisitioned by the Admiralty for various periods at rates not equal to half the current market rates. Yet freights were so very much higher than, even with the full use of only a small portion of its fleet, the company was able to earn a nett profit for the 12 months ended July 31 of £84,419, as compared with £59,997 for the previous year. The directors have exercised prudence in their disposal of this sum, because, as they point out, all expenses have increased enormously, and provision must be made for difficulties which may arise at the conclusion of the war. Shareholders, however, are not likely to grumble over the dividend being at the same rate as for the two preceding years, seeing that the distribution is the substantial one of 20 per cent. Out of the balance £25,000 is written off for depreciation, against £15,120 from revenue and £9,880 from profit on the sale of two vessels last year, £15,000 or £5,000 more is transferred to reclassification and upkeep reserve, and £10,000, against nothing, is put to income-tax reserve, leaving £50,099 to be carried forward, or £8,007 more than was brought in. After allowing for depreciation, the additions to the fleet, including payments on account of a new steamer contracted for in November, cost £22,630, making a total of £185,312, against which the insurance fund and reclassification reserve now amount to £90,780 or £15,656 more. Current liabilities are light at £8,161, while debtors have risen by £4,574 to £13,994, and in addition to £67,449 in cash and bills, the company has £39,786 invested in the 4½ per cent. War Loan on account of the reserves.

The business of Thos. Heiton and Co., Ltd., coal and iron merchants, of Dublin, found ample compensation in the year ended July 31 for the set-back occasioned in the previous 12 months by low freights and labour troubles. With so much shipping employed on Government service, the demand for tonnage was very keen, and the directors took advantage of this to employ the fleet of colliers at high rates with very satisfactory results. Profits were £14,157 up at £18,678, and were the best for the past ten years, exceeding the total for 1907, which was the previous highest, by nearly £2,000. With £5,484 brought forward, the amount available was £14,375 up at £24,162, and the ordinary shares get a dividend and bonus aggregating 10 per cent., compared with nothing last year and 5

per cent. in 1912-13. Out of the balance £5,500, or £4,696 more, is written off premises, plant, &c., restoring this appropriation to the level of two years ago, after which £3,000 is divided equally between the bad debt reserve, insurance fund, and investment depreciation, leaving £5,610 or £127 more to be carried forward. One of the company's vessels was sold during the year, and property account is consequently £7,807 lower at £97,404. Debtors have risen by £14,065 to £45,772, and cash is £13,627 up at £17,715, while £25,287 or £8,117 more is due to sundry creditors.

A rather ingenious scheme has been arrived at between the Robinson Deep Gold Mining Co., Booyens Estate, Ltd., South Deeps, Ltd., the owners of Booyens Freehold, the Consolidated Gold Fields Co., and the Central Mining and Investment Corporation. Negotiations have been proceeding for a long time between the Robinson Deep and the Booyens and South Deeps concerns with a view to the Robinson Deep acquiring additional areas to secure a longer life for the mine, which is estimated at 8½ years. These negotiations have now resulted in an agreement which provides for the formation of a new company to be called Robinson Deep, which will acquire the assets of the various companies. This new company will have a capital of 500,000 cumulative preference shares of 1s. each, called A shares, and 900,000 shares of £1 each called B shares. The whole of the A shares will be issued to the Robinson Deep shareholders at the rate of one share for two, and the B shares, with the exception of 218,200, which will be kept in reserve, will be allocated to the other parties. The A shares will be entitled to dividends equivalent to 20 per cent. per annum on the present capital of £1,000,000 for the first 4½ years, and thereafter at a decreasing rate until December, 1945, when the shares will be paid off at par and extinguished. By that time the shareholders will have received, if all goes well, 233 per cent., or 9 per

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cent. per annum, on their present capital. The directors explain that the advantage of the scheme will be that the shareholders will receive a practical guarantee of a total distributable value of over 25½ years of £2,325,000, as against an estimated total of dividends in the present company of £1,470,000 over 8½ years. Put in another way, the company, if it remained as at present, would probably pay 148½ per cent. in 8½ years; if the scheme goes through the shareholders should receive 233 per cent., but it would take an additional period of 17 years to get the extra dividend of 84½ per cent., which is equal to 5 per cent. per annum. Regarded in this light the scheme seems more ingenious than attractive.

### Parliament and Revolution.

What an alarmist "caption," as our good Yankees would call this heading. But are not the symptoms alarming? Have we not for months past seen a cunning and unscrupulous agitation being worked up for the purpose of throwing our Army into perhaps irretrievable confusion just when it has been got ready to begin its march forward to victory? Our attitude on the question is precisely that of Lord Haldane—if voluntary service fails, compulsion must be resorted to, because at all costs the barbarians must be defeated. But there are no indications as yet that our volunteer army is not equal to the arduous and dangerous task before it. On the contrary, it has already done marvels, and now that it is being equipped in a manner as perfect as the Germans, it will presently display capacities that should quiet the fears and silence the outcries of sincere, but not too well-ballasted, minds like that of Mr. Wedgwood. Much of the time of the House of Commons is, however, to be given up to discussions pro and con on "National Service"—conscription—with no good result that we can see, except perhaps for the enemy. Many are sincere in their advocacy of the newest nostrum, because to the multitude what is most novel is always best, but the leaders of the mob might very well be as much in the pay of Berlin as that batch of high-placed Russian traitors who have just been hanged, after due trial. They could not have hindered the work of the War Office, marred the speed of recruiting more effectually than they have done had they been the Kaiser's paid traitors. We refuse to look upon them as that, but have not the least doubt that they are unwittingly *avant-coureurs* of revolution.

For it is not merely a more efficient army they aim at, but the universal coercion of labour. They have never a good word to say for the working man, but, on the contrary, miss no opportunity to heap opprobrium on his head. Every story told to his discredit is seized on with avidity and made the most of to inflame popular resentment against him. The railway men are demanding more wages, and, so far as we can judge, their demands are not unreasonable. But the railway shareholder thinks otherwise, and the compulsionists command his ready sympathy in all their clamour for forced labour under military law. In like manner the "slackness" so much dwelt upon by Mr. Lloyd George is made to support the plausible assertion, "How much better, how much easier it would be if we had the power to order these people to work just as we order a soldier to risk his life in a battle under penalty of getting shot off-hand in the event of disobedience." In this way class hatred is being increased instead of diminished by the ferment of the privileged and the "disgruntled" whom war's distresses have brought to the surface. The fury of the clamour is accordingly bringing us in sight of the gravest domestic peril. It would not take very much more in the present temper of the workmen to provoke a universal cessation of work, and a railway strike is quite within the bounds of probability. "But we gave the men a war-bonus advance in the spring, what more do they want, the unpatriotic brutes." Thus the railway director and shareholder. Yes, but the men say—and the great majority of them quite truly—

they cannot live on the wages paid them, prices having risen out of all proportion, and they want a solid rise in wages, not a half-charity-looking dole that may, and probably will, be taken from them when the war ends. "Selfish?" Yes, but they work hard, harder probably than the majority of their censors, and they will have to get what they ask lest worse befall.

Ministers and politicians of all ranks will also have to be more careful of their language, and not be so ready to assume that what employers tell them is always the truth, and nothing but the truth. It is not pleasant to have to give this advice, but it is necessary not only in the interests of the Empire, but in those of the comfortable classes, the investing classes themselves. Have you noticed, by chance, the reply of Mr. Tom Rees, secretary to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, to Mr. George's accusations at the Trades Union Congress last week? "No?" But these sources of light ought not to be missed by people of means, with a "stake," least of all. "We are assured," said Mr. Rees, "that most of the trades are doing their best," and he speaks the truth. But are the employers likewise doing their best—always doing it? "The inroads made upon the customs and practices of the trade have been enormous," Mr. Rees went on. "We have the assurance of the Government to return to pre-war conditions . . . but even while we are being assured that we shall return to pre-war conditions, a number of employers are endeavouring to take advantage of the Munitions of War Act to introduce rules and regulations which cannot possibly assist production, and which have always been strenuously opposed by our members." That is a serious assertion. Whether it be true or not, we do not know. But we do know that it is ostrich policy to assume that the men are wrong or lying and a piling of logs on the bonfire of revolution to adopt in public the view that the masters must be always right.

Another danger has been diligently cultivated by the tariff and "tax the foreigner" agitators. The prohibitionist babble was started in the *Morning Post* and taken up and carried to the usual exaggerated lengths by the journals belonging to the Harmsworth family syndicate. Such a splendid opportunity to damage the country and further the interests, as it is assumed, of our Junker class has not occurred since first Sir Robert Peel "betrayed" that party by the adoption of Free Trade, and could not be missed. So a tremendous attack is to be made on the Government if the madly incited clamour should not be yielded to by it. Great increases of indirect taxation are advocated, not only without the slightest regard to the interests of our own trade or the well-being of the people at large, but with a contemptuous indifference to the wants, requirements and wishes of our Allies that would look almost grandiose were it not so divested of scruple, so contemptible in motive. Whether Mr. McKenna is going to be permitted to plunge the nation into the middle of this foul-smelling morass or not is more than we can say, we having neither sought for nor been offered "tips" in aid to help the Budget-maker; but there are unpleasant signs of divisions within the Cabinet on this subject as on conscription, and the would-be betrayers of Free Trade, the most eager of them within the Cabinet, are not, from all we hear, to be found among the men who came over from the Opposition to help in forming the present coalition Government. Daily, almost, *ballons d'essai* have been launched in the more benighted portion of our Prussian-spirited Press, and some of them at least obviously were gas-blown from sources dubbed "inspired." They at least served the present revenue—at the expense of the future—by prompting such unusual clearances of dutiable goods as made onlookers wonder what "patriotism" meant in the mouths of those who live by "making a profit." With but too many, alas! the sentiment is not lip deep. And still the heart of the nation is sound, its spirit of sacrifice noble; but all that only makes us the more anxious lest it should be betrayed. As we said when last Ways and



Means came before Parliament and new taxes were being hunted for, the present is not a good time for adding heavily to the taxes which have to be paid by the masses of the people. We are not even sure whether much more of a burden ought just now to be laid on the rich; but can be in no doubt at all in regard to the inexpediency of tariff tinkering at the moment, when any change upward in the scale or variety of duties levied must inevitably at some point damage the finances of our Allies. Doubtless our fears will prove groundless; Mr. McKenna knows his duty, and may be trusted to do it. There is, at all events, nothing revolutionary about him, and if he opens the floodgates it will be with the satisfied smile of a man who feels that he does well in obeying the popular mandate.

### War Costs and Wastes.

Both Mr. Asquith and Lord Kitchener made interesting official appearances in Parliament on Wednesday. Mr. Asquith unfolded the calamitous speed at which the wealth of the world is disappearing in the war, and in doing so opened a prospect of disaster to come with the peace, unless wisdom and economy of far higher types than the average come into being to save us. He asked not for a fresh loan, but for a further grant or credit of £250,000,000 out of the still unexpended balance of the last loan, and this sum added to the votes already passed within the current year brings up the 1915 war expenditure to £937,000,000. Add the capital consumed by the war last year and we arrive at £1,262,000,000 as our total outlay, estimated and actual, up to the third week of November. And the rate of expenditure mounts unceasingly, partly because the mechanical appliances necessary if we are to win are constantly multiplying, partly because we have to sustain the finance of our Allies with increasing liberality as the weeks pass. Already we have given, or are pledged to give, them support in money up to £250,000,000. No wonder, then, if the daily outlay promises to be £5,000,000 before it begins to diminish. When last the Ministry came to Parliament formally to ask for cash, it told the country that the expenditure was not expected to exceed an average of £3,000,000 a day. It may well be six millions before the fell fiend of war is finally destroyed. Whatever the cost, destroyed he must be if mankind is ever again to have a chance to live free on this earth.

In contemplating this prospect for ourselves we have but one present consolation. Hard as our lot may be, it is ease and abundance compared with that of the devastating swarms of savages who set out to conquer the world regardless of every feeling of humanity, of the most primitive human rights, simply because they thought themselves strong enough to overwhelm all opposition. Even the most ecstatically self-worshipping among the chief thieves in those swarms must be beginning to suspect that it is not proving so easy as they had thought to get rich quick by murder and devastation. Devices perfectly Gilbertian in their grotesqueness only serve to emphasise the failure of the Kaiser's latest loan. All the big subscriptions so far flourished before the nation have been little or nothing but conversions of debts already owed by the Government which it cannot pay. Some of the ravagers called kings or dukes are said to be advancing six months' salary to their bureaucrats, to be "invested" in the loan. Probably they have themselves to borrow all they advance. Banks of all sorts, savings banks not least, are being coaxed, or forced, to sink the money of their depositors in the same bottomless pit without leave asked or given. With it all the minimum of £500,000,000 first asked for cannot be found in all the empire. Were the war to end next week, and Europe to return to the *status quo ante bellum*, the German and Austrian Empires would be crushed for generations beneath their burdens, perhaps, as empires, wiped out for good. So much for the "glories of war," as illustrated in the plight of these Avars, of our day.

But the war will not end next week, and may not be finally stifled next year. Our paramount duty, therefore, is to bend all our endeavours so to conduct our part in it as to leave ourselves a chance of life, as a nation and as an empire, after it is over. Are we doing that? We have doubts, have had grave doubts all along, and the Prime Minister's recital of our efforts at "munitioning" do nothing to lessen these doubts.

But first let us recite a few figures:—Between April first and the eleventh inst. we have expended £371,700,000 directly on the Army and Navy, or almost £312,000,000 in excess of the peace expenditure within the like period. In addition, we have already advanced £30,000,000 to our Allies as also £28,000,000 to our own dominions. Railway services have cost us £1,100,000, and we have spent £16,500,000 on food, besides £2,300,000 miscellaneous by the aggregate outgo of £499,600,000 being made up by £50,000,000 refunded to the Bank of England. Were our requirements to average no more than £30,000,000 a week for but another year from the third week of November, the addition to our public debt caused by this hell-born war would probably mean a permanent load of interest not much, if anything, short of £110,000,000 to £115,000,000 per annum. We leave the rich of all classes and the privileged to meditate for a little over the prospect thus opened. But fight on we must, of that there can be no question at all. The one paramount question is, Are we using due intelligence and energy prudently directed in economising our resources? Listen to Mr. Asquith:—"In addition to the ordnance factories which have been taken over by my right hon. friend (Mr. Lloyd George), he has already established and at work national shell factories to the number of twenty, and others in course of construction—I hope the process of construction will not be unduly long—to the number of eighteen. Side by side with these ordnance and national shell factories there are what are now called the co-operative areas, eighteen in number, in which under boards of management of thoroughly competent and experienced men lighter kinds of shells are made in existing shops. And, lastly, there are no less than 715 controlled establishments under the Ministry of Munitions, with this result, that, adding the controlled establishments to those already owned by the Government, there are now more than 800,000 workpeople employed in the manufacture of these vitally necessary commodities under conditions where no private profits are made, or there is such a limitation of profits for private employers as is prescribed by rules which have been submitted to the Labour Advisory Committee as well as to the employers, and have been substantially agreed to. That, I think, is a very remarkable record, upon which my right hon. friend is to be most heartily congratulated. We have vastly exceeded any standard that was dreamed of before the war, but as the war proceeds it is constantly raising the standard, making new requirements, demanding new sacrifices in men, in munitions, in finance. We have not only to raise and equip armies and ships, we have, as the months go rolling on, to repair wastage, to make good losses, to secure the influx into the decisive theatres

### THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK

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The London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company Limited, with a capital of £500,000, undertakes the Executorship and Trusteeship of Wills and Marriage Settlements, and acts as Trustee for Debenture-holders.

FOREIGN BRANCH: 8, FINCH LANE, E.C.



of war of a steady stream of trained men, and of an ever-growing supply of the varied instruments and new apparatus—and to a large extent it is new—of modern warfare, both by sea and by land.”

Does not the mere reading of this catalogue call up to the experienced pictures of fussy waste, of duplicated functions and rivalries, or an absence of centralised masterhood through lack of which millions of money are certainly being squandered every month? All wars are costly, thank God! and our British wars uniformly the most costly the world has ever seen, partly because we are naturally a wasteful, borrow-and-cheat-the-devil people, and also because to the bulk of interested citizens war always presents alluring chances to get rich quick. One remark in the above extract illuminates a little the path we hurry down—eighteen new shell factories are being built at the public expense. “I hope the process of construction will not be unduly long,” interjected Mr. Asquith, and he had need. Could not these factories, or most of them, have been done without, seeing that there are hundreds and thousands of buildings already in existence that might have been made available at less than a tenth of the cost. We heard lately of one new munitions factory the cost of which alone has been put at £3,000,000 by the bureaucrats. But that sum included the cost of building a new town for the workmen, a town ordered into being although one is already in existence close by where many thousands of lodgings are available. Send in schemes involving the outlay of hundreds of thousands and millions of borrowed public money, and 'tis twenty to one authorisation will be forthcoming. Ask for a dozen balls of twine, or something equally insignificant, and, twenty to one also, the reply will be, “What do you want it for?” Such is the bureaucrat by nature and training. Never having had a chance to acquire any practical knowledge of business, he fails naturally enough just when most wanted. Nevertheless, we must make the best of it, and press resolutely on to the goal.

Let us now turn to Lord Kitchener, whose speeches always give us the impression that the man has something up his sleeve. Had he on Wednesday afternoon when he told the House of Lords and us all about our wonderful new army? It is a wonderful army. No creation equalling it in training, spirit and capacity has ever before been got together in the same space of time. When the Prussian summoned us to fight for our lives or perish we had a mighty Fleet, but an efficient and well-trained Army of but about 300,000 men. To-day we have almost ten times as many. In the first year of the struggle our casualties of 381,982—75,957 killed, 251,052 wounded, and 54,967 missing—exceeded the total number of our Army before the war. The record of voluntary recruiting has been one of marvellous success—but the enthusiasm is now slackening both the Prime Minister and the War Minister agree in saying, and “that means we are going to have compulsion,” gleefully bawls the deadly miasmatic Press. Is it so? What do you want all these millions for? the multitude will ask. Even in guarding another 17 miles of the French front our consumption of men at a rate equal to last year could not demand urgency for the adoption of compulsion, when we have nigh 3,000,000 to draw from. Ah! great deeds, long kept back because of that just disclosed traitorous destruction of the Russian munition factory at Ochta, near Petrograd, the only one they had; falsely alleges the sensational Press, has compelled the French and ourselves to mark time all summer, consuming the foe the while. “We have replenished our store and are ready,” the Russian War Minister now signals to us all. Let but the deeds long looked for begin to emerge, and we are sure that Lord Kitchener need have no fears about his recruiting.

## A Minister at Fever Heat.

Monday morning's papers contained an address, or Demosthenic philippic, as it may be described, by Mr. Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions. It constituted the preface for a shilling volume containing his speeches to come out on the following Thursday. The language was fiery in the highest degree, charged with such heat as the mind of a Celt alone could generate, and we fear it must be said as indiscreet as heated. No more alarming utterance, in fact, has been made by anyone, Minister or journalist, since the war began. After upholding the inevitableness of our participation in the war, which no one seriously challenges, and once more proclaiming it to be his conviction that we, the Allies, are going to win in the end, a conviction to which we adhere, he proceeds in this style:—

“What is the actual position? It is thoroughly well known to the Germans, and anyone in any land, belligerent or neutral, who reads intelligently the military news must by now have a comprehension of it. With the resources of Great Britain, France, Russia—yea, of the whole industrial world—at the disposal of the Allies, it is obvious that the Central Powers have still an overwhelming superiority in all the material and equipment of war.

“The result of this deplorable fact is exactly what might have been foreseen. The iron heel of Germany has sunk deeper than ever into French and Belgian soil; Poland is entirely German; Lithuania is rapidly following. Russian fortresses, deemed impregnable, are falling like sand castles before the resistless tide of Teutonic invasion. When will that tide recede? When will it be stemmed? As soon as the Allies are supplied with abundance of war material.

“That is why I am recalling these unpleasant facts, because I wish to stir my countrymen to put forth their strength to amend the situation. To dwell on such events is the most disagreeable task that can fall to the lot of a public man. For all that, the public man who either shirks these facts himself, or does not do his best to force others to face them until they are redressed, is guilty of high treason to the State which he has sworn to serve.

“There has been a great awakening in all the Allied countries, and prodigious efforts are being put forth to equip the armies in the field. I know what we are doing; our exertions are undoubtedly immense. But can we do more either in men or material? Nothing but our best and utmost can pull us through. Are we now straining every nerve to make up for lost time? Are we getting all the men we shall want to put into the fighting line next year to enable us even to hold our own? Does every man who can help, whether by fighting or by providing material, understand clearly that ruin awaits remissness?

“How many people in this country fully apprehend the full significance of the Russian retreat? For over 12 months Russia has, in spite of deficiencies in equipment, absorbed the energies of half the German and four-fifths of the Austrian forces. Is it realised that Russia has for the time being made her contribution—and what a heroic contribution it is!—to the struggle for European freedom, and that we cannot for many months to come expect the same active help from the Russian armies that we have hitherto received?

“Who is to take the Russian place in the fight whilst those armies are re-equipping? Who is to bear the weight which has hitherto fallen on Russian shoulders? France cannot be expected to sustain much heavier burdens than those which she now bears with a quiet courage that has astonished and moved the world. Italy is putting her strength into the fight. What could she do more?

“There is only Britain left. Is Britain prepared to fill up the gap that will be created when Russia has retired to re-arm? Is she fully prepared to cope with all the possibilities of the next few months—in the West, without forgetting the East? Upon the answer which Government, employers, workmen, financiers, young men who can bear arms, women who can work in factories—in fact, the whole people of this great land—

Monte Video Water Works.—Gross revenue for July, £13,718, increase £355; aggregate from January 1, £104,197, decrease £4,907.

The Australian Bank of Commerce, Ltd.—Mr. George F. Todman has been elected a director in place of the late Sir William P. Manning.



give to this question will depend the liberties of Europe for many a generation.

"A shrewd and sagacious observer told me the other day that in his judgment the course pursued by this country during the next three months would decide the fate of this war. If we are not allowed to equip our factories and workshops with adequate labour to supply our armies because we must not transgress regulations applicable to normal conditions; if practices are maintained which restrict the output of essential war material; if the nation hesitates, when the need is clear, to take the necessary steps to call forth its manhood to defend honour and existence; if vital decisions are postponed until too late; if we neglect to make ready for all probable eventualities; if, in fact, we give ground for the accusation that we are slouching into disaster as if we were walking along the ordinary paths of peace without an enemy in sight, then I can see no hope; but if we sacrifice all we own and all we like for our native land; if our preparations are characterised by grip, resolution, and a prompt readiness in every sphere, then victory is assured."

It has to be confessed that we read most of these super-heated sentences with profound regret. They seemed to us the words of a conscriptionist as unseasonably fanatical as Lord Northcliffe. Not that that would have mattered much had the utterance been otherwise true and timely, for it is possible enough, especially if the people are to be disheartened after this style, that universal compulsory service will have to be resorted to ere long, not only for the Army and the Navy, but for all branches of the supply and maintenance services presided over by this fiery pessimist among Ministers himself. But is it really true that "the iron heel of Germany has sunk deeper than ever into French and Belgian soil" during the first year of war? Is the German occupation of Poland and conquest of Russian fortresses proof that the Prussian fiend is master? "No" says even this eloquent, fiery Cassandra of a Welshman, the tide will be stemmed and recede "as soon as the Allies are supplied with abundance of war material." Then, are we to infer that Mr. George is meeting with obstruction in the fulfilment of his duty in this respect? If so, why does he abstain from giving the nation chapter and verse? Is the permanent bureaucracy in possession proving, as usual, too many for the accidental Parliamentary master of the day? We, as a mere outsider, continue to hear of orders ignored, of offers of help apparently despised, of plans left undecided upon by the irresponsible officials, all in the good old style. Also we hear of private firms and joint-stock companies who, along with their workmen, are united in a whole-hearted and most loyal effort to do their utmost to help in meeting the munitions necessities, and whose treatment is often abominable. Are words like those quoted above calculated to give them encouragement to go on in face of official ineptitude or corruption? Will the far from veiled threat of universal compulsion stir up the "slow-goers" and the "slackers" to come into line with those already doing their utmost? It seems to us doubtful, and after the good disposition shown at the Bristol meeting of the Trade Union Congress we think it would have been discreet to leave the alarm bell unclanged for a space.

Two interpretations may be, indeed are, given of Mr. Lloyd George's flaming utterance. One is that he is not in harmony with his colleagues as to the policy of conscription, and therefore seeks to create a public sentiment outside, by help of which he may succeed in coercing or intimidating his opponents, and so have his way. But we refuse to believe that any man of honour could stoop to such meanness. The other has been alluded to above, viz., that the Minister of Munitions is finding himself obstructed, thwarted, circumvented, and perhaps sometimes even defied by the solidly entrenched permanent bureaucracy, and in his wrath and vexation gives vent to his feelings in a good all-round swear. If this be the real motive force impelling him to write as he has done he has our sympathy, even while we deprecate as being indiscreet outbursts whose chief effect

must be detrimental rather than otherwise to unity of effort in carrying the war to a successful conclusion.

But would universal obligatory service applied to meeting the civil requirements incident to a state of war as well as the military enable Mr. George to get what he wants? Read over again the last paragraph of his "preface," quoted above, and try to conjure up a picture of men and women being driven to their workshops and forced to work so many hours a day at such-and-such a rate of production, and on such pay as the Government allotted. Then imagine what the result would be on the relations between capital and labour, on the social and political outlook when the war has ended, as it will end some day. From this point of view Mr. George seems to us dangerously near the assumption of the part of a promoter of revolution. But leaving that on one side, let us ask one or two more questions, and then allow the subject to rest for the present:—"There is only Britain left," says the fiery man, "Is Britain prepared to fill the gap that will be created when Russia has retired to re-arm?" This fairly beats us to understand. Is Russia lying to us, then? When did her armies betray a desire to "retire" for re-armament? And where are France and Italy? Are they, too, about to take a rest while the all-bluffing Prussian with his monster guns and his gasses glares mankind into terror? They are spoken of as if they had already "done their bit" and had no more fight left in them. Could anything be more unwise, maladroit, inopportune? Really, Mr. George, we cannot help wishing you had refrained from publishing that preface. It will not make things easier for the Government of which you are a prominent member, nor for the loyal men of all positions now striving to do their duty.

### Answers to Correspondents.

\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Rab.—Yes. Prices are abnormal owing to the rate of exchange. If the proposed loan is effected, the premium will disappear.

J. B. S.—Ultimately the company will, we think, pull round, but it may be a long wait. So far as we know the actual damage done has not been great, but the business is naturally tied up. If you can get a little stock at about present price you might buy.

A. D. R.—Prospects of any important advance seem remote. Debenture debt is fairly heavy. We think you might sell.

C. J. P.—Quite a fair purchase, if you do not object to the liability.

R. B.—We do not see that you would much increase your guarantee against further depreciation by making the change you mention. Both countries will want further loans, and the stocks of both will probably further recede. Meanwhile you would have realised an irretrievable loss.

An *Uncanny Scot*.—No; it is not worth while yet. We could not advise you at present to any good purpose. Read the paper and think for yourself.

Old Parr.—Had you not better "wait and see"? The shares you name are all good, but it may presently be advisable to sell your ordinary in spite of the high return. The trade can successfully resist the imposition of a tax that would stifle.

### DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Half-Yearly Ordinary General Meeting of this Company will be held at the Bank Office, Royal Bank Buildings, 5, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., on Wednesday, the 6th October, 1915, at Twelve o'clock noon, precisely, to receive the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the half-year ending 30th June, 1915, to declare a Dividend, and to transact any other business which may be brought before the Meeting.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, that the Transfer Books will be closed from the 18th September until the 11th October, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,

P. B. BAKER, Manager.

Royal Bank Buildings,  
5, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,  
18th September, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

## The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

A further call of 10 per cent. on the War Loan had to be met on Tuesday, but, owing to so much having been already paid up in full, the amount involved was smaller than on the previous occasions, and was estimated at about £37,000,000. Ample preparations had been made, and although a moderate business was done at the Bank, there was no sign of pressure in any direction. Day-to-day money for a short time commanded  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but the rate quickly ran off to 4 per cent., and towards the end of the week supplies became so abundant, owing, presumably, to Government disbursements, that borrowers were able to obtain a large part of their requirements at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. For seven-day fixtures the joint-stock banks are adhering to their agreement not to charge less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but other institutions were free lenders at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and there has even been talk of business at 4 per cent.

The discount market has been idle for the greater part of the week, and on most days there has hardly been enough business to test quotations. Rates were called firm on the further heavy withdrawals of gold for the United States; but the weight of cheap money and the scarcity of bills had the usual effect, and after the announcement that the Bank had purchased £2,775,000 in bars and foreign coin a distinctly weaker tendency set in. Brokers showed a little more anxiety to buy bills, and with very few available, the competition was sufficient to drive down rates. Most houses held to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. as their quotation for three months' maturities as long as possible; but the higher figure has now disappeared, and parcels of fine paper have changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. In the absence of an adequate supply of remitted paper, holders of the £2,000,000 French Treasury bills, which mature on October 5, welcomed the arrangements made for their renewal at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., plus commission. Some demand was experienced for October Treasury bills at  $4\frac{1}{8}$ – $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., and there has also been an inquiry for Russian and Japanese Treasuries at about  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. An issue of £7,500,000 British Treasury bills, which was made by tender a year ago, matures to-morrow (Saturday), and will be paid off. The Metropolitan Water Board bills for £1,300,000 which were offered on Monday went at a rather lower rate than had been expected. Applications amounted to £3,755,500, and tenders at £97 10s. 10½d. received about 12 per cent., the average rate being £4 17s. 9½d.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Wednesday next for India bills to the amount of £3,500,000 in replacement of bills for £2,000,000 falling due on the 28th inst. and in partial replacement of bills paid off temporarily during the current financial year. The bills will be dated September 28, 1915, and will be payable at 12 months after date—viz., on September 28, 1916.

Foreign exchanges have been quieter this week, and less subject to violent fluctuations. Now that the Franco-British Commission in New York has begun its negotiations the American cable rate has steadily risen to 4.70. Meantime the Paris cheque has dropped rather sharply, and the Dutch has also moved against this country, while the Italian and Spanish rates are lower, but Petrograd has risen to 139.

The Bank return was regarded as very disappointing owing to the unexpectedly large reduction in the stocks of gold. It had been confidently anticipated that the further return of sovereigns from the country as the

result of the extended use of currency notes would have been sufficient to offset the loss of £2,237,000 for abroad. Instead of that, however, the market was both surprised and puzzled to find that there was a reduction of no less than £3,741,000, so that apparently £1,384,000 had gone into the country. With a small contraction of £276,000 in the note circulation the reserve showed a decrease of £3,466,000 at £50,672,000, and the proportion dropped to just under 24 per cent. Public Deposits were £8,013,000 lower, and as "Other" Deposits rose by £4,226,000 it may be assumed that only part of the War Loan instalment had been paid over to the Treasury when the return was made up on Wednesday.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended September 15 £6,443,255 in £1 notes, £1,548,178 in 10s. notes, and £740,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,724,441 in £1, £559,100 in 10s. notes, and £140,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £6,307,892, leaving a total of £67,151,454 10s. outstanding, made up of £50,314,433 in £1 notes, £16,237,021 10s. in 10s. notes, and £600,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £443,299 0s. 5d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £17,700,000 in Government securities, and £20,699,753 10s. 5d. at the Bank of England, while £214,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £481,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

This has been a very quiet week in the silver market, and the price has fluctuated within narrow limits. Little or no support has come from the bazaars. Messrs. Pixley and Abell say that in view of the large stock in Bombay, and of the present poor offtake, it is improbable that India will buy much on this market in the immediate future. A little Continental demand has again been experienced, but China on several occasions has shown an inclination to sell. The quotation fell to 23½d. per oz., and after rallying to 23⅞d. per oz., has again relapsed to 23⅞d. per oz. At this level there was some demand for coinage purposes, and the market closed steady. Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 42,00,000 in bills, Rs. 2,03,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 87,00,000, in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 79,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 8,27,55,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 11,66,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 52 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 40,000 in bills at 1s. 4 1-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is further increased to Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 14th inst. the total sales were Rs. 3,67,18,964, realising £2,445,443 compared with Rs. 5,41,79,832 for £3,615,853 to September 15 last year.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 15, 1915.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued .. ..	81,750,170	Government Debt .. ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	63,300,170
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£81,750,170		£81,750,170

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	34,418,357
Reserve .. ..	3,723,902	Other Securities .. ..	144,954,966
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	121,574,686	Notes .. ..	50,234,525
Other Deposits .. ..	90,168,083	Gold and Silver Coin ..	437,667
Seven Day and other Bills ..	26,084		
	£230,045,755		£230,045,755

Dated Sept. 16, 1915.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.



BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Sept. 16.		Sept. 8, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,755,509	Rest ..	3,672,843	3,723,902	51,059	—
18,643,497	Pub. Deposits ..	129,587,552	121,574,686	—	8,012,866
435,042,071	Other do. ..	85,942,422	90,168,083	4,225,661	—
15,235	7 Day Bills ..	30,906	26,684	—	4,222
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
25,669,025	Gov. Securities.	34,418,359	34,418,359	—	—
413,792,525	Other do. ..	145,230,005	144,954,906	275,099	—
32,547,762	Total Reserve ..	54,138,361	50,672,492	3,465,869	—
				8,017,688	8,017,688
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
34,622,730	Note Circulation	31,790,860	31,515,345	—	275,515
48,720,492	Coin and Bullion	67,479,221	63,737,837	—	3,741,384
21½ p.c.	Proportion ..	25.1 p.c.	23.9 p.c.	—	1.2 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £2,537,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Tuesday—Sovs. (released)	100,000	Saturday—Foreign Coin ..	1,492,000
Wednesday—Foreign Coin	2,000,000	" Bars ..	200,000
" Bars ..	775,000	" Spain ..	200,000
Thursday—Bars ..	10,000	Monday—U.S.A. ..	2,390,000
" Sovs. (released)	50,000	" Switzerland (set	
		aside) ..	50,000
Nett Efflux ..	2,675,000	" Bars ..	50,000
		Tuesday—U.S.A. ..	250,000
		" Egypt (set aside) ..	100,000
		Wednesday—Egypt (set aside)	300,000
		" Straits Settlements	
		(set aside) ..	75,000
		Thursday—Bars ..	291,000
		" Egypt (set aside) ..	100,000
		Friday—Foreign coin ..	102,000
		" Canada ..	10,000
			£5,610,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £4,360,000 Treasury Bills had been repaid, while £6,809,000 was received from the sale of new bills, making a nett increase of £2,449,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 6	2 13 1½
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
*174,999,000	—	Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
229,999,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 11.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Customs ..	1,414,000	National Debt Service ..	265,677
Excise ..	570,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	65,519
Estate, &c., Duties ..	627,000	Development & Road Impvt.	—
Stamps ..	230,000	Payments to Local Taxation	310,330
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	Other Consolidated Fund	
Property and Income Tax ..	200,000	Charges ..	12,675
Land Values Duties ..	—	Supply Services ..	38,384,387
Post Office ..	400,000	Bullion Advances ..	100,000
Crown Lands ..	—	For Advance for Interest	
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	301,762	on Exchequer Bonds under	
Miscellaneous ..	—	Capital Expenditure	
Bullion advances repaid ..	100,000	(Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	*5,481,000
For Exchequer Bonds under		For Exchequer Bonds issued	
the Capital Expenditure		under the War Loan Re-	
(Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	demption Act, 1910 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	—	Issues under Section 1 of	
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	14,000,000	War Loan Act, 1915 ..	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—	Under Telegraph (Money)	
Under Post Office Rly. Act,		Act, 1913 ..	—
1913 ..	—	Under Post Office (Lon-	
Under Military Works Acts,		don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
1897-1903 ..	—	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Issue of War Stock and War		Old Sinking Fund 1911....	20,000
Bonds ..	—	Under Military Works Acts,	
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	1897-1903 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate		Under Public Buildings Ex-	
Loan repayments ..	—	penses Act, 1903 ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on		Deficiency advances repaid	
account of principal ..	—	Ways and Means Advances	
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	repaid ..	4,360,000
China Indemnity ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	
Ways and Means Advances	1,346,000	balances ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer			
balances ..	18,848,876		
	£39,037,638		£38,037,638

\* Decrease.

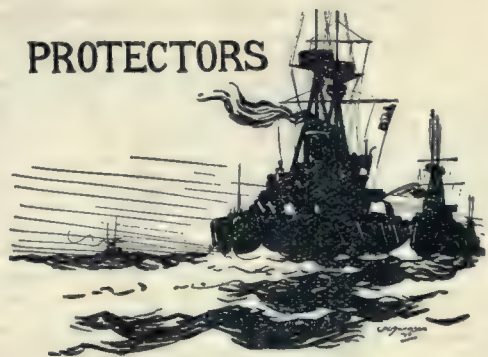
LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	£ 335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,194,000	1,641,923,000	—	418,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	260,768,000	161,929,000	98,839,000	—
" 11	273,843,000	187,317,000	86,526,000	—
" 18	283,050,000	179,421,000	103,629,000	—
" 25	258,873,000	150,432,000	108,441,000	—
Sept. 1	275,985,000	155,707,000	120,278,000	—
" 8	255,092,000	167,196,000	87,896,000	—
" 15	254,607,000	180,216,000	74,391,000	—
Total ..	9,430,502,000	11,322,685,000	—	1,892,183,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 27, 1915.	Aug. 20, 1915.	Aug. 13, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 42,229,000	£ 41,190,200	£ 41,939,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	220,800	220,800	216,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	11,186,000	10,986,000	10,698,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,975,600	5,423,400	4,189,800
Total reserves ..	57,611,400	57,820,400	57,044,000
10-day bills and loans ..	889,000	895,000	658,200
30-day bills and loans ..	2,131,600	2,052,800	2,043,000
60-day bills and loans ..	3,441,800	3,233,600	2,993,600
90-day bills and loans ..	1,716,000	1,831,200	2,034,000
Maturities over 90 days ..	380,000	337,600	404,800
Total ..	8,567,800	8,350,200	8,163,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,767,200	1,748,000	1,721,400
Municipal Warrants ..	5,161,600	3,710,600	3,711,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. ..	2,498,200	2,518,000	805,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,398,000	1,361,000	2,253,200
All other assets ..	992,400	955,400	1,124,600
Total assets ..	77,996,600	76,493,600	74,824,000
Paid-up capital ..	10,937,800	10,865,800	10,866,200
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	63,397,800	62,019,000	60,385,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,347,600	3,169,400	3,144,600
All other liabilities ..	313,400	439,400	428,000
Total liabilities ..	77,996,600	76,493,600	74,824,000
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	82.1 %	82.1 %	84.3 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	88.2 %	90.6 %	90.9 %

PROTECTORS



NORTH BRITISH and MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."

"Low rates a distinctive feature."—The Times.

Funds - £24,000,000.

LONDON - 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

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## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 12, 1914
Loans .. ..	£ 533,338,000	£ 530,918,000	£ 529,620,000	£ 432,598,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	101,114,000	99,776,000	95,968,000	79,486,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	27,622,000	27,816,000	27,856,000	
Reserve held in Other Depos.	5,936,000	6,920,000	6,676,000	
Net Demand Deposits ..	534,676,000	534,544,000	529,332,000	384,048,000
Net Time Deposits ..	28,160,000	28,436,000	28,406,000	
Circulation ..	7,396,000	7,398,000	7,408,000	24,904,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	41,978,000	41,904,000	38,830,000	*7,014,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

\* Deficit.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 12, 1914
Loans .. ..	£ 117,692,000	£ 117,902,000	£ 118,192,000	£ 114,500,000
Specie .. ..	9,934,000	9,994,000	9,996,000	8,300,000
Deposits .. ..	121,706,000	121,534,000	122,044,000	112,960,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,730,000	1,692,000	1,694,000	2,640,000

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 30, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,816,750	£ 122,753,700	£ 122,644,500	£ 83,032,000
Treasury Notes ..	12,479,100	10,526,500	11,800,250	7,794,000
Bills discounted ..	233,370,050	247,084,950	237,227,650	233,022,650
Advances ..	638,050	764,050	638,500	5,944,200
Note circulation ..	277,994,250	278,216,750	265,860,900	202,680,250
Deposits ..	98,401,150	86,815,600	90,852,050	124,712,800

Clearing House returns during Aug. £210,075,490 against £252,634,605 in July.

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 9, 1915.	Sept. 2, 1915.	Aug. 26, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 177,502,360	£ 175,097,640	£ 173,054,160	£ 170,652,760
Silver in hand ..	14,584,840	14,573,040	14,668,640	14,670,160
Bills discounted ..	9,848,680	10,569,200	11,350,400	11,008,800
Advances ..	23,513,960	23,573,240	23,491,400	23,491,360
Note circulation ..	530,681,000	528,941,320	522,400,400	518,011,160
Public deposits ..	3,034,800	2,291,360	1,231,520	2,762,720
Private deposits ..	102,651,960	99,149,760	99,563,160	98,939,080
Foreign Bills ..	66,960	62,680	57,320	49,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 35½ per cent., against 36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £260,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £39,655,600, decrease £236,000, and at the branches to £40,728,360, decrease £279,840.

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915
Gold .. ..	£ 29,355,495	£ 28,931,172	£ 28,707,881	£ 28,618,927
Silver .. ..	29,480,475	29,530,136	29,759,651	29,641,864
Foreign Bills ..	4,767,085	4,859,649	4,629,812	4,540,218
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,355,941	26,210,432	26,018,991	26,293,795
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,585,373	29,908,594	29,882,457	29,739,049
Notes in Circulation ..	80,856,270	80,846,749	80,459,725	80,409,054
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	26,059,975	5,782,869	26,330,997	26,068,869
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,330,404	1,358,397	1,722,726	1,636,732
Government Securities ..	2,723,695	2,780,465	1,961,941	1,983,631

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 31, 1915.	Aug. 23, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 3,453,000	£ 3,519,000	£ 3,462,000	£ 3,059,000
Balance abroad ..	3,720,000	3,698,000	3,703,000	1,289,000
Foreign Bills ..	784,000	784,000	802,000	496,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	4,075,000	4,136,000	4,091,000	6,477,000
Discounts & Loans ..	7,893,000	7,937,000	7,762,000	7,597,000
Notes in Circulation ..	1,731,000	1,766,000	1,770,000	1,141,000
Deposits at notice ..				

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915.	Aug. 28, 1915.	Sept. 12, 1914
Gold .. ..	£ 31,644,337	£ 31,572,132	£ 31,536,462	£ 13,764,147
Silver .. ..	157,511	153,252	193,503	201,872
Bills discounted, &c. ..	12,313,787	12,443,532	12,869,533	25,851,959
Note circulation ..	43,265,924	43,350,683	43,808,858	37,066,207
Deposits .. ..	1,758,334	1,677,792	1,764,815	2,302,914

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 14, 1915.		Sept. 16, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.55	11.75*	11.65	11.75*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.48	11.54	11.46	11.55
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.30	30.50*	30.10	30.20*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	29.80	30	29.60	29.70
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½	34½	35½
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..				
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.25	28.35*	28	28.15*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	27.85	27.90	27.60	27.70
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	135	137	135	137
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	18.40	18.50	18.05	18.20
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	18.10	18.20		
Spain (Bnk. pics.) ..	Three months' bills ..	46	46½*	46	46½*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.80	24.90	24.80	24.90
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.25	25.40*	25.20	25.35*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.75	24.90	24.70	24.85*

\* Nominal.

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 4, 1915.	Aug. 28, 1915.	Aug. 22, 1915.	Sept. 5, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 6,301,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,298,000	£ 5,736,000
Balance abroad ..				
Foreign Bills ..	5,718,000	5,603,000	5,723,000	3,373,000
Swedish and Foreign ..				
Govt. Securities ..	2,702,000	2,734,000	2,743,000	144,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,726,000	5,838,000	6,075,000	9,059,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,839,000	14,877,000	14,920,000	15,676,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,073,000	4,869,000	4,902,000	3,554,000

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. ..	chqs.	27.80	27.42½	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	slight	30.10	27.50
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.52½	11.53	Constantinople	3 mths.	12½d.	12½d.
Berlin .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths.	136	139	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.68	4.71	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/9½d.
Liabon .. ..	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	24.92½	24.85	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths.	2/0½d.	2/1d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	4½-4½	4½
Three months ..	4½-4½	4½
Four months ..	4½-4½	4½
Six months ..	5-5½	4½-5
Three months are inland bills	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
" for call loans ..	4-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

City editors continue to use their old phrases in trying to depict the impulses and movements of stock markets—tell us about "features" when most departments have not even prominences equal to a nose on the face, and inform us that one stock or market is "weak," another "firm," or "pretty cheerful," or "inclined to advance," but really there is mostly no market at all. Why should there be until the fog at the war front lifts a little? No real speculation is possible, moreover—and well for the public is it that it is so—and the inevitable business of winding up deceased estates, investing new savings, transferring money out of one security into another, &c., never attains a magnitude that puts "go" into any department of the Stock Exchange. It is always a marvel to us that the appearance of things is so cheerful.

And some good symptoms do emerge. Argentine railway traffic receipts, for instance, at least encourage investors to hold on, and may reasonably induce new buyers to come forward. For there is a natural disposition to seek investments lying outside the war area—though where "outside" is would seem hard to discover. But Argentina is one of those countries which ought to reap benefit from the strife, and the rubber industry is a branch of the world's production that is benefiting now. Good dividends are therefore being announced by rubber-producing companies, and the share market is firm. So is the Kaffir market. But we do not advise purchases either in "Rubbers" or "Kaffirs" just at the moment, because we should like to see how the exchanges behave after the Yankee war loan has been arranged.

There is, however, a good deal of buying of Kaffir shares, the run being on the rubbish, as is nearly always the case. It is not altogether illogical buying, only if you do buy do not hang on too long and be among the last to crawl



out. All the good South African gold mine shares are at present very near their full value, measured by actual yield and probable life. Among "Rubbers," though, there may be a few bargains, but a nett 10 per cent. yield ought to be stipulated for by the mere investor. It is not worth while taking the risks for less. And what about "Yanks"? There is still time to sell things on which the adverse exchange may have caused a profit to emerge, and we do not disavise sales, although no severe fall is in sight anywhere. Bad times are by no means over, though, in America any more than here.

Some people want to be guided as to what they should do with the shares in Armament companies. It is a puzzle. If the Government really succeeds in limiting their profits there is no object in holding for a rise because no rise looks profitable. When the war ends either the makers of armaments must submit to receive few orders or the people must go without food. Shares in undertakings confronted by complications and risks of this kind are luxuries to be indulged in only by the rich.

Business on the Stock Exchange has been quite up to the recent average, but the tone has not been particularly cheerful. The political situation is causing a good deal of anxiety, and although many members are inclined to favour the panacea of conscription, the general feeling is that the time chosen for the agitation is most unpropitious. But it has had an unsettling and depressing effect because the dangers of serious disunion in the country at the present stage are very obvious. Fears with regard to the supplementary Budget proposals have also had an influence, and the War Loan, which started the week well, has eased off a fraction, sellers being rather in the majority. The number of transactions continues fairly large, but the "rights" have now fallen to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ , and there have been fewer dealings in them. "Straddle" bargains in War Loan and Consols were at one time done at 98 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 65, but the price subsequently fell to 98. Old War Loan also slipped back a fraction. Colonial loans received a fair amount of attention. New South Wales 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cents being particularly prominent. Business is at a standstill in the lower interest bearing issues. Foreign Government stocks continue very stagnant, but there was some inquiry for Japanese, Russians, Argentine Treasury notes, and Brazilian Fours. German Threes were dealt in at 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ -55, and look dear enough at the price.

Home Railways showed a good deal of strength most of the week. At first the favourites were Brighton "A" and South-Eastern deferred, the former advancing sharply at one time, but later the Heavies came in for most attention. There is only a very small supply of floating stock, and any inquiry puts prices up. Great Easterns were rather a weak spot, and the market generally closed below the best. American Railroads have been rather irregular, and the final tendency was heavy on the prospect of a recovery in the exchange when the loan in New York is arranged. Eries were very prominent on hopes that the first preferred will be put on a 4 per cent. basis this year. Industrials were decidedly weak, both Steels and International Marines falling sharply. Canadian Pacifics reacted a little on the death of Sir Wm. Van Horne, but Grand Trunks were fairly steady on the excellent harvest reports. Mexican Rails were scarcely mentioned except to be marked down a little. Argentine Railways were irregular, and although the traffics mostly showed substantial increases they were not considered particularly brilliant. Antofagastas, Leopoldinas, and United of Havana received some support.

In the Miscellaneous sections there was no improvement in the volume of business, but the tone was good all things considered. Dealings were confined to comparatively few shares, among which the Shipping division was prominent. Royal Mails were strong, and Houlders, Furness Withy, Court Line, Prince Line, and one or two others were in demand, but P. and O. went back rather sharply. Hudson's Bays showed considerable activity, and although they did not hold at the top price the market was strong, while Canadian Industrial shares were rather inclined to give way. Van den Berghs were in demand. Dutch trade with Germany is extremely profitable, and the genius for giving too little and asking too much has not been lost in the last century. Nothing of importance occurred among Bank and Insurance shares, but in the Armament group Birmingham Small Arms advanced on the excellent dividend and the handsome bonus represented by the capitalisation of the reserve. Lyons recovered a fraction, and there was a demand for Argentine Meat shares, but the Textile group was neglected and rather dull. There was nothing else of much importance in this line, and the terrible wilderness of small concerns remains utterly dead, as far as any business is concerned.

In the Rubber market there have been more signs of activity owing to the declaration of favourable interim dividends, and small investors are coming steadily into the market with the idea of averaging up their returns from gilt-edged investments. One of the most active shares recently has been Kawie Javas, and the buying has been justified by the dividend of 10 per cent. just announced. This is better than anticipated, but the importance of the announcement is that there are many other concerns in a

similar position, which will produce equally good results when their time comes. Oils have not been so good, and the leaders have shown some slackness, but Lobitos have improved in spite of the trouble with the Peruvian Government about increased taxation.

Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols.....	65x	65x	—	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 yr. bds.	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1922-7.	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
69 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ (60 pd.)	18 dis	18 dis	95	New Zealand 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	92	92
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	92	Queensland 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	92	92
92	Canada 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1940-60	92	92	—	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ x
—	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	98	98	—	Union of S. Africa	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	95	95	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	Belgian 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	French Rentes	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$ x
—	Brazil, 1913	63	63	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st)	87	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	" New Funding	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	" (2nd)	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	Chinese 1896	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Russia 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	" 1913	82	82	—	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	Egypt Unified 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	85	85	—	" 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	92	92
Brighton defd.	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London and S.-W. dfd.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Metropolitan	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central pf.	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % New pf.	96	96
" dfd.	7	7	7	—	Met. District	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Eastern	34	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Midland dfd.	59	59
Gt. Northern dfd.	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nth. British dfd.	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nth.-Eastern	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lanes. and Yorks.	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nth.-Western	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	—	—	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
Canadian Pacific	164	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Chesapeake	52	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Notes	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Erie	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % deba.	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Milwaukee	89	89
Grand Trunk ord.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	N. Y. Central	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
Do. 3rd pf.	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Southern	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Southern Pacific	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. "	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Union Pacific	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison	108	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	U. S. Steel	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baltimore	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—
Antofagasta dfd.	122	127	127	—	Cent. Argentine ord.	83	84
Do. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Notes	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Notes	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Common	6	6	6	—	Do. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific	48	48	48	—	Leopoldina	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Gt. Southern	81	80	80	—	Mexican ord.	18	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Western	87	86	86	—	San Paulo (Brazilian)	160	160
—	—	—	—	—	United of Havana	73	73
Bank of Australasia	108	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London City & Midland	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London County & West.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. "B"	94	94	94	—	London Joint Stock	20	20
Capital & Counties	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (100 pd)	22	22
Chartered of India	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. (12 pd)	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26
Hongkong & Shanghai	71	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Parr's	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Standard of S.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial	15	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Union & Smiths.	23	23
London & S.W.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—
Apollinaris ord.	2	2	2	—	Forestal Land	35/6	35/
Armstrong, Whitworth	35/9	36/	36/	—	Furness, Withy	32/9	33/
Associated Cement	22	22	22	—	Hudson's Bay	28/9	28/
Birmingham Small Arms	58/	60/	60/	—	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22/	22/
Borax dfd.	22/	22/6	22/6	—	Do. dfd. 'A'	38/	36/
Bovril	19/	18/9	18/9	—	Kynochs	30/	30/
Brazil Traction	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	47	—	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20/6	20/6
British Amer. Tobacco	64/6	64/x	64/x	—	Lyons, J.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John), & Co.	26/6	26/6	26/6	—	Marconi	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Maypole Dairy dfd.	24/6	24/6
Cammell-Laird	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Mond Nickel ord.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caster-Kellner	60/	60/	60/	—	National Steam Car	11/9	11/3
Coats	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	43x	43x	—	Nobel Dynamite	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
Cunard	58/6	57/6	57/6	—	Pears, A. & F.	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.	29/6	29/6	29/6	—	P. & O. dfd.	270	270
Dorman, Long	21/9	21/9	21/9	—	Royal Mail	84	83
Eastmans	7/3	7/6	7/6	—	South Durham Steel	27/6	27/6
English Sewing Cotton	30/	33/	33/	—	Underground Inc. Bds.	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
Fine Cotton Spinners	24/	24/	24/	—	Vickers	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	33/
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	5/	4/6	4/6	—	Mexican Eagle pf.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (ros.)	3/3	3/3	3/3	—	North Caucasian	28/9	28/
Burmah	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Roumanian Cons.	13/	13/
Lobitos	27/9	28/	28/	—	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3/6	3/6	3/6	—	Shell	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Pipeline	4/	4/	4/	—	Spies (10/-)	14/3	14/
Mexican Eagle	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ural Caspian	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Malay	8/6	8/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	8/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	—	Linggi	13/9	13/9
Batu Caves	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	12	—	London Asiatic	6/	6/
Bukit Mertajam	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Malacca	4	4
Bukit Sembawang	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Malayalam	20/6	20/9
Damansara	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Merlimau	4/	4/
Gula Kalumpung	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.)	11/9	10/10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	United Serdang	8/9	9/3
Johore Rubber Lands	14/	14/3	14/3	—	Vallambrosa	13/3	13/3
Abbontiakoon (10/-)	8/	7/9	7/9	—	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.)	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	East Rand	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	44/	44/3	44/3	—	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	15/3	15/6
Cam & Motor	12/9	12/9	12/9	—	Meyer & Charlton	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Modder "B"	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered	10/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10/	10/	—	Do. Deep	5	5
City Deep	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	New Modder (£4)	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Rand Mines (5/-)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaate	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Rio Tinto (£5)	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55
Crown Mines (10/-)	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	—	Van Ryn Deep	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Maikop Combine.—Production week 11th inst., 913 tons.  
 Anglo-Roumanian.—Production week Sept. 4, 214 tons.  
 Bibi Eibat.—Production week Sept. 12, 1,037 tons.  
 Maikop Premier.—Production week Sept. 11, 19 tons.  
 Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 6,900 poods from ambars, week Sept. 12, 4,483 tons. Production for the year from Jan. 14 to Sept. 12, 155,117 tons.  
 European Oilfields.—Production week September 12, 83,200 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 42 copecks per pood.  
 Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—Nett earnings for July, \$247,027; increase, \$15,651.  
 Georgia Light, Power and Railways.—Nett earnings for July, \$29,195; increase, \$9,220. Aggregate from January 1 to July, \$211,333; decrease, \$4,111.



## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A steady tone predominated in this market during the week, and a fair general demand was experienced. Of home refined, Tate's cubes No. 1, 31s.; No. 2, 30s. 6d.; granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s. Lyle's granulated, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; white crystals, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d.; and yellow crystals, 26s. 6d. Of foreign, American granulated, spot, London, sold, 29s. Cane kinds showed some irregularity. Trinidad crystallised sold, 26s. 9d. for fine yellow. St. Lucia, low greyish to good mid yellow, 25s. to 25s. 9d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week totalled 9,000 tons, as compared with 10,000 at corresponding period last year. Centrals at work 1, against 1. Cane sales ruled quiet, 435 bags crystallised Demerara, sold, low brownish to mid palish, 25s. to 25s. 3d. 472 bags Trinidad, sold, mid to good yellow, 25s. 6d. to 26s. 2,303 bags Jamaica, partly sold, low to good mid yellow, 24s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. 407 bags Jamaica muscovado, sold, mid to good color, 20s. to 21s. 166 bags Demerara syrups sold, low grainy brownish, 18s.; and fine yellow, 21s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—Small supplies in auction passed off slowly, but prices showed no material change. Vera Paz, good to fine hold, 75s. to 84s. 6d.; peas, 77s. to 97s. 6d. Futures ruled very quiet.

**COCOA.**—A small quantity was offered in auction and bought in. Privately, St. Thome sold 77s.

**TEA.**—The market this week was unsettled by the announcement that duty payments for a normal amount only would be accepted. Ceylon auctions passed off with an irregular tone. At the opening buyers showed some hesitation, and prices registered a sharp decline, but subsequently recovered on competition becoming more general, and at the close, common and fine grades showed little change on previous values. Medium descriptions, however, were fully ½d. per lb. cheaper. Indian sales passed off with a fair demand, but quotations, with a few exceptions, ruled in favour of buyers. Java sales experienced a generally quiet demand, and prices ruled easier.

**SPICES.**—Pepper market ruled firmer. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sold, 5½d. to 6d.; Tellicherry at 6d. to 6½d.; Lampung, quoted, 5½d. Fair white Singapore, spot, sold 8½d. to 8½d.; Muntok, ditto, at 9½d. to 10½d. To arrive: black Singapore, September-October shipment, quoted, 5½d.; white, ditto, sold, 8½d. Muntok, sold, 9½d. to 9½d., landed terms. Penang, September-October, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves met a better demand. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sold, 6½d.

**RICE** firm, and holders reserved. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 6d. to 14s., and Rangoon, two stars, 14s. to 14s. 3d. Bran, afloat, sold, 127s. 6d. c.f. and i.

**JUTE** ruled stronger, but a quieter tone existed later. Native first marks, spot, London, sold, £24 up to £25 10s.; ditto, September, at £26 7s. 7d., £27 5s., and £26 15s.; lightning D/E, spot, at £23 10s.; Daisee 2, September-October, at £26 15s.; and Mango group, September, £24 5s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila parcels steady, but quiet. New graded, fair, September- November shipment, sellers, £38 10s.; medium, ditto, £35 10s.; coarse brown, £28; coarse, sold £29 15s., c.f. and i. New Zealand steadily held. G.F., October-December, quoted, £33; H.P.F., ditto, £32; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot parcels firmer. Fair T.N., orange, sold, 67s. 6d. to 69s. A.C. garnet, fair, free, sellers, 64s. Futures dearer. October, sold, 70s. to 70s. 6d.; December, 71s. to 72s. 6d.; and March, 74s.

**GAMBIER** steady, but quiet. Good marks, September-October, shipment, quoted, 34s., c.f. and i.

**INDIA-RUBBER.**—Market quiet. Plantation, crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 3½d.; September, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 3½d.; October, 2s. 3½d.; October-December, 2s. 3½d.; January-June, sellers, 2s. 3½d. Smoked sheet, spot and September, sold, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 3½d.; October-December, quoted, 2s. 3½d.; January-June, 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 4½d.; September-October, sellers, 2s. 4½d.; November-December sold, 2s. 4½d. Soft, spot and near, sellers, 2s. 3d. Ball, spot and near, 2s. 3d.; and scrappy, 1s. 8½d. per lb.

**COPRA.**—Market ruled quiet. To London: Ceylon, September-October, quoted, £24 5s.; Malabar, ditto, £25 5s.; F.M.S., Singapore, quoted, £23 7s. 6d.; South Sea, £22 7s. 6d. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, September-November, quoted, £23 12s. 6d. Cebu, ditto, £23 7s. 6d.; Manila, August-October and September-November, £22 12s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**WOOL.**—Public sales continued with brisk competition, with prices steady at opening level.

**METALS.**—Copper: The speculative market has been unsettled at intervals this week, with an upward tendency, a fair amount of bear covering having taken place, standard cash delivery reaching £69 5s. and three months £70 5s. Little change characterised movements at Thursday's session, values of these dates closing at £69 2s. 6d. and three months £70 2s. 6d. Tin irregular. A hardening tendency prevailed at the week's commencement, standard cash delivery settling down at £154 10s. and three months £155 15s., declining by the middle of the week on moderate selling pressure to £152 10s. and £153 10s. respectively. Dealings were on a small scale at Thursday's session, but offers were made with some little reserve, cash improving to £153 15s. and £154 15s. Lead: Market steady. Foreign, September, £23 2s. 6d.; October, £22 15s. Spelter easier. September, £67; October, £70. Iron fairly maintained.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—There was no expansion in business this week, the attendance being limited and price changes in favour of buyers. Wheat (English): New crop whites and reds range at 44s. to 48s. per 504 lbs., according to quality, delivered. Foreign kinds: Canadian nominal. No. 1 Northern Duluth, 58s. 6d., ex ship; 59s. landed. Plate, 53s. 6d., ex quay. Karachi choice white, 53s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: Minneapolis first patents, 42s. 6d., upwards; and Manitoba patents, 40s. to 41s., both landed. Grind-

ing barley: Plate, 35s. 6d., ex ship; Japanese, ex ship and to arrive shortly, 37s. 6d. Oats: Bahia Blanca, 25s. 3d., upwards, landed. American white clipped, 32s., landed. Maize: Plate (sound), 30s. 9d., ex ship; 31s. 3d., landed. White flat African in latter position, 34s.

**TALLOW.**—Market firm. At public sale, 1,887 casks were brought forward, and 1,682 sold, prices being 6d. to 1s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 37s. 6d.; fair to good, 35s. 6d. to 37s.; dark to dull, 32s. 6d. to 35s. 3d.; hard, 36s. 9d. Beef: fine, 36s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 9d. to 36s.; dark to dull, 31s. 6d. to 32s. 9d.; sweet, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter unaltered for stuff, tallow being 1s. up. Town tallow, 35s. 6d.; smelted stuff, 24s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 7d. per 8 lb.

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 1/10, 98%			Australian	15 2 9	10 2 8
polarisation			Scoured Merino	13 2 1	11 1 7 1/2
Tate's Cubes No. 1	111 0	111 0	Scoured Cr. Merino	0 7 1/2	0 9 1/2
Ditto, No. 2	110 6	110 6	Greasy Merino	1 1 1/2	0 8 1 3
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 8 0	Greasy Crossbred	2 1 1/2	2 0 2 8
Lyle's granulated	27 6-28 0	27 6-28 0	New Zealand	1 0 1/2	1 1 1/2
Foreign granulated	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	1 7 1/2	1 5 2 0
l.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred		
German Cubes l.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West			Crepe	0 2 4 1/2	0 2 3 1/2
India	24 0-27 0	24 0-27 0	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.	nom.	nom.
Beet, 88% l.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
83 lb.			East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9 1/2-1 1	0 9 1/2-1 1	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 1/2-1 2	0 10 1/2-1 2	Steam, best	18 0-19 0	18 0-19 0
Orange	0 10 1/2-1 3	0 10 1/2-1 3	Seconds	16 0-17 0	16 0-17 0
Broken	0 11 1/2-1 4	0 11 1/2-1 4	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 12 1/2-1 5	0 12 1/2-1 5	English Pig	24 0 0	24 0 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 13 1/2-1 6	0 13 1/2-1 6	Foreign soft Sept.	23 15 0	23 5 0
Broken	0 9 1/2-1 1	0 9 1/2-1 1	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per		
Orange	0 9 1/2-1 1	0 9 1/2-1 1	bottle first hand	16 15 17 0	16 10 0
Broken	0 10 1/2-1 2	0 10 1/2-1 2	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 11 1/2-1 3	0 11 1/2-1 3	English Ingots	153 1/2-154 1/2	153 1/2-154 1/2
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	Do, bars	154 1/2-155 1/2	154 1/2-155 1/2
duty 1d. per lb.			Standard cash	£153 5 0	£152 10 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-84 0	79 0-84 0	Tin Plates, per box	17 10 1/2	17 10 1/2
Grenada	78 0-82 0	78 0-82 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
West Africa	nom.	nom.	English, Tough	£82-£83	£86-£87
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	per ton	£76-£77	£79-£80
Guayaquil Arriba	89 0-92 0	89 0-92 0	Best Selected	£76-£77	£79-£80
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			Sheets	£98	£96
duty 1½d. per lb.			Standard	£67 12 6	£69 0 0
East India	67 0-94 0	67 0-94 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	47 0-120 6	47 0-120 6	Native firsts for		
Costa Rica	55 0-82 0	55 0-82 0	sh'pmt. Sept.	£26 0 0	£26 15 0
<b>Provisions</b> —			<b>Oils</b> —		
Butter, per cwt.			Linseed, per ton	£26-£26 1/2	£26 1/2-£27 1/2
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Irish Creameries	157 1/2-164 1/2	164 1/2-170 1/2	casks		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Brown, English	£36-£38	£36-£38
Russian finest	134 1/2-138 1/2	136 1/2-140 1/2	naked	£34-£35	£34-£35
Normandy baskets	120 1/2-146 1/2	146 1/2-150 1/2	Cott'n Seed, crude	£26 1/2-£27 1/2	£27
Danish finest	174 1/2-176 1/2	180 1/2-181 1/2	Ditto, refined	£29 1/2-£35	£30-£36
Brittany rolls			Petroleum Oil, per		
doz. lb.	14 6-17 0	15 0-17 0	8 lbs.	9 1/2d.	9 1/2d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Water White	10 1/2d.	10 1/2d.
Irish	98 0-105 0	96 0-105 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental	98 0-107 0	96 0-107 0	Calcutta—per 410		
Canadian	86 0-95 0	88 0-95 0	lbs., Sep-Oct.	2 15 9	2 16 0
American	69 0-70 0	74 0-86 0	Rape, Guzerat	3 0 0	3 0 0
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Sept-Oct.		
Irish	118 0-124 0	120 0-124 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Canadian	72 0-80 0	86 0-88 0	Cleveland Cash	3 4 11	3 4 11
American	46 0-74 0	50 0-76 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty,		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			unmanufactured		
Edam	84 0-86 0	84 0-86 0	3/8, 4 1/4 per lb.		
Canadian	74 0-77 0	74 0-78 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Gouda	78 0-84 0	78 0-84 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	78 0-94 0	78 0-94 0	Virginian	0 5 1/2-1 6	0 5 1/2-1 6
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0-1 0	0 6 0-1 0
New Zealand	75 0-77 0	76 0-77 0	Latakia	0 4 1/2-1 0	0 4 1/2-1 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—			Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
open charter,			Manila	0 6-4 0	0 6-4 0
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	cigars, duty 7 1/2 lb.	2 0	2 0
cwt.	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Danaisig and		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Memel Fir, per		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	load	130 1/2-150	130 1/2-150 1/2
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	280 1/2-600 1/2	280 1/2-600 1/2
Dutch	17 0-21 0	17 6-22 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	10 0-12 0	10 6-12 6	Town households,		
Danish	16 0-18 6	17 0-20 0	official	43 1/2	43 1/2
			American, 1st pa-		
			tents	42 1/2 upds.	42 1/2 upds.

**OILS.**—Linseed firm. Spot, pipes (landed), £26 10s.; barrels, £27 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 17s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), August-September, £30 5s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £26 15s. to £27; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £29 10s.; sweet (barrels), £34 to £35. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, August-September, £23 5s., c.f. and i. Turpentine quiet. American spirits, on spot, 34s. 7½d.; Spanish, spot, 30s. 7½d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet, but steady. Calcutta, spot, 55s. 6d.; afloat, 55s. 6d.; August-September, 55s. 6d.; September-October, 55s. 9d.; October-November, 56s. La Plata, September-October, 51s. 9d. Rape-seed: Guzerat, September-October (pure), 60s.; Toria (3 per



cent.), September-October, 52s 6d. Cottonseed steady. London Egyptian, September, £9 15s.; October, £9 10s.; November, January, £9 2s. 6d.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—All other matters in the market during the past week have been overshadowed by the further marked advance in raw cotton rates, the rise being about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a pound. Compared with the middle of August, values are dearer to the extent of about a penny a pound. It is not easy to account for this extraordinary state of affairs, but in the States the bull party seem to have had matters all their own way. There have been reports of extensive buying by Germany, the idea being to store the raw material in view of the expected large requirements after the war is over. In cloth for export there was plenty of inquiry about at the beginning of the week, but owing to the advance in prices buyers now scarcely think it worth while to attempt transactions, and at the moment there is a disposition to look on pending further developments. A few days ago India showed signs of coming in with extensive orders, but it has been quite impossible to bridge differences between price and offer. Only isolated sales of any importance have transpired for China. Manufacturers, to secure business, have had to be prepared to take comparatively low rates. There has been very little doing for the minor outlets both East and West. Printing cloths are not so active as a few weeks ago. The depression in shirtings is still very acute. No real relief has come round for producers of light fabrics such as dhooties. In American and Egyptian yarns distinctly higher prices prevail and buying has been very irregular, and in most instances progress has been blocked by the stiffer rates demanded. There is a tendency for spinners to lose ground, and coarse American counts are not so strongly situated as a little time ago. Most of the offers from abroad have been quite unworkable.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR**.—In fair support with regard to refined sorts, and prices were unchanged. Grocery cane, West Africa, at public sale, ruled steady, but rather quiet. Crystallised Trinidad sold, 26s. to 26s. 3d. Demerara, 26s. to 26s. 3d., with choice colory 27s. 3d. Low Jamaica, 24s. 9d. to 25s. Fine St. Kitts syrups sold, 21s. 3d. to 21s. 6d.

**COFFEE**.—Only a small quantity was catalogued in auction. Tone of market is quiet, steady. Futures dull and easier. September delivery quoted 36s. 9d., and December 36s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**SPICE**.—General trade is quiet, but holders of pepper required full rates.

**RICE** remains firm, quiet.

**JUTE**.—Market dull and tendency easy. Native first marks, September steamer, value £26 10s.

**HEMP** slow, but no material change occurred in quotations.

**SHELLAC** steady, quiet. T.N., December value, 71s.

**RUBBER** about steady, but quiet. Plantation spot crêpe quoted 2s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., September 2s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., October-December, 2s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ribbed smoke sheet, sellers, 2s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Of wild, fine hard Para, spot and near buyers, 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**METALS**.—Copper dealings were limited, but no particular change occurred in values, settling down 2s. 6d. easier for both cash and three months compared with previous day's close. Standard cash sold £69, and three months at £70 to £70 5s. and then back to £70, closing £69 and £70 respectively. Settlement price £69 2s. 6d. About 300 tons sold. Electros unchanged at £86 to £87. Tough £86 to £87. Best selected £79 to £80. Strong sheets £96. Tin continued in a very quiet state, and with some pressure on the part of sellers values moved in a downward direction. Cash and also three months closed 25s. lower since Thursday's final. Standard cash sold £153 10s. to £152 10s. and three months at £154 to £153 10s., closing £152 10s. cash and £153 10s. three months. Some 50 tons sold. Settlement price £152 10s. In the East 150 tons sold on the basis of £156 c.f. and i. Lead steady. English £24; foreign, September, sold, £23 5s.; October, sellers, £23; and December £22 10s. Spelter easier forward, G.O.B., officially quoted at £70 to £64. Antimony nominal. Tin plates, I.C. cokes 17s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 17s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron easier. Cleveland, cash 64s. 9d., one month 65s. 2d., and three months 65s. 11d. Quicksilver £16 10s.

**OILS**.—Linseed, spot pipes (landed), £26 10s.; barrels, £27 5s. Cotton, crude spot (pipes), £27; refined pale spot (pipes), £30; sweet (barrels), £35 to £36.

**SEEDS**.—Linseed quiet, but steady. Calcutta, spot and near, 55s. 6d. Cottonseed firm. London, October, £9 15s.; November-January £9 5s.

#### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

**American Investment Trust**.—Interim for half-year ended Sept. 15 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

**Bagan Serai Rubber**.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Sept. 28, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

**Banteng (Selangor) Rubber**.—Final of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in respect of year ended April 30, 1915, making 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the year, less tax, placing £5,000 to reserve, with £2,525 forward, against 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

**Cairn Line of Steamships**.—Second interim of 5 per cent., free tax, in addition to the interim of 10 per cent. paid July 1. For the whole of 1914 10 per cent. was paid.

**California Railway and Power**.—Usual quarterly of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on the prior preference, payable Oct. 1.

**California Petroleum**.—1 per cent. on the preferred, payable Oct. 1.

**Cammell, Laird, and Co.**.—Interim on the ordinary of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 6, same as a year ago.

**Chas. Baker**.—Interim for half-year ended July 31, payable Oct. 1, on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

**Chino Copper**.—75c., payable Sept. 30.

**City Offices**.—Interim of 6s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 15, against 5s. a year ago.

**Colonial Bank**.—3 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, being at the rate of 6 per cent., same as a year ago.

**Direct Spanish Telegraph**.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 1, same as last year.

**Consolidated Water Works of Rosario**.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable 1st prox., same as a year ago.

**Eow Seng Rubber**.—Interim of 10 per cent. for year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1.

**Golden Hope Rubber**.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 23, same as a year ago.

**Irrawaddy Flotilla**.—49s. per share, free of tax, same as last year.

**Lambert Brothers**.—On the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent. for year ended June 30, same as a year ago, but the bonus was 5 per cent.

**Linggi Plantations**.—Second interim of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable 16th prox., same as a year ago.

**Manila Electric Railroad and Lighting**.—1 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for quarter ended Sept. 30 on the common, payable Oct. 1, against 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. a year ago.

**Montevideo Waterworks**.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable 1st prox., same as last year.

**Montgomery, Ward, and Co.**.—Quarterly of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the preferred, payable Oct. 1.

**New Zealand and Australian Land**.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, with a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

**Ogilvie Flour Mills**.—Usual quarterly of 2 per cent. on the common, payable Oct. 1.

**Oroville Dredging**.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable, less tax, Sept. 29.

**Pantiya Tea and Rubber**.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

**Pataling Rubber**.—Second interim of 30 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 23, same as a year ago.

**Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron**.—7s. 6d. on the ordinary, placing £47,500 to reserve fund. Last year a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. was paid, as against 8 per cent. in 1913.

**Pennsylvania Water and Power**.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. on the common, payable Oct. 1.

**Plymouth Consolidated Gold Mines**.—Interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 29.

**Ray Consolidated Copper**.—37 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., payable Sept. 30.

**Rio de Janeiro City Improvements**.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 15; last year no interim was paid, the distribution for 1914 being 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., tax free.

**Riordon Pulp and Paper**.—Usual quarterly of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. (at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum) on the preference, payable Sept. 30.

**San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway**.—For half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary of 5 per cent., being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of tax, same as a year ago.

**Selaba Rubber**.—Interim of 8 per cent. (actual), less tax in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 28, equivalent to 1s. 7 1-2d. per share, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

**Selangor River Rubber**.—Interim of 10 per cent., tax free, for half-year ended June 30, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

**Shawinigan Water and Power**.—1 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the common for quarter ending Sept. 30, payable Oct. 9.

**Shelford Rubber**.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending Dec. 31; last year 4 per cent. was paid, but free of tax.

**Smithfield and Argentine Meat**.—Interim of 1s. per share, free tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, payable 18th inst. This is the first dividend since 1912.

**Steel Company of Canada**.—On the preference shares of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for quarter ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1.

**Sungei Salak Rubber**.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

**Sutherland Steamship**.—Interim of 20 per cent. per annum, less tax.

**Tenem (Borneo) Rubber**.—Interim of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

**Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging**.—2s. per share (10 per cent.), payable Oct. 22, same as in July last.

**Toronto Railway**.—2 per cent. for quarter ending Sept. 30, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 1.

**Transvaal Gold Estates**.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year ending Sept. 30, against 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. a year ago, payable Nov. 1.

**Utah Copper**.—\$1, payable Sept. 30.

**Workington Brewery**.—Interim on ordinary for half-year ended Aug. 31 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

**Yokohama Specie Bank**.—12 per cent. per annum for six months ended June 30, placing Yen 400,000 to reserve, with Yen 1,330,000 forward, same as a year ago.



### Mr. E. D. Morel—Pro-German or Pacificist?

At the first moment it might be thought that the question which forms the title of this article suggests a distinction without a difference, but that would be a mistake. There are many Pacificists who could hardly be classified as pro-Germans, although in actual fact their attitude is practically of great assistance to Germany. Some have hearts stronger than their heads; in their genuine horror over the appalling slaughter and suffering that they see before their eyes they are incapable of perceiving any other aspect of the war; they wait for peace at any price, unable to grasp what such a peace would mean in the near future—another terrible war, and probably the utter destruction of this country and her great Empire. There is another section more to be despised that appears, more or less consciously, to be occupied with its personal safety, and to dread the continuance of the war because it is possible in the last resort the country may call on all her men to act as men, and not allow even members of these small pacifist cliques to skulk at home in safety while others fight and die for them. And there is yet a third section to whom the direct material losses caused by the war are the really alarming factor; a materialistic view of life has taken firm hold on them.

But Mr. E. D. Morel appears to fall easily into none of these categories. He came before the public originally as the crusader in the cause of the oppressed natives of the Congo Free State, when that unfortunate country was being exploited by the emissaries of the late King Leopold; he was the founder and inspiring genius of the Congo Reform Association, which after a long and uphill fight was able to carry its policy to a successful conclusion. The Congo Free State ceased to be administered as the private property of King Leopold, and became, what it always should have been, the dependency of Belgium itself. No responsible person in this country has ever taken any other view of this agitation, so far as the association itself is concerned, than the one openly professed, that it was a campaign to get rid of a horrible system of veiled slavery.

It is the remarkable attitude adopted by Mr. Morel since the war began that has raised such puzzling doubts in people's minds, and made them wonder whether other motives than those of pure humanity entered into his personal attitude to the Congo reform agitation. The man who was filled with a passion of humanitarian indignation at Belgian atrocities in the Congo had not a word to say against German atrocities in Belgium. Further, Mr. Morel was one of the signatories to that remarkable confidential circular first published in these columns in August of last year, when, in company with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Charles Trevelyan, and Mr. Norman Angell, a trio whose views are fairly well known, he asked at the very outbreak of one of the most criminal wars ever thrust by an aggressive country on a peaceful Continent for a peace that should not "humiliate" the enemy. From the issue of that circular arose that pernicious organisation, the Union of Democratic Control, and of this body Mr. Morel is the hon. secretary!

It was no wonder that people were bewildered; it set them examining Mr. Morel's past record, and then to discovering in it what appears to be one consistent thread which has linked together all his various activities; and that is, a persistent devotion to the interests of Germany.

The most remarkable proofs of this devotion are given in Mr. Morel's own book entitled "Morocco in Diplomacy," originally published in 1912 and republished just after the beginning of the present war under the title of "Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy." This is, in fact, from cover to cover a plea for Germany—such a plea as no doubt many innocent people have at different times put forward, ignorant as they were of the nature and aggressive designs of Germany; but they have seen their mistake; the difference is that Mr. Morel has not—he is still working apparently on the side of Germany.

The extreme anxiety of Germany to possess herself of at least a portion of the Belgian Congo has been made very clear in the Grey Book just issued by Belgium; and in one chapter of his book Mr. Morel makes the curious admission that he hoped Germany would interfere in the Congo, in conjunction with this country, he adds, in order to "insist on the Belgians fulfilling their treaty obligations." To read such a remark at the present time can surely arouse only sardonic laughter. Later on, Mr. Morel speaks with satisfaction of the arrangement that if the Belgian Congo comes into the market "through the unwillingness or inability of the Belgians to control it," Germany, as one of the signatories to the Treaty of Berlin, would have a voice in its disposal. How Germany's voice would have been given it needs no conjurer to discover.

These are incidental passages. The book itself is a plea for the German position as against that of France in the Morocco difficulty, and an emphatic condemnation of the policy pursued by Sir Edward Grey. Into the intricacies of that triangular diplomatic dispute it is impossible to go now, even if it would serve any useful purpose. But the value of Mr. Morel's judgment on the nature and ambitions of the country whose interests he was urging may be gathered from the following passage:—"The analogy that the anti-German party at home seeks to draw between the France of Napoleon the First and industrial modern Germany, in order to make our flesh creep, must strike anyone who tries to think it out as even more comical than it is foolish. The France of a hundred years ago, drunk with military glory, at the feet of a military genius whose god was War and whose personal ambition was at once limitless and uncontrollable by any force within France, bears as much resemblance in its motives, its needs, and its possibilities to the Germany of to-day as—well, as the two most dissimilar objects which the reader's mind can conjure."

Well, most of us have learnt something since those words were written of what the German cry of "Deutschland über alles" really means—but not, apparently, Mr. Morel. He was, we understand, at one time a member of an Anglo-German Friendship Society, one of those many interesting ventures for throwing dust in the eyes of the British nation; and now as leader of the Union of Democratic Control, and as a regular contributor to the *Labour Leader*, if he does not in plain words encourage friendship with Germany, he at any rate does his best to weaken this country in the life-and-death contest in which she is engaged. Of course, it is emphatically denied that Mr. Morel's contributions to the *Labour Leader*, which has the unhappy honour of having, it is believed, contributed considerably to the last lamentable strike of Welsh miners, are in any way pro-German; they are outpourings of the purest patriotism. The extraordinary thing is that they are heartily welcomed in Germany, and extracts are being circulated in neutral countries by the indefatigable German propaganda. A new series of articles has just been started in the same paper by Mr. Morel, with the patriotic object of widening that class division and increasing that class suspicion which form the weakest point in the general national unity.

"A house divided against itself shall not stand." It will not be Mr. Morel's fault if the house is not divided. Just when many of the finest leaders of the workingmen are realising that there are times when rich and poor, aristocrats and commoners, can stand shoulder to shoulder, equal in the comradeship of the trenches and in the brotherhood of death—for what, after all, can any man, rich or poor, give more than his life?—Mr. Morel can draw class distinctions and talk of what the rich have to gain by fighting while apparently the poor have nothing to lose by not fighting—and this with the common ruin, the infinite desolation, of Belgium before his eyes!

Mr. Morel emphasises certain social and industrial evils that we well know exist, and threatens the country with revolution. Such a catastrophe is not impossible, but is it the business of a good patriot to



stir up the fires of revolution at the very moment the enemy is thundering at the gates?

It is a strange business, and Englishmen are inclined to feel a sense of bitterness, because, after all, Mr. Morel is not by birth an Englishman, and why should this country have to put up with his agitations? Why should he not go to his native land of France, where, if he could do any harm—which is doubtful—he could do infinitely less than here. For Mr. Morel's talk about a "non-humiliating" peace can never have much effect in countries where they know by bitter experience what are the real horrors of war. Here there are still so many who have not the imagination to understand, and they provide a fruitful field for the preachings of the Pacificist safe through the heroism of the army that he denounces.

### American Business Notes.

From the way the Berlin officials are behaving to President Wilson many people are beginning to be convinced that they want him to plunge his country into the war on the side of Prussia's enemies. We continue of opinion that they have no such idea. Probably enough, such is the height of their vanity, they would not mind much if Dr. Wilson did join us, might, as has often been said here, regard the catastrophe as the surest way to a stoppage of supplies to us that could be devised; but really they seem to be merely playing the routine game they have been trained in for generations, a game whose dominant rule has been "lie to deceive and lie boldly. The peoples of other nations are such fools, such superstitious adherents to the old fashions of truth, honour, and plain dealing, that it is always easy to deceive them." It appears to be thought still in Berlin that the United States nation can be cheated with impunity, and that President Wilson will remain anxious to accept any excuse for crime plausibly offered rather than quarrel. In actual fact, the President has accepted no German lies either as truth or as more or less impudent concoctions intended to be passed off as truth. He has sought independent evidence, of course, and waits for it. When he gets it he acts vigorously enough, as Dr. Dumba has found out. We did not believe that Dr. Wilson would submit for ever to see his country and his Government flouted and played against by the tool, the contemptible tool, of a foreign Government, impudently taking advantage of ambassadorial immunities to further anarchy within the State whose hospitality he was abusing. And Dr. Wilson has not tolerated it for a day.

The Dumba reptile has been sent packing, and soon the Bernstorff creature, with his lesser imps of Prussian breed, must be made to follow. His participation in the schemings and bribings of Dumba is probable; he may very likely have been the instigator of the whole dirty business, and the insolence of his treatment of the Washington Government in regard to the submarine piracies has made him a man too ill-favoured for the society of decent, let alone honest, men. Just look back for a moment. False testimony was concocted, and sworn, to cover the *Lusitania* crime with a show of excuse, and the miserable being who lent himself to this fraud is now "doing time." A lame story, equally false, was palmed off about the *Arabic*, or various stories to choose from. "She altered her course," "she was going to ram the German submarine"—"any lie to oblige you, Mr. Wilson, and help you to keep your people quiet." And the *Hesperian* was not torpedoed, could not have been, because there was no German submarine near the spot. As if the Berlin lie manufacturers had any precise idea where their submarines are at any given moment. If they had it would not be necessary for our Admiralty to keep so quiet about the numbers of them we have sent to the bottom or seized.

And the President waits and waits only, we are more and more persuaded, until the evidence is complete. Already the story of German crime is a full one, and soon diligence in infamy so depraved will get its re-

ward. Do the Prussians never give a thought to the effect of their behaviour on the people of their own race living abroad? Probably never once. They betray no concern for their fellow-countrymen at home, whose only privilege is to go and be maimed or slain at the bidding of their masters, and be thankful. Why should they care about what happens to Germans living in the United States or the United Kingdom? Yet it is through these very Germans abroad, who are now forced to endure obloquy and to suffer hardship often, that the way of retribution is indicated. Whether enacted by Congress or not, a usage of "non-intercourse" is coming into operation in the States, as here. There need be no necessity for President Wilson formally to declare war. The nation he guides can make its own war in ways more deadly for Germany's future than any gunning could be.

A story emanates from the Berlin lie factory to the effect that a full supply of raw cotton has been secured by German manufacturers from American planters at 25 cents a lb. Who will believe that falsehood? Only the Germans at home, who must be lied to with augmenting fury in the hope of being beguiled into subscribing for that new loan. That Southern planters would sell their cotton to Germany at double the current price is probable enough, if the German buyers could pay for it, and the sellers would not mind in the least if we laid hold of it on the high seas. But that they will trade with Germany after the war as before we do not believe. The Prussians have done the entire German people an everlasting injury.

"But we could not pay for the cotton either in our present circumstances." That is true enough—if "paying on the nail" is meant—and an excellent reason for speeding up the arrangement of that loan this journal has urged our Government to raise for months past. A large credit—£300,000,000 by preference—arranged in the United States would be of incalculable immediate benefit to France and ourselves, but of far more ultimate advantage to the United States themselves. In this Mr. J. J. Hill is right. The Republic desires to keep our custom after the war. It therefore should not suffer interruption in that custom now, and for a most solid reason. The whole fiscal policy of the United States since the Civil War has tended to force the rest of the world to create sources of supply for its wants elsewhere than there. The world has succeeded in this effort to a greater extent than can be agreeable for American statesmen and economists to contemplate—succeeded so well that the Republic of North America now possesses no practical monopoly of supply in anything except raw cotton. Place an additional artificial barrier in the way of a continuance of our purchases of cotton in the States, such as an adverse exchange, and we should learn in a little time to go elsewhere even for our cotton. At the present juncture, moreover, the people of the Republic have a splendid opportunity of making money out of us by supplying a variety of commodities besides cotton and artillery, shot and shell. We shall want all the grain and beef they can give us, and will continue excellent customers for their petroleum. Compel us to endure the loss caused by a prolonged adverse exchange, and we can get most of what we require in these articles elsewhere. The rest of the world has this year, happily for us, for the Allies, abundant surpluses of food grains, and our supplies of meat appear to be guaranteed by our colonies and Argentina. For these reasons alone the terms on which the proposed credit is arranged ought not to be too sharp, not so sharp as the German-Jewish bankers in New York would perhaps like to make them, and it ought not to be necessary for France and the United Kingdom to deposit securities, or a "25 per cent. margin in gold." France received no such harsh treatment in her extremity after the agonies of 1870-71.

What has been said above indicates that times are critical for the States in more ways than one, and the country might become one to be pitied were it in danger of being left all alone in its glory, as isolated almost as the Teutonic Empires themselves. German-Jewish bankers in the West are declared to be intriguing



against the loan to the Allies, and talk of themselves raising a loan of £100,000,000 for Germany. It needs the money, but the talk is merely bluff designed to conceal discomfiture and chagrin. How could Germany avail itself of the credit, supposing it created? We rather hope the higher rank of German-Jew houses like Kuhn, Loeb and Co. and Seligman will come to our side, for their own good, for the good of the States, and to remove the stigma now attaching to all who support the criminal aggression of the Prussian.

New York bank figures continue to interest us just now, mostly because of the impending arrangement with United States bankers for an advance to France and ourselves. And last week's exhibit of averages betrays no diminution of the power to help. Loans continue to expand, and were £2,400,000 higher on the average, making the total £533,340,000, but deposits hardly changed, an increase of £132,000 in demand money being more than offset by a drop of about £228,000 in time money, the aggregate average of the two being about £581,000,000. The surplus reserve is also little altered, a mere £74,000 higher at £42,000,000. The probability is that, as has already been guessed, much of the expansion revealed in recent weeks is credit generated in America for Allied account which would be converted into fixed term obligations by the proposed loan. The French and British delegates are now busy at the business, and we hope it may soon be satisfactorily concluded.

The latest news is favourable. It says that in spite of German opposition a £200,000,000 loan will be arranged for at about 5 per cent. interest. The terms are not philanthropic, but we never expected to borrow abroad at a lower rate in the present circumstances, and neither, we feel sure, did the French.

According to statistics issued by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the United States production of steel in the calendar year 1914 was only 23,513,030 tons compared with 31,300,874 tons in 1913 and 31,251,303 tons in 1912. This is a reduction of about 7,788,000 tons on the highest total of the preceding two years, but the aggregate in years before 1912 had never been much above 26,000,000 tons. In fact, for the 12 years closed December 31, 1911, the average annual output had been little above 18,400,000 tons, so that last year's production did not spell disaster. The total was only 163,000 gross tons below that for 1911. A reaction from the feverish activity of the years 1912 and 1913 was in order, and had set in long before there was any question of war, as is demonstrated by the fact that last year's output of steel rails was only 1,945,095 tons as compared with 3,502,780 tons in 1913 and 3,327,915 tons in 1912. Railway expansion had received a setback. The current year, however, shows recovery, for the output of pig-iron for the first six months of it was 12,233,791 tons, or only 302,308 tons less than that of the first half of last year and 1,439,641 tons more than was produced in the second half. Probably the war orders of the Allies account, in great part at least, for the recovery. Production seems to have gone on increasing month by month, and the output for July was at the rate of 30,000,000 tons per annum.

### Insurance News.

Very little has been done in insurances against Budget risks, owing to the high premiums asked. Underwriters, however, have received numerous inquiries for rates to cover losses in the event of an increase in the income-tax above the amount which is expected to be imposed, and tea, coffee, wines and spirits have also been insured against the anticipated increases in duty.

Since the seas were swept clear of German cruisers many shipowners have taken advantage of the rates quoted in the open market, where they were lower than under the Government scheme. Now the London War Risks Associations, one of the groups working the scheme of war insurance for the Government, have decided that all tonnage entered on their books at the

beginning of the year shall be subjected to a call of 10s. per cent. on the value of the tonnage, irrespective of the trades in which it has been engaged. This decision follows a call of £1 per cent. made by the Northern Association. In many cases the values that may be insured under the Government scheme are inadequate, the value of tonnage having risen very considerably during the past 12 months, and large sums are frequently insured over and above the values accepted by the Government. It is the payments for these that has led to the decision to make a call, as apart from the value of the tonnage the War Risks Associations have to provide allowances to owners whose ships are laid up in friendly neutral ports, as well as for pensions, &c. The Government so far has shown no indication of any intention of raising the rate of premium at present being charged.

Fire losses in Canada and the United States during the past month were well below the level of the corresponding month last year, the total being £2,013,000 as compared with £2,353,000. For the eight months to August 31 the estimated losses amount to £22,294,000—a decrease of no less than £10,167,000 when contrasted with the similar period in 1914.

A new prospectus has been issued by the London Guarantee and Accident Co., giving particulars of the company's scheme of insurance against personal injuries due to aircraft. For a premium of 5s. for six months, 7s. 6d. for 12 months, or 10s. for the duration of the war, a policy issued by this company insures the payment of £500 in the event of death, or the loss of two limbs or two eyes, or one limb and one eye. These amounts will only be payable if death or the loss of eyes or limbs takes place within three months of the injury being sustained. Further, £2 a week, payable during temporary total disablement, for a period not exceeding 13 weeks, is also secured. Larger or smaller sums may be insured at proportionate premiums. None of the above benefits are included in an ordinary personal accident policy, which can therefore in all cases be very conveniently supplemented by one of these policies. British subjects of either sex, over 12 or under 70 years of age, whilst resident in Great Britain and Ireland, are eligible under this scheme of insurance against death or injury directly caused by aircraft, hostile or otherwise, including bombs, shells, and (or) missiles dropped or thrown therefrom or fired thereat.

By a decree dated August 28 an additional moratorium of 60 days has been accorded by the French Government to life, personal accident, and bond insurance companies with regard to the payment of claims. The conditions are the same as those arranged on June 26, with the exception that bond companies must now at once pay 75 per cent. instead of 50 per cent. of a claim. All claims in respect of fire, marine, hail, and other kinds of insurance except those first above mentioned are payable in full.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

While the output of the Sungkai-Chumor Estates for the year ended June 30 was only 23,979 lbs. larger than in 1913-14 at 371,600 lbs., it was a satisfactory enough result, as it exceeded the estimate by 16,000 lbs. A decrease of 2.17d. to 2s. 1.08d. in the gross price was neutralised by a further reduction of 2.64d. in the "all-in cost" to the very reasonable figure of 1s. 1.07d., and nett profits showed an improvement of £1,777 at £19,782. The dividend is raised from 30 per cent. to 40, restoring it to the level of two years ago, but £2,000 less at £4,000 is transferred to reserve, and £6,078 is carried forward as against £6,297 brought in. With the present appropriation the reserve will stand at £20,000, or just half the paid-up capital, and in addition the company has £30,476 from premiums. Expenditure on developments amounted to £5,070, making the cost £67,707, exclusive of buildings and machinery valued at £12,370. Loans standing in the previous balance-sheet at £11,004 have been called in, but sundry creditors have been reduced by £5,978 to



£2,661, and cash is £2,485 up at £17,504. The crop for the current year is estimated at 430,000 lbs.

A year ago the directors of the Bernam-Perak Rubber Plantations decided not to pay the preference dividend as the cost and development of the property had exceeded the total issued capital, and there was no immediate prospect of the company being able to obtain fresh funds owing to the war. The question of raising further capital so as to render the profits available for distribution has been under consideration, but the directors have now come to the conclusion that it would be better to strengthen the position by creating a reserve approximating the outlay in excess of the capital. The decision is a sensible one, which will doubtless commend itself to the shareholders as indicating a belief in the stability of the rubber industry. Results for the 12 months ended June 30 were good, the crop amounting to 148,300 lbs., or an increase of 78,131 lbs., while the price was only 0.28d. lower at 2s. 0.78d. After writing off £500 for depreciation, against nothing last year, the nett profits were £2,544 up at £5,659. For the reason just mentioned the balance brought in was £3,115 larger at £5,030, and the directors not only bring the preference dividend up to date, but are able to begin their reserve with an appropriation of £7,000 by reducing the balance carried forward to £389. During the year £2,534 nett was spent on the property, making the cost to date £62,851 against a paid-up capital of £55,000.

Although the output of the Kawie (Java) Rubber Estates for the year ended March 31 did not come up to the estimates, owing to the drought, which lasted nearly four months, it was 116,375 lbs. larger than the previous crop at 179,904 lbs., while the nett price was only 2.80d. down at 1s. 11.09d. The coffee crop, on the other hand, was larger than had been expected, but 1,702 cwts. below that of 1913-14 at 3,628 cwts., and the price dropped from 52s. 2d. to 36s. 11d. per cwt. Nett profits, after again writing off £1,000 for depreciation, were £4,050 up at £10,317, and with £7,870 brought in gave £18,181, or £10,311 more, available. Of this £9,000 is set aside to create an estates reserve, and an initial dividend of 10 per cent. is then paid, leaving £2,381 to be carried forward. For the current year the crops are estimated at 300,000 lbs. rubber and 3,036 cwts. coffee.

Steady progress is being made by the three estates in the Dutch Indies owned by the Batavia Plantations Investments. The crops for the seven months to the end of July amounted to 380,869 lbs., or an increase of 33,542 lbs., of which 16,728 lbs. was on the Medansche property. All three are paying larger interim dividends out of the earnings for the half-year ended June 30, the Medansche paying 50 per cent. as against 40 per cent., and the Kweeklust and Weltevreden raising their distributions by 5 per cent. to 25 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively.

Peru has never risen to the height of an enlightened policy of economic development; on the contrary, it has generally happened that as soon as an industry appeared to be getting established on a sound and profitable basis it has been taxed out of existence or partially confiscated. Successive Governments have proved very zealous in killing the geese that lay, or might lay, golden eggs, and the latest attack is directed against the oil industry, which is still only in its infancy. But in the past few years it has shown encouraging signs of development; in 1903 the production was only 37,000 tons, and in 1913 it had reached 276,000 tons, so it is clearly marked down for slaughter. It is proposed to impose a tax of 4s. per ton on heavy oils and 8s. per ton on benzine, gasoline, &c., which is equivalent to the crushing burden of 14 to 20 per cent. on output. The inevitable result, unless the proposals are very much modified, must be that explorations will be discouraged, no new wells will be sunk, and the industry will be gradually strangled. Even under existing conditions only three British companies survive out of the numerous concerns formed to exploit Peruvian oil, and we fear they

will not be able to continue long if the suggested taxes are imposed.

UNITED SERDANG (SUMATRA) RUBBER.—Crop harvested for 12 months ended August 31 was approximately 2,470,196 lbs., as against 1,827,943 lbs. for the corresponding period last year. Of this 1,719,903 lbs. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2s. 1.81d. per lb. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 235,200 lbs. out of the 1914-15 crop, at an average of 2s. 1.26d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 1,435,841 lbs. out of the 1915-16 crop at an average of 2s. 3.01d. per lb. (London equivalent).

LANGEN (JAVA) RUBBER.—Crop harvested for 12 months ended August 31 was approximately 503,753 lbs., as against 346,815 lbs. for the corresponding period last year. Of this 400,451 lbs. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2s. 2.13d. per lb. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 89,380 lbs. out of the 1914-15 crop, at an average of 2s. 5.31d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 206,080 lbs. out of the 1915-16 crop, at an average of 2s. 2.51d. per lb. (London equivalent).

GOLDEN HOPE RUBBER.—A contract has been made, with the sanction of the shareholders, for the purchase of Reading Estate, Klang, consisting of 1,178 acres, of which 561 acres are planted with rubber. By courtesy of the F.M.S. Government arrangements have been made for the continuance of a loan of £8,353, carrying interest at 6 per cent., which is repayable as to one-half at the end of 1917, and as to the other half at the end of 1918. To enable the company to complete the purchase arrangements have been made with its bankers for the necessary finance down to the end of next year. The purchase price works out at just over £35 10s. per acre on the cultivated area, and the directors anticipate that when this area is in full bearing and the estate fully equipped the cost will approximate £50 per acre, which is practically the figure at which the Golden Hope estate stands in the books.

## The Week in Mines.

The outstanding event in the Mining markets this week has been a burst of activity and strength in the South African market. Activity and strength are terms used in a comparative sense, for the amount of business and the rise in prices which has been established would not be considered important in normal times, but under war conditions, in which speculation on credit is practically impossible, they have a greater significance than would be ordinarily attached to them. Knight Centrals have been especially prominent on good development news from the mine. In other markets prices have not shown much alteration, but copper shares have met with some support.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market buying orders have been received almost daily from the Cape for Eastern Rand and Deep Level stocks, in which the local speculators take a special interest. There was also some steady buying on home account. Active buying took place of New Modderfonteins, which rose to 15½, of City Deeps up to 31½, of Goerz, which spurted to 15s. 3d., and of Gedulds, which rose to 33s. 9d. Rand Mines and Central Minings advanced appreciably to 41½ and 6½ respectively. Meyer and Charlton at 51½, Apex at 16s. 9d., Brakpans at 2 31-32, Springs at 26s 9d., Daggafontein Golds at 8s. 3d., Modder Deeps at 5, and Modder B's at 5½ were also well supported. On Tuesday Knight Centrals rose in rather sensational fashion from 8s. to 10s. on a good development cable. Subsequently the shares were carried up to 12s. on persistent buying. Diamond shares were also supported, De Beers deferreds rising to 10½. Among Rhodesian shares Shamvas were bought up to 1½ on the dividend, and Gold Fields Rhodesian Development were firmer at 6s. Tanganyikas, however, remained dull at 1 3-32. In the West African market Abbotia-koons came into demand, and rose to 7s. 9d.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares, after being rather weaker on realisations in New York, recovered on fresh buying induced by a material advance in the price of the metal. Anacondas, after falling to 7½, advanced to 7½, the new \$50 shares changing hands up to 15½. Rio Tintos were firm at 55½, and the Russian group has been better on the news from Russia, Kyshtims improving to 37s. 6d. In the West Australian market Great



Fingalls have been dull on the continued poor returns from the mine, but Great Boulders at 15s. 6d. have continued to attract support. Indian mines have been quiet, but North Anantapurs were bought, and rose to 14s. on the increased dividend. Mysore improved to 4, but then weakened slightly. In the Broken Hill group Proprietaries were bought, and rose to 44s. 6d., and the debentures touched 100½, but the supply of the latter was scarce, and no business was recorded. British Broken Hills were dull at 19s. 6d., and South Silvers at 6½ made ineffectual attempts to advance. There has again been steady buying of Victoria Falls Power ordinary at 5s. 3d. and the preference at 17s. 6d. on dividend prospects.

### MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD PRODUCTION.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £3,307,975, which is the largest total recorded since May, 1913. The total for the year shows an increase of £1,869,174. If the present rate of production is maintained the year's output will be the highest on record. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058
February ..	2,445,088	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March .....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514
April .....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651
May .....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,111,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347
June .....	2,655,602	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224
July .....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258
August .....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,195	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975
September ..	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	—
October ..	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	—
November ..	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	—
December ..	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total ..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	25,304,433

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The native labour figures are again very satisfactory; they show an increase of 7,412 "boys," of which increase the gold mines have secured 6,840:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
August, 1914 .....	168,831	9,485	—	178,316
September .....	169,619	9,389	—	179,008
October .....	170,438	9,212	—	179,650
November .....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December .....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915 .....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February .....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March .....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April .....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May .....	183,961	8,857	—	192,818
June .....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July .....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August .....	196,866	9,943	—	206,809

The number of natives on the gold mines is the largest since May, 1913, when the number was 197,644. Two months previous to that the high-water mark of 207,700 was reached.

**KNIGHT CENTRAL.**—This company announces the receipt of a rather important development cable. It states that the main reef has been intersected on the seventeenth level south of the Simmer dyke at the West shaft. Four samples taken averaged 21.9 dwts. over 40 ins., which is by far the highest value obtained in this part of the property. The dyke divides the property into two portions; the largest of which is situated south of the dyke, and no ore in this section has been included in the reserves of ore hitherto, as development operations had produced very poor results. The future of the mine depends upon this section, and the latest discovery will bring some encouragement to the shareholders.

**NORTH BROKEN HILL.**—The nett profit for the six months ended June 30 amounted to £55,210, as compared with £183,191 in the corresponding period, when the total was the highest on record. For the second half of 1914, however, the profits dropped to £55,790, so that those for the past half-year were at the same rate; £10,000 is added to reserve, £10,000 to contingency fund, and the nett balance carried forward to the credit of profit and loss account is £121,331, against £96,121. Production of lead concentrates increased from 19,063 tons in the second half of 1914 to 24,430 tons in the first six months of this year.

**SIBERIAN PROPRIETARY MINES.**—The accounts of this company, which holds substantial interests in the Troitzk and Orsk Gold-fields companies, for the year ended January 13 shows a profit of £2,347, which compares with £4,906. But further depreciation has to be provided for, in spite of the writing off of £117,159 last year, and, after appropriating £3,420 for this purpose, a debit of £1,073 has to be added to the debit of £61,317 brought forward. In view of the improved position of the Orsk company, a considerable appreciation in the value of this company's holding therein is looked for.

**ORSK GOLDFIELDS.**—The report for the year ended January 13 states that the total output amounted to £80,261, an increase of

£31,328. The gross profit was £29,917. After writing off depreciation and other expenses and charges, the nett profit for the year was £13,961, as compared with £680. Deducting the debit balance of £12,936 brought forward, a credit of £1,025 is carried forward.

### What Balance Sheets Tell.

#### QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK, LTD.

A further increase of £6,511 to £119,438 is shown in the gross profits for the June half-year, but most of this was swept away by higher expenses, leaving the nett balance £1,656 up at £51,745. As usual, £12,000 is transferred to reserve, which will bring that fund up to £190,000, against the paid-up capital of £480,000, and out of the surplus a repayment of 9d. in the £ on the amount written off the original deposit receipts will again be made with the half-yearly interest payment. Deposits of the Queensland Government have risen by £583,717 to £1,871,986, and private deposits are £479,677 higher at £5,707,067, but the Commonwealth account has been reduced by £32,512 to £12,639. Bills payable and other liabilities come to £377,465, or £215,315 more, but the bank has paid off a promissory note for £86,098, which was not due until June 30, 1921, and this item has now disappeared from the balance-sheet. Coin and bullion is £397,510 up at £2,087,935, Australian notes have risen by £1,089,197 to £1,427,448, and cash balances by £114,506 to £447,809. Bills in transit show an increase of £121,018, and Government stocks one of £47,500 at £166,200, but call and notice money in London has been reduced by £393,200 to £401,800, and bills discounted, advances, &c., are £199,470 lower at £6,288,587. come to £6,445, or £2,838 more.

#### INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, LTD.

Like the rest of the world the Japanese money market has felt the effects of the European war, and during the six months ended June 30 bankers and financial houses suffered from the low rate for money and the large amount of funds unemployed. In these circumstances the fact that the nett profits, after writing off 123,371 yen, or 31,655 yen more, for depreciation of National Loan bonds, were almost identical with those of a year ago must be considered satisfactory. Including 76,186 yen brought forward the available total was 11,013 yen larger at 739,650 yen, and the dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum is repeated. Out of the balance an extra 5,900 yen at 59,200 yen is transferred to the reserve against losses and 15,000 yen, or 1,600 yen more, to the dividend equalisation fund, and 20,000 yen is set aside for officers' remuneration, leaving 76,700 yen, or 3,513 yen more, to be carried forward. The usual repayments and new issues of debentures resulted in an increase of 10,058,100 yen to 62,443,300 yen in the amount outstanding, while current and deposit accounts have risen by 2,829,458 yen to 20,300,299 yen, and liabilities for funds in trust, &c., are 6,149,460 yen higher at 14,445,263 yen. On the other hand, cash is 2,442,885 yen up at 2,743,711 yen, and money at call and notice 1,924,534 yen up at 8,855,738 yen, while fixed loans are 3,843,610 yen higher at 29,256,103 yen, and bills discounted have been increased by 1,156,286 yen to 32,019,964 yen. Investments in National Loan bonds, including 1,400,000 yen in Treasury bills, come to 12,778,271 yen, or 1,290,309 yen more. Local Loan bonds are 3,945,072 yen higher at 9,754,300 yen, and shares and debentures 571,078 yen up at 5,818,219 yen. Funds kept in agencies for payments on account of loans, debentures, &c., are 3,975,487 yen larger at 12,134,077 yen, and difference on subscription of debentures, which presumably represents discount on the new issues, is 178,511 yen up at 2,019,941 yen.

#### CUBA RAILROAD CO.

Thanks to the war in some degree, and the consequent demand for sugar, this railway did extremely well in the year ended June 30. Gross receipts amounted to \$5,206,714, an increase of \$42,040, while the expenses were \$214,580 less, and the nett earnings were consequently \$256,620 higher at \$2,727,540. After providing for fixed charges and the dividend on the preferred stock, it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary stock on November 1 next, making 6 per cent. for the year. The remainder of extraordinary replacements, amounting to \$310,760, was charged off last year, leaving a surplus of \$3,102,600, and this has now been increased to \$3,776,270. Capital expenditure amounted to \$946,000, raising the cost of the road to \$39,823,000, and liquid assets have been reduced by \$377,300, while equipment certificates show an increase of \$464,000. The company has secured a concession for a line from Placetas del Sur to Casilda, part of which has already been opened, and the remainder is making rapid progress. As the company serves a most fertile country it ought to continue to prosper.

#### CUBA CO.

This company owns all the common stock of the Cuba Railroad, and, as we show elsewhere, does very well out of it. Moreover, in the year to June 30 it did splendidly with its sugar estates, the nett earnings from this source showing an increase of \$1,837,000 at \$2,995,800, and there was an additional profit of \$67,040 on the production for 1913-14. The land department also brought in an increased revenue of \$22,160 and after providing for a dividend of 10 per cent., absorbing \$800,000, there is a surplus of \$5,865,400, or \$2,414,600 more than a year ago. And so, lest it should burn their pockets, the directors propose to pay a further dividend of 10 per cent. on October 1, and yet another of the same amount on November 1. Even so there will be a handsome balance over, but the boom



in sugar will not continue indefinitely, and the company would be prudent to stow away substantial reserves. It has reduced its current liabilities by \$935,000, added \$1,026,000 to its cash and \$850,000 to its stocks, so it is in a strong position.

#### CONSOLIDATED GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY OF BALTIMORE.

Give us an American company for real up-to-dateness. The report of this flourishing concern for the year to June 30 is dated Baltimore October 4, but it is already in our hands, and with its tables and diagrams and the plan of its new twenty-storey skyscraper offices it puts any similar concern in the Old Country to shame. Gross income for the year was \$388,500 higher at \$6,789,400, and the nett earnings were \$145,740 better at \$3,212,820. Fixed charges took \$72,670 more, and \$173,000 more was paid away in dividends, so that the surplus is reduced by \$100,000 to \$507,830, and nothing is placed to reserve against \$125,000 last time. That would not seem to be quite prudent according to our ideas, but when a company gets a public "franchise" in the United States it does not need to worry much. All the same, the company seems to deal fairly liberally with its customers, and it has a scheme whereby they may become part proprietors on the co-operative principle, but we notice that while the electricity sold increased 2½ per cent., the income therefrom increased 7½ per cent. But we like the report, and as we are not on the company's books we are not going to cavil.

#### DALMELLINGTON IRON CO., LTD.

In spite of a shortage of labour, owing to over 300 of the employees having enlisted, the output, the directors say, was well maintained during the year ended June 30. At the same time the company evidently found remunerative markets for its products, as the nett profits, after writing off £13,130 for depreciation and adding a slightly larger balance of £5,892 brought forward, were £4,849 up at £26,990. No attempt is made to strengthen the reserve, but the dividend on the ordinary shares, which a year ago was cut down from 10 per cent. to 5, is now increased to 7½ per cent., leaving £5,865 to be carried forward. Heritable property is unchanged at £119,250, but leasehold property shows a reduction on balance of £5,088 at £140,259, and against these the reserve stands at only £20,000. Stocks are £7,020 smaller at £60,960, but debtors owe £7,792 more at £35,685, against an increase of £4,801 to £50,627 in sundry creditors, and although cash is £16,034 down at £24,088, investments are valued at £44,000, or £30,000 more.

#### HANDFORD GREATREX AND CO., LTD.

While the old adage "Nothing like leather" may be somewhat out of date in the present day, this tannery business found the commodity almost as profitable to handle as munitions last year. For the 12 months ended June 30 the nett profits, including £1,939 brought forward, were practically doubled at £13,777, and the directors make haste to distribute the most of this. A year ago the ordinary shares had to be content with a modest 4 per cent., but now they get a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., or 15 per cent. in all, which leaves £3,320, or £1,381 more, to be carried forward. During the year £9,000 of the debenture debt was paid off, reducing the amount outstanding to £3,500, but liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £7,311 to £11,022. Property and goodwill account is £16,136 down at £65,753, and stocks are £11,966 smaller at £17,121, and cash is £1,668 down at £648. Investments and bank deposits, however, have risen by £27,472 to £34,955, and debtors owe £5,031 more at £20,972, so that there is not much to grumble at in the position.

#### UNITED INDIGO AND CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

Exceptionally good business was done by this company in the year ended June 30, and its nett profits, after writing off an undisclosed amount for depreciation, bad debts, &c., showed an increase of no less than £21,254 at £28,850. With a much larger balance brought in the divisible surplus was £24,386 up at £39,705, and after paying 5 per cent., less tax, on the participating preference and ordinary shares, both classes receive a further dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of like amount, tax free. No attempt is made to create a reserve of any kind, but the balance carried forward is increased by £15,045 to £25,900. The provision for depreciation does not appear to have been particularly liberal, as the property and goodwill account is only £810 down at £40,818. Stocks have risen by £2,568 to £29,804, debtors and bills receivable come to £46,984, or £16,974 more, against increases of £4,190 to £6,948 in sundry creditors and £2,732 to £8,509 in liabilities of subsidiary companies, and cash is £12,739 higher at £25,666.

#### PALACE THEATRE, LTD.

This company closes its accounts on July 26, so that practically the whole of the past year came under war conditions, and in these circumstances the decline of £6,262 to £106,461 shown in gross receipts is smaller than might have been expected. Most of it, too, was offset by a reduction of £4,518 to £90,959 in the expenditure, so that the nett profits were only £1,644 down at £15,502. As the balance brought in was £8,246 larger at £14,259, there was £29,761, or £6,502 more, available, but the dividend is repeated at the rate of 10 per cent., to which it was cut down a year ago, and £10,000, as against nothing, is transferred to reserve, leaving £10,761, or £3,408 less, to be carried forward. The directors have purchased £525 nominal of 3½ per cent. War Loan at a cost of £500 on account of the mortgage redemption fund, and £9,475 of that loan and £10,000 of the 4½ per cent. issue at £8,943 and £9,946 respectively on account of the other investments. All of the securities held are taken into the balance-sheet at cost, and amount in the aggregate to £59,200. Property account also remains at the original figure of £172,582,

against which the reserve will now stand at £45,000. Current liabilities at £3,717 exceed the book debts by £2,546, and cash is £11,620 lower at £5,271.

Mr. Charles Cairdner, of Messrs. Bulloch Bros. and Co., Ltd., has accepted a seat on the board of the Central Argentine Railway Co., in the place of the late Mr. Peter Riddoch.

The Bank of Montreal has received the following cable from the general manager, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, in regard to the Canadian crop:—"Small percentage wheat uncut ripening rapidly. Threshing operations active. General grade wheat high. Grain Dealers' Association estimates 250 million bushels wheat."

### PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and September 11, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 11, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Sept. 12, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	18,227,000	15,351,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	23,500,000	14,947,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	15,488,000	12,143,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	2,773,000	3,789,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	15,414,000	8,133,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	50,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	12,300,000	11,930,000
Crown Lands .....	539,000	200,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	359,475	784,466
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,418,418	1,613,060
Revenue .....	267,232,000	90,060,893	69,210,526
Total, including Balance		173,511,845	79,645,045
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		430,000	1,000,000
For War Loan 1915-1918 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		442,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1918 .....		466,000,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	750,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £31,000,000 in 1914-15) .....		232,150,000	55,010,000
Total .....		908,132,598	136,405,045
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 11, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Sept. 12, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	12,402,352	9,728,453
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	4,277,081	—
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,431,000	694,395	636,462
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	3,117,120	2,894,451
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,000	806,370	715,754
Supply Services .....	740,496,000	552,067,142	94,874,687
Expenditure .....	804,476,000	573,364,460	108,849,807
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		675,000	1,890,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		19,637,000	2,400,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		980,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		60,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		50,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		80,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £51,212,000, in 1915-16) .....		51,212,000	15,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Sept. 11.	1914. Sept. 12.	
Bank of England .....	£ 73,798,696	£ 62,500,000	
Bank of Ireland .....	925,715	6,002,405	
	74,724,411	68,502,405	
Total .....		908,132,598	136,405,045

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on September 11, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£62,500,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	*174,999,000
Total .. .. .	£237,499,000

\* Includes £48,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, September 13, 1915.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Sept. 10	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	10	3,577	+	175	+	136,667	+	11,705
Grand Canal ..	10	1,144	—	7	—	11,824	—	761
Great Northern ..	10	25,355	+	3,255	+	834,525	+	25,175
Gt. Southern and Western ..	10	40,325	+	5,407	+	1,185,399	+	100,421
Midland Great Western ..	10	13,454	+	815	+	458,354	+	13,840

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 7	1,21,000	—	289	—	24,15,611	+	60,392
Bairi Light ..	14	14,100	+	4,500	+	4,52,100	+	33,200
Bengal & N.W. ..	7	2,90,460	—	62,629	—	69,67,468	—	10,37,575
Bengal Nagpur ..	14	6,45,000	+	36,000	+	1,51,81,000	+	97,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Sept. 11	10,53,000	—	14,000	—	2,69,52,000	—	6,53,000
Burma ..	Aug. 7	27,601	—	88,120	—	70,21,845	—	14,11,042
Delhi Umballa ..	Sept. 11	56,500	—	1,534	—	14,69,842	—	25,954
East Indian ..	11	17,70,000	—	2,42,000	—	4,82,56,000	—	3,41,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	11	13,99,100	+	3,12,400	+	3,58,83,410	+	3,51,412
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Aug. 7	26,789	—	800	—	7,22,363	—	36,502
Madras and S. ..								
Mahratta ..	14	7,40,000	+	76,634	+	1,78,30,432	+	5,58,193
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	14	99,443	+	13,595	+	22,79,187	—	98,496
Nizam's Gd. (Metre) ..	14	50,423	+	2,457	+	14,31,816	—	4,83,353
Rohilkund and ..								
Kumaon ..	7	25,358	—	3,455	—	6,70,881	—	9,101
South Indian ..	14	5,13,561	+	24,061	+	1,08,97,759	—	4,70,107
Southern Punjab ..	Apr. 8	4,25,717	+	27,119	+	4,25,717	+	27,119

† April 1.

‡ Month.

|| October 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira ..	July	32,774	—	15,131	—	3,100,000	—	640,700
Canadian Northern ..	Sept 14	417,700	—	81,000	—	18,311,000	—	419,000
Canadian Pacific ..	7	2,002,000	—	108,000	—	5,644,638	—	513,999
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	14	171,053	—	14,673	—	1,045,086	—	13,667
Gr. Trk. Western ..	14	31,233	+	2,322	+	377,759	+	21,267
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	14	12,401	+	1,639	+	114,553	—	55,105
Gr Trk Pac Prairie So ..	7	15,767	—	8,704	—	233,427	—	163,095
Mashonaland ..	July	48,992	—	21,116	—	5,268	—	4,279
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Aug. *	5,268	—	4,279	—	61,335	—	158
New Cape Central ..	21	1,595	+	434	+	443,798	—	165,945
Rhodesia ..	July *	83,636	—	13,491	—	1,054,663	—	92,099
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Aug. 31	676,823	—	39,069	—			

\* Months. ‡ July 1. † Jan. 1. || 10 days. a April 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 14	863,000	—	87,000	—	5,219,000	—	287,000
Chicago G.W. ..	21	314,000	—	37,000	—	2,023,000	—	36,000
Colorado & South'n ..	14	273,000	—	8,000	—	1,621,000	—	52,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Sept. 7	545,000	+	16,300	+	4,736,400	+	127,400
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	Aug. 21	1,040,000	—	37,000	—	7,591,000	—	469,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	14	546,000	+	7,000	+	3,346,000	—	121,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Sept. 7	550,646	—	47,542	—	5,643,139	—	351,083
Missouri Pacific ..	Aug. 21	1,106,000	—	98,000	—	8,114,000	—	671,000
Southern ..	21	1,174,000	—	138,000	—	8,692,000	—	920,000

|| 10 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atcholson T. & S. Fé	July	3,835,000	+ 502,000	1	3,835,000	+ 502,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	238,000	— 79,000	1	238,000	— 79,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,077,000	+ 850,000	1	3,077,000	+ 850,000
Canadian Northern	"	285,100	— 145,400	1	285,100	— 145,400
Canadian Pacific ..	"	2,800,000	— 978,000	1	2,800,000	— 978,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,258,000	+ 323,000	1	1,258,000	+ 323,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,859,000	+ 301,000	12	22,252,000	— 490,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	June	2,185,000	+ 17,000	12	30,638,000	+ 221,000
Chicago G.W. ..	May	208,000	+ 15,000	11	3,092,000	— 51,000
Chicago Mtl. & S.P.	July	3,259,000	+ 450,000	1	3,259,000	+ 450,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	June	644,000	— 576,000	12	13,629,000	+ 326,000
Colorado & Southern	July	268,255	+ 31,422	1	268,255	+ 31,422
Cuba .. .. .	"	420,000	— 37,546	1	420,000	— 37,546
Do. .. .. .	"	377,812	+ 46,604	1	137,812	+ 46,604
Delaware & Hud. ..	June	667,000	+ 1,000	6	3,531,000	+ 493,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	647,000	+ 155,000	12	6,511,000	+ 388,000
Erie .. .. .	July	1,953,742	+ 695,809	1	1,953,742	+ 695,809
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	2,227,100	+ 14,400	7	1,258,850	+ 7,950
Grand Trunk Westn	"	425,400	+ 21,650	7	445,100	+ 49,050
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	12,500	+ 12,000	7	47,600	+ 435,150
Gt. Northern ..	June	1,686,000	+ 214,000	12	29,373,000	+ 1,358,000
Illinois Central ..	July	481,000	— 382,000	12	10,879,000	— 861,000
Kansas City Southn.	"	139,000	— 197,000	12	2,983,000	— 509,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	3,680,000	— 284,000	12	12,579,000	+ 496,000
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,369,264	+ 114,211	1	1,369,264	+ 114,211
Minn. S. P. (Soo) §	June	550,000	+ 81,000	12	8,149,000	— 24,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	July	604,619	— 152,198	1	604,619	— 152,198
Missouri Pacific ..	June	1,091,000	— 11,000	14	13,054,000	— 1,031,000
New York Cent. & H.	July	4,376,000	+ 1,343,000	7	22,707,000	+ 7,975,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	June	2,883,000	— 1,553,000	12	18,733,000	— 4,077,000
New York Ont. & W.	July	382,000	+ 20,000	1	382,000	+ 20,000
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,688,000	+ 594,000	1	1,688,000	+ 594,000
Northern Pacific ..	July	1,418,000	— 228,000	1	1,418,000	— 228,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines ..	"	9,797,000	+ 1,904,000	7	38,546,000	+ 4,007,000
Reading .. .. .	"	562,783	+ 7,945	1	562,783	+ 7,945
St. Louis & San F.	June	582,000	— 130,000	12	11,801,000	+ 1,615,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	397,000	— 154,000	12	5,296,000	— 1,661,000
Southern .. .. .	July	1,548,000	+ 153,000	1	1,548,000	+ 153,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,593,000	+ 1,311,000	1	4,593,000	+ 1,311,000
Union Pacific ..	"	2,849,000	+ 173,000	1	2,849,000	+ 173,000
Wabash .. .. .	"	503,662	— 236,144	1	503,662	— 236,144

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus. ‡ Loss.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 11	Ps. 11,000	—	1	Ps. 452,700	—	Ps. 35,750
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	12	34,050	+	17,200	861,955	—	374,409
Arauco ..	July	6,750	—	225	48,625	—	10,149
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 11	7,052	+	2,602	69,817	+	17,347
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *	5,221	+	1,272	31,794	+	4,699
Bolivar ..	"	7,250	+	1,374	74,250	+	1,879
Brazil ..	July *	M3,272,000	—	M409,778	M2,115,000	—	M548,354
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	Mis. 43,150	—	M14,050	M209,050	—	M21,500
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 11	91,000	—	27,000	801,000	—	168,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	"	83,000	—	20,000	845,908	—	105,967
Do. Western ..	"	42,000	—	5,000	454,000	+	74,000
Central Argentine ..	"	114,000	—	12,800	1,174,800	+	157,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	"	9,544	—	1,888	111,819	+	20,236
Do. East'n Ex. ..	"	3,104	—	917	35,546	+	9,115
Do. North'n Ex. ..	"	1,490	—	484	19,162	+	4,979
Do. West'n Ex. ..	"	1,588	—	468	15,608	+	3,351
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	12,700	—	2,000	82,342	—	492
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 11	30,300	—	12,250	371,550	—	33,280
Costa Rica ..	Aug. 7	4,640	—	1,579	26,204	—	17,019
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 11	7,346	—	303	78,831	—	7,713
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *	9,900	—	100	62,900	—	6,700
Egyptian Delta ..	20a	3,978	—	350	55,981	—	24,107
Entre Rios ..	Sept. 11	9,100	—	2,000	93,800	—	13,500
French Sante Fé ..	July	73,392	—	20,560	518,760	—	90,873
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 4	Ps. 57,837	—	Ps. 10,281	Ps. 208,213	—	Ps. 56,180
Gr. West. of Brazil ..	"	6,600	—	800	349,400	—	100,700
Havana Central ..	"	6,286	—	1,445	55,177	+	3,753
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	July c*	11,506	—	4,751	141,678	—	54,569
La Guaira and Car. ..	"	6,750	—	2,250	49,000	—	19,500
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 11	30,565	—	11,765	1,039,643	—	65,729
Manila (Northern) ..	"	3,727	—	304	197,009	—	35,870
Do. (Southern) ..	"	3,535	—	1,875	138,391	—	15,881
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug. *	12,553	—	5,099	22,766	—	5,610
Mogiana ..	July	M2,857,000	—	M251,003	M123,744,000	—	M276,312
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Aug. *	25,000	—	8,250	146,500	—	8,941
Nitrate ..	31b	19,802	—	6,419	12,173	—	243,540
Paraguay Central ..	Sept. 11	476,000	—	232,000	4,443,000	—	1,778,000
Paulista ..	July *	M 3,100	—	M 173,947	M13,550,000	—	M146,961
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Aug. *	819,039	—	164,095	2,543,877	—	98,566
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	July *	3,000	—	250	26,158	—	1,603
Salvador ..	Sept. 11	15,750	—	—	227,750	—	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	5	32,217	—	15,534	368,912	—	82,941
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,228,000	—	M25,292	M6,668,000	—	M119,851
Taitai ..	Aug. *	18,218	—	1,253	26,378	—	15,135
United of Havana ..	Sept. 12	24,197	—	4,573	248,999	—	45,885
United of Yucatan ..	Feb. 6	64,400	—	6,200	403,900	—	54,300
Uruguay Northern ..	Aug. *	1,745	—	446	3,532	+	6,740
West'n of Havana ..	Sept. 11	4,711	—	11	52,923	—	6,740
Zafra and Huella ..	Aug. *	9,613	—	542	62,817	—	45,905



# The Investors' Review.

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## Passing Events.

Having failed for the fifth time, as Mr. Belloc points out in his admirable summary of the Hindenburg tactics in this week's *Land and Water*, the Germans are now making a violent effort to capture Dvinsk or Dunaburg. There is a one-ideaness about this perpetual drive forward that begins to induce a feeling of monotony, and we simply note the fact, waiting till next week to see what, beyond further wholesale slaughter, comes to this sixth attempt to grab a Russian army. This time the effort is to capture Riga. What good Riga will do the Germans when they have not succeeded in getting command of the Baltic it is for their leaders to say. Elsewhere the conflict proceeds on the familiar lines, with threatenings of an instant outbreak of strife between the Balkan nations owing to Bulgaria's adhesion to the side of the Turk. The Bulgarian Army is said to number 400,000, and every man will be needed should King Ferdinand and his sycophants persist. A new campaign against Egypt is said to be in preparation, and really why not? There are a few cedars of Lebanon left, enough, perhaps, to heat the locomotive boilers sufficiently to carry an army to its destruction in the deserts of Sinai and the Red Sea. Along the Franco-Belgian frontier, the artillery duel goes on as usual, portending doubtless great movements which it is no business of ours to guess about. On the whole, in the Dardanelles, in the mountains of Northern Italy, in "the Garden of Eden," everywhere the enemy is being worn down, his reserves of men used up, and the hour cannot be so far away when even German illusionists will not be able to say that they have raised another loan with which to carry on the war. But heed neither lie nor rumour of lie. Our business is to persevere with the killing.

Much might be said about the Budget debate, but that also may be left aside, because although there are plenty of objections to details in Mr. McKenna's proposals, the spirit of acceptance of the inevitable covers all. We agree with those who object to the abolition of the halfpenny post, and Free Trade Sir Alfred Mond could not have a more strenuous supporter than THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. These new import duties are not merely a violation of Free Trade principles, but a wound inflicted upon our friends. That they will be

carried, however, is probable, although it is likely enough that the Post Office changes will not be insisted upon to the uttermost. They seem like an outpost thrown forward to draw the enemy's fire, or beguile his troops, in order that the rest of the array of new measures may slip through. We see elsewhere that Mr. Bark, the Russian Minister of Finance, is now in London deep in conference with our Chancellor of the Exchequer, and from New York comes the news that the Franco-British loan there may be delayed in order to allow Russia to participate. There can be no objection to that, and we hope that Mr. Bark will be able to persuade our Government to render Russia every possible assistance. She surely deserves it, given freely and without stint. For it is all very well to be lost in admiration at the magnificent skill with which the Russian armies have been rescued again and again and kept in fighting condition by skilful escapes from destruction at the hands of the brutal foe, but the other side of the picture reveals great tracts of country denuded of their peaceful population, ruined cities and homesteads covering the land. Immeasurable, therefore, has Russia's sacrifices been in the interests of freedom, and no opportunity must be lost of showing our sympathy. The Allies, in fact, are being drawn closer and closer together by what they have been called upon to endure, and out of that infinite good may come. We must club our resources in future and "pool" our necessities.

Contrary to the experience of many similar undertakings, the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., suffered rather than benefited by the war in its year ended June 30. Altogether the company and its subsidiaries lost 2,178 men through enlistment, and owing to the shortage of labour the output of coal was seriously diminished, while expenses were increased by the war bonus paid to workmen and the higher prices of timber and stores. Similar conditions prevailed in the iron works, and the outcome was a decrease of £48,696 to £168,396 in the nett profits. This was largely offset by the balance brought forward, so that the available total of £193,650 was only £9,164 smaller, but the maintenance of the dividend of 15 per cent. requires considerably more owing to the new capital ranking, and after again setting aside £70,000 for development of new properties £44,070, or £20,975 less, is carried



forward. The Norwood Colliery, which has been working for 47 years, was closed in September, 1914, in consequence of the exhaustion of the top hard seam, but at Rossington the Barnsley seam was reached on May 4 at No. 1 pit, and it is anticipated that the same seam will be reached in No. 2 pit in November. Expenditure on the properties for the year amounted to £61,771, but £200,000 has been taken from the reserve for new properties, together with £72,297 from premiums received on new shares, to write down this item, which consequently shows a decrease of £210,526 at £783,462. Stocks of plant and materials are £61,812 larger at £126,908, debtors owe £18,918 more at £122,940, and loans have risen by £69,880 to £345,000, while cash is £47,584 down at £11,249. On the other hand £55,549 was received on capital account, making the total issued £861,045, and current liabilities are £11,281 up at £102,780.

As far back as January the directors of the Niger Co. warned shareholders that no profits could be expected for 1914, and the report just issued fully bears out that forecast. With its large Continental connections the war made things just about as bad as they could be for the company by closing many outlets for its produce. At the same time working expenses were greatly increased, and after paying £53,087 less at £172,790 for Customs dues in Nigeria the year's trading showed a loss of £47,036 compared with a profit of £98,594 for the previous 12 months. Although the tin mining industry continued to make steady growth and shipments of tin concentrates rose from 3,752 tons to 5,011 tons, the company's receipts from this source were £11,807 down at £16,869, owing to the Government having made a temporary reduction in the scale of royalty after the outbreak of war to assist the industry. Credit is taken for £36,978 for claim rendered to H.M. Government in respect of assets destroyed and looted at Garua, but after providing £21,002, or £9,672 less, for depreciation and meeting debenture interest and other charges the nett outcome was a loss of £31,073. A balance of £60,134 was brought forward, and after deducting this loss the dividend is paid on the preference shares for the six months to December 31, leaving £14,062 to be carried to the new account. Last year the ordinary shares got 10 per cent., and £10,000 was transferred to reserve. During the 12 months 175,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each were issued at £2 per share, while £500,000 in preference shares was distributed as a bonus out of the reserve fund, and that fund after adjustment shows a reduction of £321,977 at £278,246. The most important change in the balance-sheet, however, is the big increase of £215,532 to £900,766 in sundry debtors, which, the directors explain, is largely due to the serious delay in the delivery of produce actually sold for re-export caused by Governmental measures, and to the large interests held by the company in enemy countries in respect of which realisation is clearly impossible at present. With regard to the tin-mining industry already mentioned, the output is still improving, the shipments for the eight months ended August 31 having been 3,950 tons, and as early in the present year the higher scale of royalties previously in force was, with certain modifications, restored, the company's prospects in this direction look decidedly better.

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Co. in conducting its ordinary business during the 12 months ended June 30, but it found compensation in the employment of a large proportion of its various works on war service and also in the substantial help provided by its subsidiary undertaking, the Partington Steel and Iron Co., of which this company holds all the ordinary shares. So much was this the case that, in spite of a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour, the reduction in profits suffered in 1913-14 was more than made good. Nett profits, which a year ago fell £20,057, now show an increase of £23,547 at

£122,359, and with £21,842 brought forward there is £144,201, or £25,840 more, available. Last year's appropriation of £10,000 to special reserve is not repeated, nor is there anything to write off compared with £2,369 for cost of insuring new bonds, while the expenditure on capital account for the year was £5,197 less at £8,254. The directors, however, transfer an extra £27,500 at £47,500 to reserve, raising that fund to £450,000, and pay a dividend of 7½ per cent., compared with 5 per cent. a year ago and 8 per cent. for 1912-13, leaving £4,219 more at £26,061 to be carried forward. In accordance with the arrangements at the last general meeting a most commendable use has been made of the special reserve of £10,000 which was set aside for contingencies, in assisting the wives and families of workmen who have enlisted. The balance-sheet shows increases of £83,569 to £396,186 in stocks and £72,969 to £322,998 in sundry debtors against an increase of £59,812 to £144,045 in current liabilities, while cash and bills have been reduced by £31,036 to £80,838. Property account is £8,612 down on balance at £744,381, and the liability for loans on bonds is £4,300 smaller at £245,700. Investments on account of the reserve are valued at £388,879.

The output of the Partington Steel and Iron Co. having been largely devoted to war service for the British and French Governments, it goes without saying that the year ended June 30 was an exceedingly prosperous one. In the previous 12 months the works were not in full working order, and as business was also upset by the strikes both of the company's own workmen and of the Yorkshire coal miners, a loss of £70,479 was incurred, which was carried to a suspense account to be dealt with later. With the outbreak of war the situation was completely changed, and the production was kept up to the maximum with highly satisfactory results. After providing for depreciation and debenture interest the nett profit amounted to £109,575, and the ordinary shares get the full dividend of 10 per cent. to which they are entitled under the arrangement with the Pearson and Knowles Co., which limits the distribution to that figure until a reserve shall have been accumulated equal to the amount of the preference shares outstanding. Payment of this dividend leaves a balance of £63,575, out of which £18,104 is written off for expenses of preference share and debenture stock issues and £35,239 for half of the suspense account, and £10,231 is carried forward. Capital is still being spent pretty freely, and property account, less depreciation, is £36,987 up at £766,252. Stocks are only £12,764 up at £130,576, but debtors have risen by £96,743 to £125,374, while, on the other hand, the liability on debenture stock has been increased by £17,400 to £167,400, and £91,506 more at £255,474 is due to sundry creditors, but a loan of £50,518 shown in the last balance-sheet has now disappeared.

Hard is the lot at present of the Ottoman Railway (Smyrna to Aidin) bond and share holders. The Turks took possession of the line when they declared war against us at the bidding of the Germans, and have possession still, so, as the directors point out, the interest on the preferred shares due May 1 last, amounting to £9,000, had to be postponed because there was not enough money in hand, and debenture-holders of the 4 and 5 per cent. debenture stocks sanctioned the payment of interest by scrip bearing 5 per cent. interest, and either convertible or redeemable, for a period which would extend to 12 months after the peace. What in the circumstances are the proprietors to do? Nothing, we should say. The line will come back to them by-and-by, and although the Turk cannot be counted on to pay anything by way of damages, because we trust he will be destroyed as a governing tribe, the country can pay, and, once rid of the Turk, pay well.



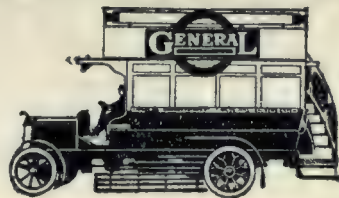
In addition to being coal exporters, Lambert Bros. have large interests in shipping undertakings, and were therefore correspondingly prosperous in the year ended June 30. Profits, "after fully providing for depreciation and contingencies," were £57,991 up at £142,548, the increase following a reduction of £21,943, and with £19,601, or £13,057 more, brought in, the disposable total was £71,048 larger at £162,149. The appropriation to reserve, which a year ago was cut down from £40,000 to £20,000, is now increased to £60,000, and in addition to their regular dividend of 10 per cent. the ordinary shares get a bonus of 10 per cent., compared with nothing last time and 5 per cent. for 1912-13, while the balance carried forward is only reduced by £1,048 to £20,649. No mention is made of the amount written off for depreciation, but it appears to have just about balanced the fresh expenditure, as property and goodwill account is practically unchanged at £386,238. Against this the reserve now stands at £160,000, and is partly represented by investments valued at £79,744, or £12,500 less than a year ago, while there is also a fund of £38,350, or £9,986 more, derived from surplus on sales of steamers and shares in steamship companies. Stocks of coal are £4,311 down at £50,939, and bills receivable have been reduced by £36,702 to £37,694, while current liabilities have risen by £63,259 to £196,146. The company, however, has increased its holding of British, foreign, and Colonial Treasury bills by £43,500 to £148,500, and as cash balances are £177,394 up at £274,107, its position seems exceedingly comfortable.

The most striking example we have yet come across of how certain trades have benefited by the war is provided by Middlemore and Lamplugh, manufacturers of leather goods and cycle accessories. Formed in 1896, the company has never been successful, and has twice undergone reconstruction, the first time in 1900, and again in July, 1912, when the capital was written down to £28,000 in preference shares and £4,988 in ordinary shares of £1 each, and arrears of preference dividend for 7½ years were cancelled. Even this drastic reduction did not provide much relief, and in 1913-14, after charging bank interest, directors' fees, depreciation, and special travelling expenses abroad, there was a loss of £1,239. During the year ended July 31 last, however, the Walsall works and the greater part of the Coventry works were employed on Government orders, with the result that after deducting the debit balance of £688 brought forward and £3,077 for arrears of preference dividend, there was a nett profit of £31,980. The ordinary shares had received no dividend since 1903, but they now get 10 per cent., and in addition a bonus of 20 per cent. is paid on both the preference and ordinary shares, while £15,000 is transferred to reserve, and the balance-sheet is cleared of two unsatisfactory assets, by writing off £5,000 for patent rights and goodwill and £700 for costs and expenses of the scheme of arrangement. These appropriations will leave £3,263 to be carried forward. Stocks have risen by £27,497 to £41,189, and debtors owe £5,219 more at £15,056, against an increase of £17,983 to £23,537 in sundry creditors. The bank overdraft of £8,200 has given place to a cash balance of £3,658, and as in addition £9,946 has been invested in War Loan, the company is financially in a much sounder condition.

It was inevitable that the war should have an adverse effect on the building and allied trades, and in the circumstances it is not surprising that the business of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., has suffered severely. The report for the year ended June 30 last states that, for reasons directly attributable to the war, the demand for cement was considerably reduced, while the manufacture was conducted under difficulties due to the same cause. Cost of production increased, and although selling prices were gradually raised, this did not affect the major portion of the year's trade. Profits consequently show a reduction of £108,040 at £455,710 (following a de-

cline of £63,500 in the previous year), while £29,640 less at £84,650 was spent on repairs and renewals. Fortunately, the carry forward last year was increased by £100,000, and the balance available is only £8,000 less at £607,280. Depreciation and sinking funds absorb £51,260, and £50,000 is again placed to reserve and depreciation fund, bringing the total up to £435,000. After providing for the preference dividend to June 30, the balance is £1,450 higher at £153,025, and it is proposed to carry this forward. The directors are prudent in keeping ample resources in hand, and the ordinary shareholders must still wait for a dividend, but there will be a great deal of rebuilding to do after the war, and the outlook is fairly encouraging. During the year £20,584 of first debenture stock and £26,100 of second debenture stock were redeemed, and the discount, &c., connected with the issue of the latter, amounting to £174,623, has been extinguished by an appropriation from reserves accumulated in past years out of revenue. Certificates of indebtedness have been reduced by £45,375, and creditors by £51,820, while stocks are £61,800 lower at £293,207, and cash is down £21,600 at £98,600. The balance-sheet has a clean appearance, but the weight of debenture and share capital is dead.

Several joint-stock companies have recently avoided giving us copies of their reports. The pretext is always flimsy, and the motive, we presume, a dread lest we should emphasise the fact that their war time profits—we do not say "war profits" because we do not know if they always are that—are too magnificent. Here, for example, is the Cotton Powder Co., Ltd. It had for many years a life of disappointments, but in the past three years ended December 31 last it had a first-rate time, and for 1914 made a profit of £45,188, or £5,466 more than for the preceding year. It has been three times reconstructed, and in 1911 realised a loss of nearly £3,000. Why was its report "out of stock"?



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## THE PURPLE HEATHER

Is already splashing the hills and commons with its rich colour and lending to the sun-sets an additional beauty. It is a time when nature seems especially mellow, kindly, intimate, and at no other time is she so full of warm repose.

The following routes pass by or their termini are adjacent to heather-clad hills and commons.

ROUTE		UNDERGROUND Connection
2178	Camberwell Grn and Lower Kingswood For Walton and Burgh Heaths	Clapham Com.
70	Putney Bridge Station and Merton Pk	Putney Bridge
85	Putney Bridge Station and Kingston	" "
214A	Stroud Green and Wimbledon Com.	" "
230A	King's Cross and Hampton Court For Wimbledon Common	" "
37	Isleworth and Peckham	Clapham Com.
37A	Herne Hill and Teddington	" "
85	Putney Bridge and Kingston For Richmond Park	Putney Bridge
2105A	Ealing and Leatherhead For Ashstead Common	Ealing Brid'wy
2107	Clapham Common and Dorking For Mickleham Downs and Box Hill	Clapham Com.
136	Bromley and Westerham For Hayes and Keston Commons	" "
38	Victoria and Leytonstone	Angel
238A	Victoria and Warren Wood House	" "
10A	Elephant and Castle and Loughton	Bow Road
20B	Elephant and Castle and Epping Town	" "
2103	Cubitt Town and Chingford For Epping Forest	East Ham

aSundays only.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
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Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



or "out of print" when our messenger called for it? The 10 per cent. dividend paid on the ordinary shares after £15,000 had been set aside to reserve—will that sort of thing be permissible henceforth before dividing with the Government?—was poor compared with the 15 to 25 per cent. paid by the company in one of its earlier shapes during the Boer War, but still better than recent years. Besides putting £15,000 to the reserve, the *Financial Times* tells us that £14,000 has been credited to the factory renewal fund and £6,000 to "pensions and allowances." All this may be perfectly meritorious, but we fancy the Government will say, "Your profits were £45,000; it takes £2,800 to pay your preference dividend and £3,600 to give your ordinary 6 per cent. These two sums make £6,400 in all, and that will leave £38,600, of which we must take £19,300." "But the past dividend privations?" Ah, the company has given its ordinary shareholders 10 per cent. for each of the past three years.

The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., which controls the Barnato group of mines, continues to record remarkably consistent results. Its report for the year ended June 30 shows, in spite of the war, a decrease of only £9,604 in the nett profits, which amounted to £189,992. Adding £170,525 brought in, or £2,096 more, the available balance is only £7,508 down at £360,518. A dividend of 5 per cent. is again paid, and £163,018 is carried forward. These figures are arrived at after providing for depreciation apparently amounting to £302,674, for this is the sum by which stocks and shares are reduced in the balance-sheet. The directors explain that where necessary all the company's holdings have been written down to the prevailing market prices, although their aggregate market value largely exceeds the amount at which they stand in the balance-sheet. A new item in the balance-sheet is £465,657, representing pre-war loans against securities, subject to Treasury and Stock Exchange regulations. Loans at short call are lower by £172,000; sundry debtors are higher by £77,679, and sundry creditors higher by £39,666. The aggregate value of the gold produced by the company's group of mines in the year ended June 30 amounted to £3,622,207, an increase of £603,760, while the dividends distributed represent £999,469, an increase of £22,268. These figures are very satisfactory, for they follow upon very large increases in the previous year. As to the individual mines, the directors think that the Van Ryn Deep will prove to be one of the most successful on the Rand.

### The Third War Budget.

No citizen will be disposed to cavil seriously at Mr. McKenna's Budget. Many will be disposed to express regret that he did not make even greater inroads upon the visible wealth of the country than he has done, and already that portion of the community which is in a state of active hostility against the impregnable, or apparently impregnable, fortress of the "landed interests" is giving expression to its regrets. As a whole, however, the third war Budget of the year represents a commendable effort to bring home to the country the appalling costs of this war and, at the same time, to make provision to meet that cost. Nothing that we could do, short of surrendering all except a bare living from the highest to the lowest, could enable the country to meet the costs of the war as they have now developed, but at least the taxation now to be extracted from the pockets of the community ought to be sufficient to enable whatever Government may exist to begin reducing our burdens when the war is over. For it is not to be supposed that the taxation now imposed can be taken off when the war ends. The mere fact that by the end of the present fiscal year, at March 31 next, the total public debt of the United Kingdom will be at least £2,200,000,000, warns us against indulgence in any hope of that kind. A debt of such magnitude means that at least £100,000,000 per annum will have to be found for interest over a long period of time, and

as our peace expenditure before the war had risen to £198,000,000, the prospect is that we shall have to do our best to stagger along under an annual load of some £300,000,000, at least until the Allies have made an end of militarism, and so reorganised in harmonious efforts their own defence requirements as to be able to relieve themselves of the greater part of the deadly incubus of militarism.

Mr. McKenna's speech was plain and businesslike, and therefore most commendable. What he proposes to do may therefore be in the main expressed in his own language. After alluding to the previous war budgets, and recalling the fact just mentioned, that the expenditure in the last year of peace was about £198,000,000, he went on to say that when his predecessor, Mr. Lloyd George, began to pile up the taxes he sought to add rather less than £30,000,000 to the previous year's revenue, thus raising the total expectation of income to £227,000,000. That was the effort for the past fiscal year ended March 31 last. A revenue of £227,000,000 was then looked for, and the expenditure was put at £561,000,000, leaving the deficit of the fiscal year of the Government at £334,000,000. Then in May last, the second war Budget, covering the year now running its course, provided by various additions to taxation for a revenue of £267,000,000, and on the hypothesis that the war would last at least until March 31 next, looked forward to an expenditure of £1,133,000,000. But at the end of September, with the experience of the past six months to go upon, the revenue on the May foundation of taxes is estimated at £272,000,000, or £5,000,000 more than in May last, but the expenditure has jumped by £457,000,000 to a total of £1,590,000,000. That is the present expectation, and it is formidable enough. But by next March we may have to look forward to an expenditure for 1916-17 of £2,000,000,000 because not only is the tendency of our own outlay increasingly upward, as is proved by the apparently sudden jump of the daily outlay from the £3,000,000, which Mr. George considered a maximum six months ago, to £4,500,000, and, in the near future, probably £5,000,000, but the demands made upon us by our Allies are plainly augmenting week by week. When Mr. Asquith made his statement with regard to the new vote of credit he asked the House to grant on Wednesday last, he mentioned £250,000,000 as the sum that we might have to advance to our Allies this year to enable them to carry on the war. And now Mr. McKenna nearly doubles that amount, and tells us that they may have to be assisted by us to any amount up to £423,000,000. They must all come to us more and more as the war progresses. Belgium we have supported from the outset, and also Serbia. It is probable that if Greece and Rumania come into the concert of the Allied Powers their armies also will have to be maintained almost wholly at our cost. As for Italy and Russia, their potential wealth may be, and we believe is, ample security for any number of millions, but that will not lessen their immediate pressure on our capacity to find money. Thus a vista of indefinitely great outlays rises before the mind, and should make us resolute not only to be in a position to meet all legitimate requirements, but to press forward with all reasonable energy the measures calculated to bring the war to an early conclusion. Happily for us the Germans lend themselves to the process of extermination more readily than we could have thought possible.

Into the details of the new proposals we shall not enter in this general survey; they will be found on another page. Here some few words may be said with regard to the proposed new taxation itself. That we like the whole of it cannot be admitted, but before uttering a word of criticism we must say that the whole effort appears to us to represent a straightforward, honest attempt to do the best possible in the circumstances for the country. The Government, whose mouthpiece Mr. McKenna is as Chancellor of the Exchequer, has obviously done its utmost to try and adjust the burdens to the backs of the people, or at least to try to make the rich pay as near as might be their



fair share of the war taxation. Take the case of the income-tax, upon which Mr. McKenna had a good deal to say, and said it so well that we give the whole passage as reported:—

"I propose to add 40 per cent. to the existing income-tax rates, combined with improved machinery for assessing employees and special relief where income has fallen more than 10 per cent. The 40 per cent. rate of increase will be for a full year. Consequently in the remaining six months of the current year only 20 per cent. increase will become due. I will state the changes I propose in income-tax law before giving the financial effect. The first proposal is to reduce the exemption limit from £160 to £130. I ask the Committee also to reduce the abatement from £160 to £120. The whole proposal is that while the exemption limit becomes £130 the abatement will be £120 where it was £160, and where it was £150 or £120 it will become £100. Next I propose that the assessment under Schedule B shall be taken as the rent paid instead of one-third of the rent without affecting the option to the assessed person to claim to be brought under Schedule D. A far-reaching alteration of the income-tax is suggested to enable the payment by instalments in certain cases. This alteration will not only operate as a relief to taxpayers, but, in the opinion of the Board of Inland Revenue, will facilitate the administration of the law, especially in the lower levels of assessment. Hitherto, speaking broadly, income-tax has been payable for the whole year in January, but with the tax varying as the tax will now, from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 6d. in the pound, the individual taxpayer in trade, &c., whose business assessment frequently covers the whole of his income, may obviously be hard put to it to find the necessary money to pay the full tax which constitutes so large a slice of that income. The system of payment by instalment which I am proposing will enable individuals and firms who are liable to direct assessment in respect of trade, profession, or husbandry, to pay the tax in half-yearly instalments on January 1 and on the July 1 following. I hope it will be appreciated that I emphasise the fact that it is on July 1 following January 1 that the tax will be payable. In other words, it is a postponement, and not a device for getting tax paid at an earlier date.

"The second change of importance is that for employees of all descriptions both assessment and collection will be quarterly. These arrangements, however, will not disentitle the taxpayer to any relief which is found to be due to him on the basis of a full year's income. The change will take full effect next year. The arrangements for the current year are too far advanced to enable the transition to be made from the old system to the new in time. As a temporary expedient, however, I propose to allow persons to whom the instalment system is to apply to pay the tax imposed by the first Budget of the year in January, and the additional duty under the present Budget in July. Relief is also proposed from the additional income-tax in certain cases. The whole of the additional duty will be repayable in the event of any individual proving that his actual income from all sources for the year is less by one-fifth than the income on which he has paid the tax. That is a short statement of the change. I will amplify it by saying that it is an endeavour to redress the hardship upon the individual who this year having a very small income is nevertheless assessed on the average of the three preceding years, when he had a very large income, and finds that he is called upon to pay 3s. 6d. in the pound income-tax in respect of income which it is true he once enjoyed, but which he now no longer possesses. It is proposed, where it is less by one-fifth, that he shall be relieved of the whole of the 40 per cent. increase, and where the deficiency does not amount to one-fifth, but is more than 10 per cent., repayment of a proportionate part of the additional duty will be allowed.

"I will now deal with the financial effect of these changes. The addition of 40 per cent. to the income-tax, with 20 per cent. for the remainder of this year, after an allowance for relief which I have just described is estimated to bring in £11,274,000, and in a full

effective year £37,400,000. The reduction of the exemption limit to £130 is estimated to bring in in a full effective year £939,000. The reduction of the abatement from £160 to £120 with the consequential changes is estimated to produce £3,821,000 in a full year, and the increased liability under Schedule B is estimated to bring in £2,240,000. The total effect of these changes in 1915-16 will be to increase the revenue by £11,274,000, and in a full effective year by £44,400,000.

"It is next proposed to revise the supertax scale applicable to incomes in excess of £8,000. At present any excess of income over £8,000 is chargeable at a rate of 2s. 8d. Henceforth the charge will be 2s. 10d. between £8,000 and £9,000, 3s. 2d. between £9,000 and £10,000, and 3s. 6d. on the surplus of all incomes above £10,000. (An Hon. Member: 'Not enough.') The effect of this revision of the scale will be to produce £2,150,000 this year and £2,685,000 in a full effective year. I said a moment or two ago that I would give some examples of the operation of the income-tax if the suggested charges are adopted. I take the case first of a man with no children earning £2 15s. a week. He will be directly assessed, and he will pay 12s. 1d. quarterly. Next I take the case of a man earning £3 a week, without children. He also will be directly assessed, and once a quarter will be called upon to pay 18s. 11d. Then I come to a man earning £4 a week, also without children. He will likewise have to meet a quarterly assessment and to pay £2 6s. 2d., or just over £9 4s. in the full year. In all these cases wherever the man earning that wage or in receipt of that salary proves that in the whole year he has not earned such a sum as would make him chargeable to income-tax, he will be entitled to call for repayment of the quarterly amount which he has already paid. Where a man is in regular receipt of wages, or of salary to that amount, he will have to pay quarterly by direct assessment.

"Now I go to the other end of the scale and see how the rich man is treated. A man with £5,000 a year will pay £1,029, which is a virtual rate in the pound of 4s. 1½d.—that is, if you combine supertax and income-tax. The man with £10,000 a year will pay in income-tax and supertax £2,529, a virtual rate of 5s. 1d. in the pound. A man with an income of over £10,000 a year will pay £2,529 on the first £10,000, and 7s. in the pound on all excess over £10,000. Thus a man with £20,000 of income will pay £6,029 in tax, or a virtual rate of 6s. in the pound. The happy possessor of £100,000 will be called upon to pay £34,029 (cries of 'Oh!' and cheers), a virtual rate of 6s. 10d. in the pound. I am not sure that, having regard to the charges which many very rich people have assumed, to the large number of people dependent upon them, and to the responsibilities which they cannot avoid—I am not sure that the lot of a man in these circumstances with an income of £100,000 a year is a very happy one, when he is called upon to find £34,000 which he did not expect to have to find. Given time it can be done; and given time, no doubt, if necessity requires it, further burdens can be met. A sudden blow may cripple the individual with less advantage to the State than if we take from him by taxation, by decreases, what he is prepared from time to time and able to pay." The sum of all this is that next full year the Government expects to draw in nearly £150,000,000 of revenue from income-tax alone—viz., £103,000,000 under the May budget and £44,400,000 additional now, or together £147,400,000. Who shall say that the rich are not taxed their share?

As corollary to the income-tax additions, we have a proposal put forward to tax excess profits to the extent of 50 per cent. of their amount, and apparently Mr. McKenna is sanguine as to the results from this impost, for the estimate of the revenue to be obtained from it is £30,000,000 in a full effective year, he observed. We shall be very agreeably surprised if anything near that amount is secured, and it would seem to indicate a certain unfamiliarity with the ways of business to put forward such a figure. However, as the tax is to be levied upon all businesses, it may be that the Treasury department has means of informa-



tion that will prove to have given them good grounds for their anticipation. Only we must not forget how profits can be disguised, how easy it is to play upon depreciation requirements, and how difficult it will prove to be in many cases to avoid heavy current expenses that, borne by profits, will eat them up. Note likewise the facilities given for appeal and the limitation imposed by the proviso that when profits are less than 6 per cent. on the capital, they must be allowed for up to that percentage before the tax comes into play. We half fear that the trouble of assessing and collecting will tend to seriously diminish the nett results. But it may be that a valuable principle underlies this new and extraordinary measure. Those people who agitate for the liberation of our soil from "the tyranny of the dead hand" may find in it their remedy for all the evils that warp society in a tax designed to appropriate the greater part of the land rental, rural and urban, for the benefit of the nation at large. Some future Chancellor of the Exchequer may have the boldness to get up and say to the man of £100,000 a year income from land:—"It is not £34,029 that I shall want from you out of that income; I shall require you to tell me what is the minimum amount required by you to sustain life in a modest, though civilised, fashion, and when this amount has been agreed on between the Treasury officials and yourself, you shall get that and only that. All that is over I shall claim for the State." All is on the move—whitherward? Ah! ask us not, for we are ignorant.

Additional indirect taxation has also been imposed, no doubt because of the obvious necessity the Government is under to balance things for us, the victims of Prussian savagery. Particulars of this will be found in the tables we reprint from the official document, and readers should study them. What we have to say now is that in some directions the new proposals do not seem to us to be happy. Take the heavy impost of 33½ per cent. *ad valorem* clapped on to motor-cars and cycles, cinema films, clocks and watches, musical instruments, plate-glass, and hats, a singular mixture. Is the object of this heavy Customs duty on these articles of import to raise revenue? Mr. McKenna says no, not just that; it is to diminish imports, because we have such an enormous balance against us since the war began that unless imports are restricted we may not be able to liquidate the account. How serious the position is the little table furnished by the President of the Board of Trade, at the request of Mr. King, discloses. Including bullion and specie movements, the exports of the current year up to the end of August fell short of the imports by £256,205,000. In the same period of the preceding year the shortage was £99,139,000, and in the year before that £89,227,000. Now £256,000,000 is quite a formidable current trade debt when we cannot offset it, and it will be much enlarged by the end of the current year. But is it a form of debt likely to continue after the war ends, and if it is, will these new taxes have such an influence upon the volume of imports as to help us materially in reducing it to manageable dimensions? We do not think so, and regard these taxes as an unwholesome excrescence, a departure from the true principles which ought to govern with the utmost rigidity every effort of Budget making now made, viz., the imperative obligation to find revenue. Last year, for example, the total value of motor-cars we imported was just about £6,500,000, and could we have reckoned upon receiving quantities of these manufactures of as large a value in the current and succeeding years the new tax might have been something worth having, could we have taken its yield alone into account. But the main object sought is to reduce the import, and therefore revenue is injured rather than helped by the 33½ per cent. now imposed. Moreover—and this applies to clocks and watches, musical instruments, plate-glass, and hats just as much as to motor-cars—we are hurting the industries of both France and Italy in subjecting the manufactures of these countries to this impost, and doing no small injury to Switzerland, which has had to fight for many years against a ruthless German competition in its watch manufacture. Why should we go out of our way

to give random blows of this kind to friends, even in the midst of our embarrassments?

No objection can be made of any validity to the increase in food, drink, and tobacco taxes, or to the tax on motor-spirit, and the double stamp on patent medicines, but we cannot say that the postal changes seem reasonable or likely to be effective in yielding new revenue to the extent Mr. McKenna estimates. From the postal changes alone he looks for an increase of £1,980,000 in the revenue for the current year. We do not think he will get it, for the simple reason that in doing away with the halfpenny postage stamp he kills one of the most profitable sources of revenue the department possesses. That the weight of inland letters carried for a penny is at present too generous at 4 ozs. is probably true; and no serious complaint can be made about the proposed reduction making the stamp 1 oz. a penny up to 2 ozs., and a halfpenny for every 2 ozs. beyond, but why abolish the halfpenny postcard? That will stop an enormous income which the Post Office collects with no difficulty at all. And, again, why double the cost of transmitting newspapers by post? Surely that will inflict a hardship upon newspaper owners and subscribers alike, and cannot give the revenue a result in cash anything like equal to the loss and inconvenience it will inflict. That newspapers of excessive weight are now carried for a halfpenny throughout the United Kingdom is only too true. Restrict, therefore, the weight the halfpenny will cover by all means, bring it down to 4 ozs. if it so seems good, or at most at 6 ozs., but do not abolish the halfpenny stamp altogether, for that will sterilise income instead of causing it to expand.

We are doubtful for the same reason about the wisdom of doubling the fee for small postal orders up to half-a-crown. To have to pay a penny for sending a postal order of sixpence is a disproportionate levy, and will not increase the revenue. Nor can an additional penny on parcels up to 1 lb. weight prove much of an acquisition to the Treasury. These are the only serious grumbles we have to make about the Budget. If it was necessary or deemed expedient to raise the annual telephone rent from £17 to £20 in London and trunk fees by one-third, it was no doubt also necessary to add 50 per cent. to the charge for telegrams up to 12 words, but it is doubtful whether either change represents good finance or will be really worth while. It is by lowering within certain fairly easily definable limits, not by raising charges for work done, that profits are increased. Is it not a proved axiom that there is more profit to be made out of cheap services than dear?

### What the New Taxation Means.

In the appended table figures are given which will enable taxpayers to measure something of the weight of the new burdens imposed upon them. Added to the levies made in the earlier war budgets, they mean an amount within about £20,000,000 of the last pre-war budget total is now added to the annual burden the nation has to carry. Here in summary is the final position, as estimated for the current year:—

	£	£
Estimated expenditure .....	—	1,590,000,000
Revenue:—		
Existing sources of taxation ....	272,110,000	
New taxation now proposed ....	30,924,000	
Postal changes .....	1,980,000	
Total revenue .....	—	305,014,000
Deficit .....	—	1,284,986,000

This is the product for the current year, and it will leave us with a deficiency of £1,285,000,000, while the full taxation, &c., burden of the coming year is reckoned at only £387,000,000, and as the war expenditure gives no promise of a halt, still less of any cessation between now and March 31 next, the prospect is that another loan will have to be raised by-and-by; that is to say, as soon as the last loan is all paid up preparations will have to begin for the issue of another, perhaps a still larger loan than either of those that have gone before. No doubt the raising of substantial credit in the United



States by France and ourselves will enable us to postpone a large new borrowing operation at home for some little time, but it is none the less true that we must borrow and pledge our credit yet further, our credit and our future capacity to earn money, we and our Allies. Indeed, we lean more and more to the view that the next borrowing operation should be a joint one, contracted for by the whole of the Allies together. We are all braced to the effort, and will make it together in the high resolve of a great brotherhood of nations to win liberty or die.

The wealth of this country is substantial still, and gives us a great margin. At the beginning of the present year the total nominal value of the securities quoted in the daily Official List of the Stock Exchange was £11,442,000,000, and that visible wealth is only a part of our resources, so that the foolish Teutons who sneer at us and point to our resolute imposition of new taxes—a step they dare not take—as a sign of weakness are making one more mistake. It is their misfortune to have judged mankind by their own mean standard, betrayed by their own prepossessions—and it is our misfortune likewise, because the brutal obsession of the populations of the Middle Empires will force us to go on killing them until their manhood is exhausted and their pride humbled in the dust. The Allies mean to do that—our budget shows it, as our Allies fully realise. They know now more fully than ever before that they can rely upon us to sustain them to the end. And they likewise possess resources, infinite resources, which will be added to indefinitely when they have won the peace, by the opening up of the territories delivered from the blight of the Turk, the Austrian, and the Prussian.

### SUMMARY COMPARISON OF NEW WITH OLD TAXATION.

The following table shows at a glance the existing taxation and the amount which will be levied under the new budget :—

INCOMES.	Rate in the £ under Previous Budget.	Under New Budget.
Earned (for next six months).....	1/6	1/9½
" (afterwards).....	1/6	2/1½
Unearned (for next six months).....	2/6	3/
" (afterwards).....	2/6	3/6
Exemption limit.....	£160	£130
Abatement limit.....	£160	£120
Where abatement was £150 or £120 it will now be .....	£100	
SUPER TAX (unchanged except on)—		
	Previous Budget.	New Budget.
Incomes between £5,000 and £9,000 .....	2/8	2/10
" " £9,000 and £10,000.....	2/8	3/2
" above £10,000 .....	2/8	3/6

### WAR-TIME TRADE PROFITS.

New tax ..... 50 % of surplus profits.

	Previous Rates.	New Rates.		Previous Rates.	New Rates.
FOOD AND DRINK.					
Sugar, per cwt. ....	1/10	9/4	Patent medicines	1½d. in 1/-	3d. in 1/-
Increase of ½d. per lb. to consumer.			Motor spirit, per gall	1½d. & 3d.	4½d. & 6d.
Tea, per lb. ....	8d.	1/-	BEER AND SPIRITS.		
Cocoa, per lb. ....	1d.	1½d.	Same as before.		
Coffee, per lb. ....	2d.	3d.	NEW IMPORT DUTIES.		
Chicory, per lb. ....	2d.	3d.	Motor cars and cycles		
Dried Fruits, per cwt.	7/-	10/6	Cinema films		
TOBACCO.					
Raw, per lb. ....	4/1	6/1½	Clocks and watches		33½ per cent.
Cigars, per lb. ....	7/	10/6	Musical instruments..		ad valorem.
Cigarettes, per lb. ....	5/8	8/6	Plate glass		
			Hats		

POSTAL CHARGES—	Present Rates.	New Rates.
Inland Letters .....	Not over 4 ozs., 1d. ....	1 oz., 1d.
	Each extra 2 ozs., ½d. ....	1 oz. to 2 ozs., 2d.
		Each extra 2 ozs., ½d.
Postcards .....	½d. each .....	1d. each.
Circulars .....	Not over 2 ozs., ½d. ....	Not over 2 ozs., 1d.
Newspapers .....	½d. each .....	1d. each.
Parcels .....	4d. for first lb., and 1d. per lb. afterwards .....	4d. for first lb. and 1d. per lb. afterwards.
6d. to 2/6 postal orders.	½d. fee .....	1d. fee.
Telegrams.....	6d. for 12 words, ½d. per word afterwards.	9d. for 12 words, ½d. per word afterwards.
Press telegrams .....	1/ for 100 words (night) or 75 words (day). 2d. extra address.	2/6 per 100 (or 75) words. 8d. each extra address.
Telephones (London)..	£17 .....	£20.
Trunk fees.....	—	One-third increase.

The present is not the moment to discuss the social consequences of such a drain upon the people's means of living as these taxes represent, but if everybody is prepared to face the worst, as we believe we all more and more are, they will not be by any means altogether harmful. It is by no means improbable that the tax-increased cost of such articles as tea, sugar, tobacco,

coffee, and cocoa may be to some degree modified by lower first cost prices. Assuredly, were the Dardanelles once clear of the enemy, bread should be cheaper ; and, happily, this year's harvest in almost every neutral country—and above all in our own Canada—capable of adding to our supplies, or free to do so, is excellent,

### REVISED BUDGET, 1915-16.

(SEPTEMBER 21, 1915.)

TABLE I.—Revenue on the May Basis of taxation as compared with the Budget Estimate now.

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate on the existing Basis of Taxation.	Revised Estimate more (+) or less (—) than Budget Estimate.
	£	£	£
Customs.....	*37,450,000	37,600,000	+ 150,000
Excise.....	*54,650,000	54,650,000	—
Estate, &c., Duties.....	28,000,000	30,000,000	+ 2,000,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	6,500,000	—
Land Tax .....	660,000	660,000	—
House Duty .....	1,990,000	1,990,000	—
Income-tax (including Super-tax .....	103,000,000	103,000,000	—
Land Value Duties.....	350,000	350,000	—
Total Receipts from Taxes	232,600,000	234,750,000	+ 2,150,000
Postal Service .....	20,600,000	22,700,000	+ 2,100,000
Telegraph Service .....	3,100,000	3,100,000	—
Telephone Service .....	6,700,000	6,500,000	— 200,000
Crown lands .....	530,000	530,000	—
Receipts from Suez Canal shares & sundry Loans	2,002,000	2,100,000	+ 98,000
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	2,430,000	+ 730,000
Total Receipts from Non-Tax Revenue..	34,632,000	37,360,000	+ 2,728,000
Total .....	267,232,000	272,110,000	+ 4,878,000
Borrowings to meet Capital Expenditure	3,275,000	3,275,000	—

\* Excluding the proposed increased Wine and Beer Duties subsequently withdrawn.

TABLE II.—Expenditure in 1915-16 compared on the same basis.

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Revised Estimate More (+) or Less (—) than Budget Estimate.
	£	£	£
I.—CONSOLIDATED FUND SERVICES.			
National Debt Services:			
Inside the Fixed Debt Charge .....	20,720,000	22,055,000	+ 1,335,000
Outside the Fixed Debt Charge .....	30,726,000	45,030,000	+ 14,304,000
	51,446,000	67,085,000	+ 15,639,000
Road Improvement Fund Payments to Local Taxation accounts, &c. ....	1,431,000	525,000	— 906,000
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,697,000	1,800,000	+ 103,000
Total Consolidated Fund Services ....	63,980,000	79,010,000	+ 15,030,000
II.—SUPPLY SERVICES.			
Army (including Ordnance factories) .....	*15,000	*16,000	+ 1,000
Navy .....	*17,000	*17,000	—
Civil Services .....	59,018,000	59,039,000	+ 21,000
Customs and Excise, and Inland Revenue Department .....	4,788,000	4,788,000	—
Post Office Services ....	26,836,000	26,836,000	—
Total Supply Services..	90,674,000	90,696,000	+ 22,000
Votes of Credit .....	978,000,000	1,420,000,000	+ 442,000,000
Total expenditure ..	1,132,654,000	1,589,706,000	+ 457,052,000
Estimated Expenditure chargeable against Capital .....	3,275,000	3,275,000	—

\* Nominal provision; the substantive provision being made under Votes of Credit (see Treasury Minute of February 5, 1915, Cd. 7790).

so that we need have no fear, as far as can be seen, of any enhancement of the strain upon the poor through a Nature-induced scarcity of bread. Moreover, the Government has thus far taken good care that bread should not grow dear like coals. In this connection, surely, a word of recognition is deserved by it for the care taken of us ever since the war began. Mr. Runciman took up the defence of the Government against grumblers and critics on Wednesday evening in the House of Commons, and revealed something of the



work his department, the whole Administration, has done, work for which it has received no thanks or gratitude. In spite of German sugar being kept out of this country, the sugar market had been kept steady, and it was now possible to prophesy a drop in the retail price amounting to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the lb., or just the sum by which the new taxation would otherwise increase it. That is the result of the labours of the Sugar Commission working under the supervision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thanks to its promptitude, also, the Board of Trade, as shown in the Dumba correspondence, prevented Germany from cornering the shipping freight available for the Argentine meat trade, and thus secured for us uninterrupted supplies of meat. Mr. Asquith's prophecy regarding wheat was fulfilled, too, almost to the day, in spite of the fact that the Dardanelles are still closed, and wheat is now "a good deal lower than it has been in many a year of peace." Accusations have been common that speculators were at work in all these directions enhancing the cost of living for their own profit, but no support could be given to this accusation by the President of the Board of Trade, and that is a comforting piece of information. Nothing could be more repulsive to the patriotic mind than the sight of men and groups of men working to make living hard for the bulk of the population, which in its weakness is wholly without power to protect itself. But patriotism is on a higher plane to-day than ever before in the Empire's history. Witness the attitude of the much-abused capitalist as expressed by Mr. William Lorimer at the meeting of the Steel Co. of Scotland:—"He heartily approved of the principle of taxing war profits, but he was not sure that its application was adequate. There was something absolutely revolting in the idea of anybody making profits out of the nation's agony. It might be that before the war was ended the Government might find it necessary to take not 50, but 100 per cent. of those extra profits, and he hoped none would complain." The country is in no permanent danger which possesses citizens of this fine temper.

### Enter Bulgaria—All's Well.

One thing helps to encourage the mind in surveying the welter of bloodshed now spreading its horrors over Europe and parts of Asia Minor. Already it begins to be apparent that a great emancipation of the down-trodden and oppressed must everywhere follow this war. Thrones and dominions may and will disappear in the blood-soaked soil they so long have cumbered, but free peoples will emerge, and through their freedom unite to guarantee mankind against a repetition of the devastation by which it is now being consumed. Look at Russia, for example, whose military operations have kept minds all the world over in a state of tension, often rising to dread, during the past few weeks. Bureaucracy of the Prussian type still fights doggedly for its life there almost as fiercely as Hindenburg and his unfortunate human pawns fight to bury themselves in the Russian winter. Russian bureaucracy has prorogued the Duma in sullen animosity, and the nation has spoken out in condemnation. That Duma will have to be summoned to meet again lest worse happen, and in attempting to swagger on in its old irresponsible fashion the bureaucracy may have signed its death warrant, for the meetings of the Zemstvos held since have re-heated a temper that even the Tsar himself dare not trifle with. With the rise of the Russian people to its rights has come likewise a great deliverance of the Jews. No longer will they be the down-trodden pariahs that the Prussianised Government of Russia has hitherto made them. They will be free to do many things and to go to and fro between many places from which they have hitherto been debarred, and that also is a beginning of progress. Under the surface symptoms of a like kind are to be found everywhere, and they give encouragement to those who fight and endure to press onward, accepting every trial, every hardship, confident of the victory which shall deliver mankind from a cruel thrall.

When we turn to the scanty records of fighting, is the outlook also cheerful? Yes, for those who keep in view the goal we strain after, and are resolved to make no peace with any of the treacherous Powers who have forced the war upon us. Most of this week certain of our newspapers of a peculiar type of patriotism have endeavoured to keep us in a state of terror about the fate of the Russian armies which held Vilna until there seemed to be danger that they would be surrounded and caught by the converging forces of the enemy, handled with his usual slap-bang rush by the headlong Hindenburg. These scribes, military correspondents, and critics of all types seem to us to be much too ready always to assign stupidity to the Russian high command. Reading their exercises and accepting them, we should have been led to believe that General Ruzsky and his subordinates did not know of the danger, were asleep, had learned nothing from their experience of Hindenburg in previous rushes. But they were awake all the time, and not improbably held the Vilna salient a little longer than they should in order to attract to it as numerous masses of German troops as could be collected from all points in the northern portion of the German lines, in order the better to engulf them. Why would they take a risk of that kind? Because it seems clearly the purpose of Russia to pull her enemies so far into the country before winter comes as to make it impossible for them to get out of it again. From that point of view the Russian tactics of retreat have been magnificently successful, and when we read of enormous hordes of cavalry, 50,000, 60,000, 70,000 of them, dashing across the waste regions of Western Russia, plunging into its marshes, worming their way through its dreary birch and pine forests, all in the effort to get behind and capture the Russian army, we have difficulty in determining which to pity most, the horses or the men on their backs. Both seem destined mostly to perish in the land they have wantonly invaded. To understand something of how Russia fights and endures, how deep her consciousness of victory is, read these extracts from a description of the storming of Novo Georgievsk, printed in Thursday's *Daily Chronicle*. It is translated from an account supplied to the *Russkoye Slovo* by its special correspondent present at the battle, and is one of the most vivid pictures of war horrors we ever read. After explaining that "the Germans always came on in close formation, although they were within a mile of the guns of the fortress," and stating that "into the middle of this mass of humanity plumped our shells, which burst and converted whole companies into mere fragments of flesh and bone," the narrative proceeds thus:—"Our observers said the field resembled a vast moth-eaten fur which was being beaten by a stick in a fierce wind. With each explosion a cloud of human remains rose into the air. Even the iron discipline of the Germans shrank from the ordeal of attacking in such a hurricane of fire, and at Novo Georgievsk the advancing troops were made drunk before they were ordered to go forward. Day and night, like madmen, the Germans came on like waves driven by a gale against a steady rock. As the waves were hurled back new lines of humanity advanced. These again were repulsed, but, to the accompaniment of choruses of wild shrieks and yells, the waves came on again. Against one group of our fortifications the Germans made an incessant attack for 24 hours—from daylight one day to dawn of the next. Not only our men, but our guns, became tired. Our gunners fainted from excess of fatigue, the guns, red-hot, exploded under their own shots. Several times we were compelled to renew our supply of guns and to bring more men to the batteries, but the Germans still rushed forward to the attack. When the dawn came the following morning our men looked on the battlefield and groaned. A tract of land four miles broad and one and a-quarter miles long was covered with a thick layer of dead. The Germans lay in heaps—waves of humanity congealed by death. Over this grey German shroud, as the sun rose,



marched new and ever new columns of the enemy. Hundreds—thousands—of dead men were standing upright as though alive, amid heaps of prone corpses.

Before Novo Georgievsk row after row of men fell, the dead accumulated in masses, while new columns pressed from behind. The newcomers climbed the hillocks of dead bodies and were killed before they could advance more than a few paces. But, over their prostrate bodies, in turn came more and more Germans, and new rows of dead men stood bolt upright as though they were living." Ah! the inhuman Prussian! But his doom approaches.

Evidently, to Bulgaria, Hindenburg's latest forward drive has acted like a call to join the fray; either that or the victorious advance of the Russians in the South, an advance once more threatening Hungary and, worse still, the rear of the German armies in the Galician part of the long front. Bulgaria has mobilised, has sent cavalry to the Serbian frontier, and proclaims the determination of her Government to maintain "an armed neutrality." All this is exactly copied from the tactics followed by the Turks under German guidance before they joined the fray. We welcomed the incoming of the Turk, rejoiced at it, and we are not going to lament over this move by Bulgaria. Bulgaria is pro-German—i.e., self-seeking—and has been so throughout. The Bulgarians are the Prussians of the Balkans, and their treachery is Prussian in its thoroughness. Always when the mind tried to frame a scheme of accord which would guarantee the Balkan communities a lasting peace, the stumbling-block of a covetous, aggressive, anti-humane Bulgarian Government and people intervened, and marred the vision. Probably enough, our Government has been expecting this move for some time, and has not been in the least caught napping. Likely enough, the mysterious increase in the amount of money now to be set aside to help our Allies in the conflict, an increase which occurred between the middle of one week and the beginning of another, is due to the knowledge that Serbia, Greece, and Rumania would all require assistance in the coming fight with the Bulgar. Whether that be so or not, it is well that this fight should come now rather than later. The harvest in the Balkans is over, and Bulgarian manhood free to throw itself in the way of the guns now, we believe, ready to destroy it. This is brutal language, readers may say, and we do not deny it; but this job, to use common language, is one that permits of no indulgence in sentiment. The aim of the Allies is to destroy Prussian militarism and mere military ambition with a thoroughness that will cure civilisation of the cancerous disease for good and all, and we cannot do this with the gloves on. The more the fight extends, therefore, the better, and the greater the thoroughness with which the murder is done the sooner and the more effective will be the peace. How, for example, is it possible ever again to imagine an accord being reached with the Turk on any terms? What does Lord Bryce tell us? He tells us that the Turks in Asia are busy wiping the Armenian race out of existence, doing it with the thoroughness of the Turk, a thoroughness even the Prussian savage could hardly equal. Is the world to be for ever subject to diabolical outbursts of this description, furious in slaughter, by races and tribes untamable, wholly incapable of receiving any but the thinnest veneer of civilisation? We hope not, and therefore our demand is that the slaying continue ruthless, pitiless, as at Novo Georgievsk, until the enemy is destroyed.

Is not this the purpose we pursue in the West? Military critics and carpers grumble continually, much more in private than in print, at what they call the inaction of the British Army. Where is it in France and Flanders, what is it doing, they snarl; why do we not break the enemy's lines here and there? What is hindering France from entering upon a forward march that would forthwith liberate Alsace? We have no more right to assume and maintain this attitude towards the French armies and our own than we have continually to sneer at the efforts, and generally successful efforts, of our civil administration to cope with its unexampled difficulties. Are not the Allies in the West destroying the Germans day by day, steadily

luring them to come forward to be slain, stimulating them to waste what remains of their wealth by displays of artillery fireworks? Surely we can wait a little, knowing what the purpose is. Surely we ought to have some pity for those who have to carry out this loathsome work; some consideration also for the men who are daily risking and sacrificing their lives in order to bring us a peace civilisation can revive and live under. Why should we make haste to sacrifice millions of our men in spectacular forward thrusts after the Hindenburg style, when after a few more months at the longest the wastage of the German population must force the culmination we desire?

## Letters to the Editor.

### INCOME-TAX ON DIVIDENDS.

SIR,—The alteration of the rate to 3s. 6d. in the £, apparently as from October 6, will have the effect of increasing the deductions which may be made from amounts for financial years which end after September 30 by companies which pay their dividends less tax; the practice of reckoning the income-tax by months is becoming more general, so that for the year ending December 31, 1915, the rate would be for three months at 1s. 8d., six months at 2s. 6d., and three months at 3s. 6d., equal to 2s. 6½d. in the £ for the whole year. For the half-year ending December 30, 1915, and for the year ending March 31, 1916, the rate would be 3s. in the £.

In case of:

(a) Dividends and interest from the Public Funds payable on or after October 6, 1915;

(b) Dividends and interest of foreign or colonial Government securities, or of foreign or colonial companies, entrusted to an agent in this country for payment here on or after October 6, 1915, also the like dividends or interest which, although not entrusted to an agent in this country for payment, are realised in the United Kingdom on or after that date through bankers, coupon dealers, or other persons;

(c) Interest and annuities paid by municipal corporations or other local authorities to creditors on rates, and not paid, or not wholly paid, out of profits and gains brought into charge to income-tax;

(d) Other interest and annuities not paid, or not wholly paid, out of profits and gains brought into charge to income-tax,

the rate of deduction will be 3s. 6d. in the £ from October 6, 1915.

The alteration now, as it will apply from the half-year date, is different to that of the Finance Act, 1914 (Session 2), last November, which, being retrospective, seemed to tend to more confusion.

Yours faithfully,

FREDC. C. MATHIESON AND SONS.

16, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

This has been one of the most uninteresting weeks in the Money market that we have had for a long time. The revenue return showed that there had been sufficient buying of new Treasury bills over the counter to offset the repayment of £7,500,000 which matured on Saturday, and on the whole it seemed as if there had been some reduction in the market's resources. No great demand for accommodation was experienced, but most of the clearing banks have now been paid off their day-to-day loans, and the supplies were unevenly distributed. Some lenders still exacted  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for renewing these loans, but others were content with 4 per cent., which was also the rate for most of the new business that was done. For weekly fixtures the charge remains at  $4\frac{1}{4}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

During the early part of the week the discount houses quoted  $4\frac{5}{8}$ - $4\frac{11}{16}$  per cent. for three months' bank paper, and so long as they were willing to work at the lower figure they were able to do a fair business. An attempt to stiffen rates on the result of the tenders for India bills, which went at a rather higher rate than had been expected, was not very successful at first, and for a time there was something like a deadlock in the market. Sellers, however, have had to give way, and brokers to-day were able to get bills more readily at  $4\frac{11}{16}$  per cent., while some claimed to have secured a few at  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. The demand for Treasury bills over the counter has been on a fairly large scale, and there has also been a good inquiry for October Treasuries, of which there are £45,000,000 outstanding, and these have changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The new India sterling bills were bought at  $5\frac{5}{16}$  per cent., and with so narrow a margin between the rates for ordinary bank bills and the charge for money brokers have been more inclined to pick up some of

the foreign Government Treasuries in spite of their comparatively long usance. New French yearling bills have been dealt in at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{7}{8}$  per cent., and the January maturities at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., while Russian have changed hands at  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. and Japanese at  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent.

Applications for the £3,500,000 yearling India bills on Wednesday amounted to £6,151,000, and tenders at £94 15s. 3d. received about 42 per cent., the average rate being £5 2s. 11.56.

The Bank of Bengal to-day raised its rate for discount from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent.

Many cables have been received from New York stating that the negotiations for a Franco-British loan were nearing a conclusion, and that everything had been satisfactorily arranged. No authoritative announcement, however, has yet been made, although one is looked for at any time now. In the meantime business continues on a small scale, and the cable rate has moved both up and down, but closes higher on balance. The French cheque weakened to 27.10 in the beginning of the week, partly in sympathy with the improvement in New York and partly in connection with the forthcoming French loan, but it has since moved sharply upwards to 27.57. Most of the other Continental exchanges also improved, the Dutch rising to 11.58 and the Italian to 29.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but Petrograd after touching 139 $\frac{1}{2}$  weakened to 137 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

During the Bank week ended on Wednesday there was a further withdrawal of about £500,000 in gold for internal needs, and with £351,000 taken for export the stocks of coin and bullion were reduced by £838,000 to £62,900,000. The note circulation was also increased by £107,000, so that the reserve was £945,000 lower at £49,728,000. Government disbursements were on a large scale and Public Deposits showed a decrease of £12,836,000, the whole of which was absorbed by reductions of £3,105,000 in Government securities and £9,278,000 in "Other" securities, with the result that Other Deposits were £522,000 lower. In spite of the drop in the reserve the proportion to liabilities was actually 1.1 per cent. up at 25 per cent., owing to the decrease in Government and market balances.

At the half-yearly general court of the Governor and Co. of the Bank of England, which was held yesterday (Thursday) Lord Cunliffe said that the profits for the six months ended August 31, after providing for all contingencies, were £610,951, making the "Rest" on that date £3,637,115. A dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, was declared, payable on October 5, which would leave the "Rest" at £3,000,421.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended September 22 £2,983,782 in £1 notes, £1,264,485 in 10s. notes, and £1,460,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,781,802 in £1, £590,347 in 10s. notes, and £160,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,176,118, leaving a total of £70,327,572 10s. outstanding, made up of £51,516,413 in £1 notes, £16,911,159 10s. in 10s. notes, and £1,900,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £443,299 0s. 5d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £17,700,000 in Government securities, and £23,975,871 10s. 5d. at the Bank of England, while £214,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £381,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

Little or no demand for silver has come from Eastern markets, and the support this week has again been provided by orders for coinage purposes on home and Continental account. These were not important, but with supplies from America still very limited, they were sufficient to cause a rise in the price to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. The advance induced a certain amount of profit-taking from the East, and the quotation declined to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz., but this was promptly followed by a recovery to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. on a good general demand, and the market was quite steady at the end.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 1,90,000 in



bills, Rs. 1,63,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 2,37,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 74,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 25,76,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 23,50,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1/32d. receiving about 45 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 14,970 in bills and Rs. 1,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4 1/32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 21st inst. the total sales were Rs. 4,07,58,964, realising £2,714,933, compared with Rs. 5,49,54,861 for £3,667,357 to September 22 last year.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 22, 1915.

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 80,989,415	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	£ 62,539,415
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 80,989,415		£ 80,989,415

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 34,418,357
Reserve .. ..	£ 3,757,424	Other Securities .. ..	£ 144,954,906
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 108,738,385	Notes .. ..	£ 50,234,825
Other Deposits .. ..	£ 89,645,537	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 437,667
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 23,057		

Dated Sept. 23, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Sept. 23.		Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 22, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ 3,830,268	Liabilities.	£ 3,723,902	£ 3,757,424	£ 33,522	£ —
28,672,610	Real .. ..	121,574,686	108,738,385	—	12,836,301
125,267,316	Pub. Deposits ..	90,168,083	89,645,537	—	522,546
11,850	Other do. ..	26,084	23,057	—	3,027
	7 Day Bills ..			Decrease.	Increase.
	Assets.			£ 3,153,300	£ —
25,682,087	Gov. Securities ..	34,418,359	31,313,057	3,105,300	—
110,732,653	Other do. ..	144,954,906	135,676,805	9,278,101	—
35,920,299	Total Reserve ..	50,672,492	49,727,541	944,951	—
				13,361,874	13,361,874
				Increase.	Decrease.
£ 34,202,760	Note Circulation	£ 31,515,345	£ 31,622,635	£ 107,290	£ —
51,673,059	Coin and Bullion	63,737,837	62,000,176	—	837,661
232 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.9 p.c.	25 p.c.	1.1 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £351,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—U.S.A. .. ..
Thursday— .. ..	Tuesday— .. ..
Nett Efflux .. ..	Thursday—U.S.A., coin ..
	Friday—Sovs., U.S.A. ..
£ 1,752,000	£ 1,752,000

### TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Last week's Treasury return showed that £7,500,000 Treasury Bills issued by tender had been repaid, together with £3,892,000 of other bills, but practically the whole amount was offset by fresh sales and the total outstanding was only reduced by £226,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£ 15,000,000	6 months	1915. Oct. 6.	£ s. d. 2 13 11 1/2
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 10.	3 2 1
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5 1/2
10,000,000	12 months	1916. Feb. 27.	2 17 1 1/2
*182,273,000	—	—	—
237,473,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 18.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs .. ..	634,000
Excise .. ..	3,321,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	530,000
Stamps .. ..	30,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	160,000
Land Values Duties..	—
Post Office .. ..	1,400,000
Crown Lands .. ..	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. ..	218,119
Bullion advances repaid ..	50,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	32,000,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. ..	—
Issue of War Stock and War Bonds .. ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments .. ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Dravon Shares..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. ..	8,084,364
	£46,227,483
	£
National Debt Service ..	71,925
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,731
Development & Road Impvt. ..	—
Payments to Local Taxation ..	363,827
Other Consolidated Fund Charges .. ..	—
Supply Services .. ..	45,397,000
Bullion Advances .. ..	100,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	*3,643,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Red- emption Act, 1910 .. ..	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 ..	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. ..	—
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund 1911 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. ..	—
Under Public Buildings Ex- penses Act, 1903 .. ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid ..	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid .. ..	3,892,000
Increase in Exchequer balances .. ..	—
	£46,227,483

\* Decrease.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,204,116,000	—	£ 335,229,000
February ..	£ 960,743,000	£ 1,480,294,000	—	£ 519,551,000
March ..	£ 1,231,392,000	£ 1,795,099,000	—	£ 563,707,000
April ..	£ 976,264,000	£ 1,304,990,000	—	£ 328,726,000
May ..	£ 930,909,000	£ 1,286,213,000	—	£ 355,304,000
June ..	£ 1,193,494,000	£ 1,641,923,000	—	£ 448,429,000
July ..	£ 1,316,695,000	£ 1,337,832,000	—	£ 21,137,000
August ..	£ 260,768,000	£ 161,929,000	£ 98,839,000	—
" 11	£ 273,843,000	£ 187,317,000	£ 86,526,000	—
" 18	£ 283,040,000	£ 179,421,000	£ 103,629,000	—
" 25	£ 258,873,000	£ 150,432,000	£ 108,441,000	—
Sept. 1	£ 275,985,000	£ 155,707,000	£ 120,278,000	—
" 8	£ 255,092,000	£ 167,196,000	£ 87,896,000	—
" 15	£ 254,607,000	£ 180,216,000	£ 74,391,000	—
" 22	£ 239,471,000	£ 184,844,000	£ 54,627,000	—
Total ..	£ 9,669,973,000	£ 11,507,549,000	—	£ 1,837,556,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 3, 1915.	Aug. 27, 1915.	Aug. 20, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 41,873,800	£ 42,229,000	£ 41,190,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	£ 232,400	£ 220,800	£ 220,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	£ 11,576,000	£ 11,186,000	£ 10,986,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	£ 3,844,800	£ 3,975,600	£ 5,423,400
Total reserves .. ..	£ 59,527,000	£ 57,611,400	£ 57,820,400
10-day bills and loans ..	£ 977,800	£ 899,000	£ 895,000
30-day bills and loans ..	£ 2,283,600	£ 2,131,600	£ 2,052,800
60-day bills and loans ..	£ 3,352,000	£ 3,441,800	£ 3,233,600
90-day bills and loans ..	£ 1,693,800	£ 1,716,400	£ 1,831,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	£ 279,000	£ 380,000	£ 337,600
Total .. ..	£ 8,591,200	£ 8,567,800	£ 8,350,800
Investments— .. ..			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	£ 1,768,600	£ 1,767,200	£ 1,748,000
Municipal Warrants ..	£ 4,802,600	£ 5,161,600	£ 3,710,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	£ 1,552,200	£ 2,498,200	£ 2,548,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	£ 2,588,200	£ 1,308,000	£ 1,361,000
All other assets .. ..	£ 815,000	£ 992,400	£ 955,400
Total assets .. ..	£ 77,654,800	£ 77,996,600	£ 76,493,600
Paid-up capital .. ..	£ 10,952,400	£ 10,937,800	£ 10,865,800
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	£ 62,463,200	£ 63,397,400	£ 62,019,000
Note circulation—nett. ..	£ 3,514,000	£ 3,347,600	£ 3,169,400
All other liabilities .. ..	£ 705,200	£ 313,400	£ 439,400
Total liabilities .. ..	£ 77,654,800	£ 77,996,600	£ 76,493,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	83.3 %	82.1 %	82.1 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	89.3 %	88.2 %	90.6 %

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 18, 1915.	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 4, 1915.	Sept. 19, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 539,768,000	£ 533,338,000	£ 530,918,000	£ 446,056,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	£ 105,764,000	£ 101,114,000	£ 99,776,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	£ 29,788,000	£ 27,622,000	£ 27,816,000	£ 81,760,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	£ 5,862,000	£ 5,936,000	£ 6,920,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	£ 549,926,000	£ 534,676,000	£ 534,544,000	£ 396,848,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	£ 27,608,000	£ 28,160,000	£ 28,436,000	—
Circulation .. ..	£ 7,348,000	£ 7,396,000	£ 7,398,000	£ 23,944,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	£ 43,400,000	£ 41,978,000	£ 41,904,000	£ 7,676,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.  
\* Deficit.



## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s).

	Sept. 18, 1915.	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 4, 1915.	Sept. 19, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 117,274,000	£ 117,692,000	£ 117,902,000	£ 117,780,000
Specie .. ..	9,978,000	9,934,000	9,994,000	8,280,000
Deposits .. ..	121,290,000	121,706,000	121,534,000	116,140,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,726,000	1,730,000	1,690,000	2,700,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 16, 1915.	Sept. 9, 1915.	Sept. 2, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 180,002,960	£ 177,502,360	£ 175,097,640	£ 173,054,160
Silver in hand ..	14,646,240	14,584,840	14,573,040	14,668,649
Bills discounted ..	9,982,660	9,848,080	10,569,200	11,350,400
Advances .. ..	23,494,680	23,513,960	23,573,240	23,491,400
Note circulation ..	532,383,840	530,681,000	528,921,320	522,400,400
Public deposits ..	4,725,120	3,934,800	2,291,360	1,231,520
Private deposits ..	103,504,720	102,651,960	99,149,760	99,963,160
Foreign Bills ..	52,400	66,960	62,680	57,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £264,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £39,380,040, decrease £275,560, and at the branches to £40,412,000, decrease £361,360.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 30, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,860,400	£ 122,816,750	£ 122,753,700	£ 83,032,000
Treasury Notes .. ..	10,287,950	12,479,100	10,526,500	7,794,000
Bills discounted .. ..	257,622,100	253,370,050	247,084,950	233,022,650
Advances .. ..	689,600	638,050	764,050	5,944,200
Note circulation .. ..	278,533,700	277,994,250	278,216,750	202,680,250
Deposits .. ..	100,465,850	98,401,150	86,815,600	124,712,800

Clearing House returns during Aug. £210,075,490 against £252,034,605 in July.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 5, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1915.	Aug. 5, 1915.	Sept. 5, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 6,854,100	£ 5,942,100	£ 5,553,300	£ 8,201,500
Cash in reserve ..	158,579,200	158,545,800	158,238,200	161,022,500
Gold in reserve abroad ..	5,223,000	3,365,300	9,008,600	11,690,200
Circulation note issue ..	417,000,000	417,000,000	394,500,000	260,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	21,021,700	19,078,100	20,348,400	22,906,400

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 31, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 12,112,198	£ 12,031,367	£ 12,017,892	£ 9,185,700
Bills .. ..	4,979,713	5,344,538	5,496,942	10,893,588
Note circulation ..	16,224,085	16,169,794	16,305,915	17,506,596
Current and deposit accounts .. ..	3,077,313	3,473,302	3,318,800	3,638,256

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915
Gold .. ..	£ 29,658,163	£ 29,355,495	£ 28,931,172	£ 28,707,881
Silver .. ..	29,528,299	29,480,475	29,530,136	29,759,651
Foreign Bills .. ..	4,675,071	4,767,085	4,859,649	4,629,812
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,186,338	26,355,941	26,210,432	26,018,991
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,309,164	29,335,373	29,908,594	29,882,457
Notes in Circulation ..	80,863,718	80,836,270	80,846,749	80,459,725
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,330,781	26,059,975	5,782,869	26,330,997
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,143,621	1,339,404	1,358,397	1,722,726
Government Securities ..	3,147,703	2,723,695	2,780,465	1,961,941

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Aug. 31, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 3,446,000	£ 3,453,000	£ 3,519,000	£ 2,749,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,753,000	3,720,000	3,608,000	1,558,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	783,000	784,000	784,000	496,000
Discounts & Loans ..	3,961,000	4,075,000	4,136,000	6,269,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,322,000	7,893,000	7,937,000	7,377,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,486,000	1,731,000	1,766,000	1,247,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Sept. 19, 1914
Gold .. ..	£ 32,071,602	£ 31,644,337	£ 31,572,132	£ 13,786,326
Silver .. ..	173,295	157,511	153,252	242,476
Bills discounted, &c. ..	12,640,678	12,313,787	12,443,532	26,094,898
Note circulation ..	43,326,466	43,265,924	43,350,683	36,760,584
Deposits .. ..	2,341,070	1,758,334	1,677,792	2,687,630

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 4, 1915.	Aug. 28, 1915.	Sept. 12, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,301,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 5,737,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,627,000	5,718,000	5,603,000	3,033,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,673,000	2,702,000	2,734,000	707,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,905,000	5,726,000	5,838,000	8,245,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,709,000	15,899,000	14,877,000	15,458,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,455,000	4,073,000	4,809,000	3,882,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 21, 1915.		Sept. 23, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.70	11.75*	11.74	11.79
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	11.53	11.58	11.57	11.52
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	29.70	29.80*	—	—
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	29.20	29.30	29.43	29.53
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers .. ..	34½	35½	35½	34½
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.70	27.85*	27.95	28.10
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	27.30	27.40	27.55	27.65
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	137	139	136½	138½
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers .. ..	18.05	18.20	18.05	18.25
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	18.35	18.50*	18.35	18.50
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	46½	46¾	46½	46
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	24.70	24.80	24.75	24.85
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.35	25.50*	25.35	25.50
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	24.85	25	24.78	24.97

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. ..	chqs.	27.42½	27.55	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	sight	27.50	29.60
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.50	11.60	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 days	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 days	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	139	137½	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.71	4.72	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/10d.	1/10d.
Lisbon .. ..	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	24.85	24.92½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1d.	2/1d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½	4½
Three months ..	4½	4½
Four months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Three months fine inland bills ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
.. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
.. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½	4½
.. for call loans ..	4½	4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Never before have we admired the Stock Exchange as we do to-day. It is facing the disasters of war with a stoicism altogether admirable, knowing well that the new direct taxation imposed must still further cramp business. It may be that by-and-by, when the life of nations begins to return to its old channels, activity on stock markets will spring up and some compensation be given to brokers and dealers for the privations they now endure without a murmur, but immediately ahead there is little or nothing to encourage the hope of increased business. At the height now reached the income-tax levy cannot fail to have an arresting, if not a directly adverse, effect upon the prices of the best classes of securities. "Gilt-edged" stocks will be less in favour with investors than ever, and out of their unpopularity may arise an increased demand for securities yielding high rates of interest, and therefore involving the investor in greater risks. That, indeed, is probably the first shape that a revival of business will take, but in the meantime there is not much life to be expected even in this direction.

Just look at this proposal to tax excess profits to the extent of 50 per cent. A good many undertakings have lately been displaying handsome increases in their profits, increases ranging from a few thousands to a quarter of a million, and if all classes of business, joint-stock and private, are drawn into the Chancellor of the Exchequer's net, the revenue may be greater than even he estimated, although, as we say elsewhere, that is doubtful. Profits may be hidden and firms take steps



to avoid being caught again as many of them will be upon the reports recently issued, but, whether or not, look how this tax must stop the movement of prices. We lately deprecated the rise in armament shares, but there will be no need to do that any more for any class of shares, and the difficulty may be to prevent prices from receding. At all points, therefore, the market is struck as with paralysis, and yet it maintains its serenity and accepts with a loyalty altogether admirable the privations put upon it by the new taxation. Members understand what they suffer for, and there is never a grumble to be heard.

No "tips" to give this week? Not a single one of the least use to you.

There has been nothing of any importance on the Stock Exchange this week. It is all as dull as ditch-water, and the few exceptions merely serve to emphasise the terrible stagnation that

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week		
66½	Consols.....	65x	65x	—	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds. 98½	97	
—	War Loan 3½% .....	92½	92½	—	4½% 1922-7 ..	96½	95½
—	4½% (£70 pd.) ..	15 dis	25 dis	95	New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
60½	India 3% .....	69½x	69½x	92	Queensland 4% ..	92	92
80½	3½% .....	80½x	80½x	—	4½% new	97½x	97½x
92	Canada 4% 1940-60	92	92	—	Union of S. Africa	97½	97½
—	4½% 1920-5 ..	98	97½	—	4½% 1920-5 ..	97½	97½
92	N.S.W. 4% .....	95	95	—	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	97½	97½
66	Belgian 3% .....	66½	66½	—	French Rentes ....	67½x	67½
—	Brazil, 1913 .....	63	63	82½	Japan 4½% (1st) ..	87½	88
—	New Funding .....	69½	69½	83	(2nd) .....	85½	86½
—	Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	—	Russia 4% .....	73	73
—	1913 .....	82	82	—	4½% .....	74½	75
—	Egypt Unified 4% ..	85	85	—	5% .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	55½	54½	54½	—	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	24½	24½
Caledonian defd. ....	78	78	78	—	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	73	73	73	—	Metropolitan .....	23½	23½
Gt. Central pf. ....	133	133	133	—	Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	96
7	7	7	7	—	Met. District .....	14½	14½
Gt. Eastern .....	33½	32½	32½	—	Midland dfd. ....	59	59
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	39½	38½	38½	—	Nth. British dfd. ....	15½	15½
Gt. Western .....	96½	92	92	—	Nth.-Eastern .....	103½	103½
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	69½	68½	68½	—	Nth.-Western .....	104½	104½
—	—	—	—	—	Stn.-Eastern dfd. ....	24	22½
Canadian Pacific .....	163½	165	165	—	Chesapeake .....	50½	50½
Do. 6% Notes .....	108½	107½	107½	—	Erie .....	32½	32½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	94½	94½	94½	—	Milwaukee .....	89	89
Grand Trunk ord. ....	10½	10	10	—	N. Y. Central .....	98	99
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24½	24½	24½	—	Southern .....	16½	17½
Do. 3½% 3-yr. Notes	97½	97	97	—	Southern Pacific .....	94½	95
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " "	97½	97	97	—	Union Pacific .....	137½	138½
Atchison .....	107½	107½	107½	—	U. S. Steel .....	79½	83
Baltimore .....	82½	89	89	—	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	84	82
Antofagasta dfd. ....	127	124	124	—	Do. 5% Notes .....	100½	100½
Do. 6% Notes .....	101½	102	102	—	Do. 6% " .....	102½	103
Brazil Common .....	6	6	6	—	Leopoldina .....	34½	34½
B. A. & Pacific .....	48	45	45	—	Mexican ord. ....	17½	17
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	80	79	79	—	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	160	160
B. A. Western .....	86	83	83	—	United of Havana .....	73	71
Bank of Australasia .....	108½	109½	109½	—	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	7½	7½	7½	—	London County & West. ....	14½	14½
Do. "B" .....	98	94	94	—	London Joint Stock .....	20	19½
Capital & Counties .....	19½	20½	20½	—	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	22	22
Chartered of India .....	52½x	52½x	52½x	—	Do. (£12 pd) .....	26	26
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	71½	71½	71½	—	Parr's .....	26½	26½
Lloyds .....	22½	22½	22½	—	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½
London & Provincial .....	14½	14½	14½	—	Union & Smiths. ....	23	23
London & S.W. ....	11½	11½	11½	—	Forestral Land .....	35/	35/6
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	2	—	Furness, Withy .....	33/	33/9
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	36/	35/3	35/3	—	Hudson's Bay .....	6½	5½
Associated Cement .....	23	24	24	—	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	23/
Birmingham Small Arms	60½	59/	59/	—	Do. dfd. "A" .....	36/	36/
Borax dfd. ....	22½	25/6	25/6	—	Kynochs .....	30/	30/
Bovril .....	18/9	18/9	18/9	—	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/6	20/3
Brazil Traction .....	47	49	49	—	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4
British Amer. Tobacco ..	64½x	63/6x	63/6x	—	Marconi .....	18½	18½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	26/6	27/	27/	—	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	24/6	24/
Brunner, Mond .....	3½	3½	3½	—	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½
Cammell-Laird .....	5½	5½	5½	—	National Steam Car .....	11/3	11/3
Castner-Kellner .....	60/	60/	60/	—	Nobel Dynamite .....	16	16
Coats .....	42½	42½	42½	—	Pears, A. & F. ....	1½	1½
Cunard .....	57/6	55/6	55/6	—	P. & O. dfd. ....	270	268
Dennis Bros. ....	29/6	28/6	28/6	—	Royal Mail .....	83	80
Dorman, Long .....	21/9	21/9	21/9	—	South Durham Steel .....	27/6	27/6
Eastmans .....	7/6	7/6	7/6	—	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	72	72
English Sewing Cotton ..	33/	32/6	32/6	—	Vickers .....	33/	33/3
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24/	24/	24/	—	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	18½	18½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" .....	4/6	4/3	4/3	—	North Caucasian .....	28/	27/6
Baku (10s.) .....	3/3	2/3	2/3	—	Roumanian Cons. ....	13/	13/
Burmah .....	3½	3½	3½	—	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44½	44
Lobitos .....	28/	27/6	27/6	—	Shell .....	43½	43½
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3/6	3/6	3/6	—	Spies (10/-) .....	14/	13/6
Maikop Pipeline .....	4/	3/9	3/9	—	Ural Caspian .....	18½	18½
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	1½	—	Linggi .....	13/9	14/
Anglo-Malay .....	87½x	8/6x	8/6x	—	London Asiatic .....	6/	5/9
Batu Caves .....	12	12	12	—	Malacca .....	4	4
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/7½	2/7½	—	Malayalam .....	20/9	20/6
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/2½	2/2½	2/2½	—	Merlimau .....	4/	4/
Damansara .....	1½	1½	1½	—	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	10/10½	10/10½
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	1½	—	United Serdang .....	9/3	9/3
Highlands .....	2½	2½	2½	—	Valambrosa .....	13/3	13/
Johore Rubber Lands .....	14/3	14/3	14/3	—	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	10½	10½
Abbottiakoon (10/-) .....	7/9	7/10½	7/10½	—	East Rand .....	18	18½
Brakpan .....	2½	2½	2½	—	Gt. Boulder (2/-) .....	15/6	15/3
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	44/3	43/6	43/6	—	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Cam & Motor .....	12/9	13/6	13/6	—	Modder "B" .....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) .....	6½	6½	6½	—	Do. Deep .....	5	4½
Chartered .....	10/	9/9	9/9	—	New Modder (£4) .....	15½	15½
City Deep .....	3½	3½	3½	—	Rand Mines (5/-) .....	4½	4½
Cons. Gold Fields .....	1½	1½	1½	—	Rio Tinto (£5) .....	55	54½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½	1½	1½	—	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½
Crown Mines (10/-) .....	4	3½	3½	—			

securities that used to be ranked as first-class. All these preconceived notions about values must, however, be abandoned under present circumstances, and when 3s. 6d. in the £1 is knocked off a dividend for income-tax, there is no use trying to blink the fact that in the majority of cases every kind of ingenuity will be used to escape the burden. This is not the place to discuss politico-economic questions, but the Stock Exchange has to face very difficult problems, and has to make the best it can out of them. The War Loan has given way a little, but there was some support for Colonial issues giving a clean 4½ per cent. interest with a bonus on redemption five or 10 years hence. Among foreign bonds Japanese were well supported, and there was some inquiry for Chinese issues, but business was on a very small scale. Argentine and Brazilian issues also looked fairly healthy, but an order for over £1,000 stock frightened the boldest dealer out of his wits.

Much the same occurred in the Home Railway market, except that here there was a decided tendency to sell on fears of labour troubles, and most of the leading stocks had to give way rather sharply. Americans kept up well, in spite of the improvement in the exchange, on the belief that a big loan will be arranged to pay for the heavy purchases of munitions which the Allies have had to make, and which we have to finance. Canadas were good when it was found that Sir Wm. Van Horne's estate was not likely to come on the market for the time being, but Grand Trunks gave way a little. Traffics are encouraging, and the harvest looks excellent, but for the moment there are more sellers than buyers. Mexican Rails were dull, and Argentines got no support, so that they are generally lower, and Leopoldinas, United of Havana, and many similar stocks all look sickly.

In the miscellaneous sections interest was entirely devoted to the probable effects of the Budget, and the dealings were reduced to a minimum. Shipping shares, which have been rather popular of late, were offered on fears about the effect of the proposed taxation of war profits, and Banks, Insurance shares, and similar securities had scarcely a bargain to their credit, although they mostly drooped. Armament shares, about which there has been a considerable amount of enthusiasm, had to find comfort in the shadows, and the Textile division had nothing to brag about.

In the Rubber section there was a good investment demand for the better-class shares, and companies which are just beginning to come into line as substantial producers and dividend-payers are picked up quite eagerly. But in these cases a little knowledge of the actual conditions is very essential, and every tree is not necessarily a producer. Oils have not been in favour. The leaders have lost ground, and the smaller concerns, where they have been mentioned at all, don't encourage even the boldest speculator to dabble deeply.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—During the week prices were raised in all directions after the Budget announcement, most descriptions being 4s. 9d. per cwt. dearer, while cubes formed an exception, being 20s. per cwt. higher. Notwithstanding the high level of prices, there was a fairly good inquiry, and European wants are still being mainly satisfied by Java consignments. The Cuban crop also commands support, and about 50,000 tons of 96 per cent. centrifugal were reported sold to Europe. Of British refined, Tate's No. 1 cubes sold 50s. 6d., H.T.S. at 50s. granulated 32s. 3d to 33s., pieces at 24s. 6d. to 30s. 6d., according to make. Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Of foreign descriptions, American granulated, spot, London, sold at 32s. 3d.; and white Java at 30s. to 30s. 3d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week totalled 5,900 tons, as compared with 4,000 tons at corresponding period last year. Centrals at work 1 against nil.

**COFFEE.**—Only a limited supply was offered at public sale, and met with quiet support, but rates showed no material change. Vera Paz, mid, sold, 69s. to 70s.; peas, 86s. 6d. to 94s. 6d.; Colombian, good bold pale, 63s. 6d.; Costa Rica, fair to fine bold, 73s. to 80s., Futures ruled quiet. December, sold, 36s. 6d.

**COCOA.**—No public sales were held. Private market exhibited a generally quiet tone.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met with a fairly active competition for good to better kinds, which realised steady prices, but common to medium descriptions in many cases showed a decline of ½d. per lb. Ceylon sales passed off with an irregular demand, and prices, with few exceptions, displayed an easier tendency. Java offerings experienced a good demand at generally dearer prices.

**SPICE.**—Pepper met with quiet support, and prices in some cases showed weakness. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sellers, 5½d.; Tellicherry, 6d., buyers; Lampong, sellers, 5½d.; white Singapore, on spot, sellers, 8½d.; fair Muntok, sold, 10½d. To arrive: Black Singapore, September-November shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Lampong, ditto, 5½d.; white Singapore, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 9½d.; and Penang, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves ruled steady. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sold, 6½d. At public sale fair supplies passed off quietly, except nummings, which met a good demand at about late rates. Mace easier.

**RICE.**—Market quiet, but values ruled firm. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 9d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.

**JUTE** in fair demand, and values moved upwards, but eased later. Native first marks, spot, sold, £27; ditto, September, at £26 10s. to £27, and £26 15s.; ditto, October, at £26 10s. to £27 and £26 15s.; Daisee, September and September-October, at £26 5s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila market quiet, but values were without material change. New graded, fair, September-November shipment,

exists. We have a fairish number of transactions in War Loan stock, but outside that the business is almost negligible, in spite of the fact that there are good bargains to be picked up among



quoted, £38 10s.; medium, £35 10s.; coarse, £30; and coarse brown, £28. H grade, October-December, sold, £38; and shippers' mark, at £38 10s. New Zealand in slow request. G.F., October-December, sellers, £33; H.P.F., ditto, £32; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Spot market quiet. Fair T.N., orange, sold, 69s. A.A. garnet, fair free, at 66s. Futures firmer, but somewhat irregular. October sold, 68s. 6d., 68s., and 70s.; December, 70s., 71s. 6d., 70s., and 71s.; March, 74s.

GAMBIER steadily held. Good marks, September-October shipment, sellers, 34s., c.f. and i.

QUININE met a good demand. Continental brands, on spot, sellers, 2s.

CHINCHONA BARK.—In auction, a good inquiry prevailed at fully steady prices. Succirubra, natural stem chips, sold, 4d.; root, 5½d. Officialis, natural stem chips, at 3½d. to 6½d. Hybrid stem chips at 4½d. to 6d., and root, 5d.

INDIA-RUBBER.—Market generally quiet, but prices, after being weaker, became steadier for plantation kinds. Para dull. Plantation, crepe, spot and September delivery, sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 3½d., and 2s. 4½d.; October, at 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 4d.; October-December, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 4d.; January-June, sellers, 2s. 3½d. Smoked sheet on spot sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 3½d., and 2s. 4d.; September, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 4d.; October-December, sellers, 2s. 4d.; January-June, 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 2s. 4½d.; September-October, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; October-November, 2s. 4½d.; November-December, 2s. 4½d. Soft fine, spot and near, sellers, 2s. 3d. Ball, November-December, sold, 1s. 9½d. Scrappy, spot and near, sellers, 1s. 9d. per lb.

COPRA.—Market quiet. To London: Ceylon, September-October, buyers, £24 5s.; Malabar, ditto, £25 5s.; F.M.S., Singapore, sellers £23 10s.; South Sea Islands, ditto, £22 5s. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, September-October, sellers, £23 12s. 6d. Cebu, ditto, £23 5s.; Manila, ditto, £22 17s. 6d., c.f. and i.

WOOL.—Public sales proceeded with good spirit, and steady prices were realised for all suitable qualities. The seventh series of sales has been fixed to commence on October 26, and the final series of the year on December 7 next.

TALLOW.—Market firm. At public sale, 1,441 casks were brought forward, and 1,351 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 37s. 6d.; fair to good, 36s. to 37s. 3d.; dark to dull, 33s. 6d. to 35s. 3d.; hard, 36s. 9d. Beef: fine, 36s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 9d. to 36s.; dark to dull, 32s. 6d. to 33s. 9d.; sweet, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter 9d up for stuff, tallow being unchanged. Town tallow, 35s. 6d.; smelted stuff, 25s. per cwt. Rough fat, 7d. per 8 lb.

OILS.—Linseed dull. Spot, pipes (landed), £26; barrels £26 15s.; Hull (naked), spot, £23 2s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), September-October, £31 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £27; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £30; sweet (barrels), £35. £36. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, September-October, £23 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine firm at first, but eased later. American spirits, on spot, 35s. 1½d.; Spanish, spot, 31s. 3d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market quiet. Calcutta, spot, 55s. 3d.; afloat, 55s. 3d.; September-October, 55s. 6d.; October-November, 56s. La Plata, October-November, 50s. 9d. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (pure), 61s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 53s. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, September, £10 1s. 3d.; October, £9 16s. 3d.; November-January, £9 7s. 6d.

METALS.—Copper: The warrant market has been unsettled at intervals since the commencement of the week. After reacting at first, prices improved, while a very fair amount of "bear" covering and buying by dealers took place until Tuesday, when standard cash delivery, left off at £70 7s. 6d., and three months £71 10s. The tendency was easier until Thursday's close, owing to renewed offers, while values in these positions receded to £69 12s. 6d. and £70 10s. respectively. Dealings were on a fair scale. Electrolytic, £86 10s. to £87 10s. Tin: Irregularity prevailed throughout, and operations were limited. Spot standard advanced by Tuesday to £153 5s., and three months to £154. Selling desire followed, and rates fell back, cash by Thursday closing at £150, and three months £150 15s. Lead dearer. Soft, foreign, September, £24; January to March, £22 15s. to £22 12s. 6d. Spelter: American, G.O.B., quoted officially at £66 to £60, as to position. Iron easier.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Firmness, but not a great deal of business, characterised cereal markets since last Monday, the attendance being limited, and prices variable in only a few directions. Wheat (English): Both whites and reds, delivered, range up to 49s. per quarter, 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 2 hard winters, 48s. 6d., ex ship. Choice white Karachi, 54s. to 54s. 6d., landed terms. Plate, 53s., landed. Flour: Minneapolis top patents, 42s. 6d. to 44s., and Manitoba patents, 40s. to 41s., landed. Grinding barley: Plate, 34s. 6d., ex ship; Japanese, 37s.; and Karachi, 37s. 6d., both ex ship. Oats: Plate, 26s. 6d., ex ship, and 26s. 6d. to 26s. 9d., landed. American white clipped, No. 2, nominal, at 32s., ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, 30s. 3d. to 30s. 6d., ex ship; 31s. 3d., landed. White flat South African, 34s., quay terms.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Progress in the market continues to be considerably hampered by the higher basis of prices compared with a few weeks ago, and it seems quite impossible for sellers to secure adequate advances from their customers. The hardening tendency in raw cotton rates continues, and there are few indications at the moment of any reaction in prices. The facts available with regard to the situation do not warrant such high quotations, and it is quite evident part of the upward movement is due to manipulation by speculators. It looks

as though the American crop for this season will be rather less than 12,000,000 bales, whilst according to some authorities the consumption will be about 15,000,000 bales. There was a big carry over at the end of last season, but if these figures turn out to be correct, supplies will not be plentiful in twelve months' time. Smaller forecasts are also being published relating to the Egyptian crop, and the yield may turn out to be only 4,750,000 cantars. Owing to the difficulty in arranging transactions, the inquiry in piece goods shows a falling off. Fewer bids have come through from India, and the response to prices wired out is very discouraging, especially in staple makes, such as shirtings. Some miscellaneous sales have occurred in fancies for China, but staples continue decidedly slow. Now and again orders are reported for the smaller markets of the

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	1 11 0	2 10 6	Australian	1 0 2 5	1 3 — 2 8
Ditto, No. 2	1 10 6	2 10 0	Scoured Merino	0 11 — 1 7	0 10 — 1 8
Fine granulated	1 8 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'sbr'd	0 9 1 6	0 9 1 6 ½
Lyle's granulated	27 6 — 28 0	32 3 — 32 9	Greasy Merino	0 8 — 1 3	0 9 1 7
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 11 1 7 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	0 11 1 7 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 6
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	0 11 1 7 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 6
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 11 1 7 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 6
prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	5 — 2 0	1 8 — 2 0
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
India	24 0 — 27 0	24 9 — 27 6	Plantation, Spot		
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 3 ½	0 2 4
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
1/2 lb.			Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9 — 1 1	0 9 1 1 ½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 1 2	0 9 1 1 ½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9 1 1 ½	0 9 1 1 ½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 — 1 1 ½	0 11 — 2 0	Steam, best	18 0 — 19 0	18 0 — 19 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 ½ — 1 1 ½	0 9 0 — 1 1 ½	Seconds	16 0 — 17 0	16 0 — 17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8 ½ — 1 0	0 8 ½ — 1 1 ½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 9 1 1 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 1 ½	English Pig	24 0 0	25 0 0
Orange	0 9 1 1 ½	0 8 ½ — 1 1 ½	Foreign soft. Sept.	23 5 0	24 10 0
Broken	0 10 1 2	0 9 1 1 ½	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per		
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 ½ — 0 9 ½	0 8 ½ — 0 10	bottle firsthand	15 10 0	16 ½ — 16 ½
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.			<b>Fin</b> —per ton		
duty 1½d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	153 ½ — 154 ½	151 — 152
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0 — 84 0	80 0 — 86 0	Do. bars	154 ½ — 155 ½	152 — 153
Grenada	78 0 — 82 0	75 0 — 82 0	Standard cash	152 10 0	151 7 6
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	17 10 ½	17 4 ½ — 17 7 ½
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 — 91 0	72 0 — 90 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Guayaquil Ariba	89 0 — 92 0	88 0 — 90 0	English, Tough	£86 — £87	£86 ½ — £87 ½
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			per ton	£86 — £87	£86 ½ — £87 ½
duty 2½d. per cwt.			Best Selected	£79 — £80	£81 — £82
East India	67 0 — 94 0	62 0 — 94 0	Sheets	£96	£96
Jamaica	47 0 — 120 6	47 0 — 120 6	Standard	£69 0 0	£69 12 6
Costa Rica	55 0 — 82 0	55 0 — 82 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
<b>Provisions</b> —			Native firsts for	£26 15 0	£26 10 0
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			sh'pmt. Sept.		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b> —		
Irish Creameries	164/—170/	172/—178/	Linseed, per ton	£26 ½ — £27 ½	£26 — £26 ½
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Russian finest	136/—140/	134/—140/	casks	£36 — £38	£36 — £38
Normandy baskets	146/—150/	124/—158/	brown English,	£34 — £35	£34 — £35
Danish finest	180/—181/	190/—192/	naked	£27	£27 ½ — £27 ½
Brittany rolls	15 0 — 17 0	15 0 — 17 0	Cott'n Seed, crude	£30 — £36	£30 — £36
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Ditto, refined		
Irish	96 0 — 105 0	98 0 — 105 0	Petroleum Oil, per		
Continental	96 0 — 107 0	98 0 — 107 0	8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Canadian	88 0 — 95 0	80 0 — 95 0	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
American	72 0 — 86 0	74 0 — 87 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 410		
Irish	120 0 — 124 0	£124	lbs., Sep-Oct.	2 16 0	2 15 9
Canadian	86 0 — 88 0	82 0 — 87 0	Rape, Guzerat		
American	50 0 — 76 0	49 0 — 88 0	Sept-Oct.	3 0 0	3 1 0
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Edam	84 0 — 86 0	£86	Cleveland Cash	3 4 11	3 4 1
Canadian	74 0 — 78 0	74 0 — 78 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty,		
Gouda	78 0 — 84 0	78 0 — 84 0	unmanufactured		
English Cheddar	78 0 — 94 0	78 0 — 96 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Maryland & Ohio		
New Zealand	76 0 — 77 0	76 0 — 78 0	per lb. bond	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—			Virginian leaf	0 5 ½ — 1 6	0 5 ½ — 1 6
open charter,			Kentucky leaf	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Latakia	0 4 ½ — 1 0	0 4 ½ — 1 0
cwt.			Havana	1 0 — 6 0	1 0 — 6 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Manilla	0 6 — 2 0	0 6 — 2 0
Basselin	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	per lb.	2 0	2 0
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Dutch	17 6 — 22 0	18 6 — 22 0	Dan'sig and		
Russian	10 6 — 12 6	10 6 — 12 6	Memel Fir, per		
Danish	17 0 — 20 0	18 0 — 21 0	load	130/—150/	130/—150/
			Indian Teak	250/—600/	280/—600/
			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
			Town household		
			official	43/	43/
			American, 1st pa-		
			tents	42/ upds.	42/6 upds.

Far East. It is not an easy matter to get our customers in South America to pay the higher prices, but the undercurrent of demand is fairly encouraging. Very little has been done for the Levant and Egypt. Less fresh business is now coming round in printing cloths, but Burnley manufacturers continue rather better situated. Nothing particularly new has transpired in home trade circles, but houses with stocks welcome the appreciation in values. American yarns for home use have hardened in price, and an irregular business has been done. Demand in medium numbers continues rather healthier. Producers of coarse counts, however, are still the most favourably situated. It has been a struggle to arrange contracts in shipping yarns, but trade has not been at a standstill. Bolton spinnings have been purchased a little more freely in some quarters, and certain producers are not pressing so much for fresh orders.



FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—Refined goods sold well at recent values. Grocery cane sorts quiet, some revision in price being necessary in order to bring same into line with white qualities.

**COFFEE.**—A moderate quantity offered in auction met a quiet demand at about late prices. Futures steady. September delivery quoted 36s. 7½d., December 37s. 1½d., and March 36s. 10½d.

**SPICE.**—Only a small trade resulted in pepper on about former terms.

**JUTE** in quiet request, and quotations tended against sellers. Native first marks, September-October, steamer, quoted £26 10s.

**HEMP** quiet, but sellers asked recent prices. New graded fair, September-November, sellers, £38 10s, medium £35 10s, and coarse sold, £30.

**SHELLAC** rather quiet, though steady.

**RUBBER.**—Market dull. Standard plantation spot crepe quoted 2s. 4d. October delivery sold 2s. 3½d. January-June value 2s. 3½d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 4d. Fine hard Para, spot and forward, sellers, 2s. 4½d.

**METALS.**—Copper: Only moderate dealings transpired, but with holders showing no undue pressure, values were kept at steady level, settling down unchanged for cash and 2s. 6d. firmer for three months since previous day's close. Standard cash sold, £69 12s. 6d., and three months at £70 10s. to £70 12s. 6d., closing £69 12s. 6d. and £70 12s. 6d. respectively. About 500 tons sold. Settlement price, £69 12s. 6d. Electros unchanged at £86 10s. to £87 10s. Tough, £86 10s. to £87 10s. Best selected, £81 to £82. Strong sheets, £96. Tin manifested a quiet tone, but holders acted reservedly, and prices moved in an upward direction. Cash and also three months closed 27s. 6d. dearer compared with Thursday's final. Standard, chiefly three months, sold at £151, rising to £152 5s., closing £151 7s. 6d. cash and £152 2s. 6d. three months. Some 125 tons changed hands. Settlement price, £151 5s. Cables from the East advised sales of 150 tons on the basis of £152 c. f. and i. Lead further hardened. English £25, foreign September offered at £24 10s, October sold £24, January at £22 17s. 6d., and February at £22 15s. Spelter quiet, but steady. G.O.B. officially quoted £66 to £60. Tin plates I.C. cokes, 17s. 4½d. to 17s. 7½d. basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron quiet. Cleveland cash 64s. 1d., one month 64s. 5½d., and three months 65s. 6d. Quicksilver £16 5s. to £16 10s.

**LINSEED OIL.**—Spot pipes (landed), £26, barrels £26 15s. Turpentine, American spot, 35s. Cotton, crude spot (pipes), £27 5s. to £27 10s.

**LINSEED** quietly steady. London, Calcutta, spot and near, 55s.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LTD.

The shrinkage in Indian business in the six months ended June 30 was reflected in this bank's profits by a decrease of £4,135 to £25,070, but £462 more at £5,801 was brought forward, and at the same time expenses were reduced by £1,455 to £19,063. Net profits were £2,218 lower, and although the dividend is maintained at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, the appropriations of £673 to provident fund and £1,500 to reserve made a year ago cannot be repeated, while a trifle less at £5,056 is carried forward. Current and deposit accounts are £344,011 smaller at £1,333,104, loans on securities have been reduced by £17,000 to £14,000, and acceptances are £12,061 down at £27,812, but bills payable come to £32,323 more at £66,258, and balances between head office and branches have risen by £28,632 to £120,752. Against these loans and advances show a decrease of £325,667 at £1,261,185, cash is £11,184 higher at £237,185, and Government securities have been increased by £43,445 to £157,313, but other investments are £29,380 down at £204,940.

### AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LTD.

In its year closed June 30 last the profits of this bank increased by £1,933 to £68,565, but after deducting graduated land and income taxes for the half-year, which were £1,611 more at £9,030, the remaining profit was only £322 higher at £59,535, and as the balance of £3,246 brought forward was £1,620 less, it results that the £62,781 available is £1,307 down. Out of this £32,294 is paid as interest on inscribed deposits, or £774 less, leaving £30,488, or £533 less, to the credit of the proprietors. From this £10,000 has again been transferred to the reserve fund, and a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum is proposed by the directors. These payments will leave £2,550, or £536 less, to carry forward. Nothing special requires attention in the balance-sheet, which is remarkable chiefly for the fact that, compared with a year ago, the assets represented by coin and bullion, Australian notes, cash and bank credits of various kinds, balances due by other banks, bills receivable, &c., have risen by £135,730 to £1,906,588. Coin and bullion alone is £93,352 higher at £756,620. Discounts, advances, loans, &c., have fallen off £110,186 to £3,980,587. The reserve fund is entered in the balance-sheet at £65,000, or £20,000 more than a year ago, and inscribed deposits are down £38,710 to £1,614,680. Altogether the liability on deposits entirely due to customers has risen by £25,502 to £2,941,323, besides which there remains a liability of £75,000 on account of Government deposits. The bank is of quite modest dimensions now, and its balance-sheet total of £6,259,412 is only £21,681 higher than it was at the end of June last year, but even that is rather a remarkable fact in view of the crisis through which everything Australian has been passing.

### CALTHORPE MOTOR CO. (1912), LTD.

Government contracts are no doubt the secret of the remarkable prosperity of this little company in the year ended July 31. Its paid-up capital and debenture debt together only amount to £44,842, yet it did so well that, after providing for administration charges and writing off £2,258 for repairs and depreciation, the net profits were £9,035 up at £20,896. Nothing is written off this time compared with £1,327 for preliminary expenses and £1,500 for honorarium granted to the managing directors a year ago, and the contribution to reserve is unchanged at £5,000. The dividend on the participating preference shares, however, is again made up to the maximum of 10 per cent., and the ordinary shares then receive 30 per cent., or double last year's dividend, leaving £7,748 more at £8,558 to be carried forward. Property account is a trifle up at £7,820, and plant, &c., has been increased by £2,449 to £14,803, against which the reserve amounts to £10,000, and is partly represented by £4,832 invested in War Loan. Stocks show a small decrease at £23,514, but cash is £10,752 up at £27,032, while, on the other hand, trade creditors have been reduced by £983 to £11,979, and liabilities for deposits received on cars ordered come to £6,445, or £2,838 more.

### W. P. LOWRIE AND CO., LTD.

The directors have altered the date of closing the accounts from September 30 to March 31, and the report just issued therefore covers six months only. Business appears to have been very satisfactory during the period, the profits amounting to £72,034, as compared with £111,179 for the preceding year. Including £86,354 brought in, the balance available for distribution was £143,920, and after transferring £5,000 to reserve, the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 15s. and a bonus of £1, making 35s. for the six months, as against 30s. for the whole of the year 1913-14. The balance carried forward is £8,566 larger at £94,920. Property, stocks, &c., a conglomerate item which reveals nothing, is £16,156 lower at £1,164,993, and cash is £18,809 down at £5,601, but debtors owe £116,769 more at £369,091, while £482,631 or £48,803 more is due to sundry creditors.

### DEVELOPMENT CO. OF SANTA FE, LTD.

In order to carry through at a more favourable period the moving of cattle for the purpose of counting them, the date for closing the books was altered from December 31 to June 30, and the accounts now issued therefore cover 18 months. Unfavourable climatic conditions were experienced during a good portion of this period, and there was an exceptionally high mortality, while the cattle bred by the company were taken into the books at a low valuation. Gross profits consequently amounted to only £8,244, and as expenses, including an unspecified allowance for depreciation, were £12,131, the net result was a loss of £3,887, increasing the debit balance to £11,007. Further cattle were purchased during the period, and the company now has 12,606 head of cattle and 758 horses which stand in the books at £46,264, or an increase of £23,857, but are valued by the company's representatives at £58,700. Buildings, &c., have risen by £3,898 to £23,275, and the company has £4,000 invested, but cash is £40,738 down at £9,021. Preliminary expenses, including £12,500 for underwriting, still appear amongst the assets for £16,810.

### WESTERN AND HAWAIIAN INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

Profits for the year ended June 30, including £1,476 brought in, were £8,058 larger at £39,025, and as interest charges took rather less, the available surplus showed an increase of £9,029 at £27,506. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again made up to 10 per cent., but both this and the preference dividend require more, owing to a greater proportion of the capital issued in 1913 ranking for the full year. Out of the balance £6,250 is written off investments, compared with £1,701 off expenses of new issue and £1,000 put to contingent fund a year ago, leaving £1,706, or £230 more, to be carried forward. During the year a further £4,496 was received on shares, and the capital now stands at £255,000, divided into £170,000 preference and £85,000 ordinary stock. The debenture debt was increased by £21,040 to £216,228, but liabilities on deposits have been reduced by £17,388 to £30,215. Loans on mortgages, &c., are £36,444 up at £570,281, but investments have been reduced by £6,264 to £37,536, and cash is £12,014 lower at £5,242.

**Bibi Eibat Oil.**—Production week September 19, 64,400 poods. or 1,039 tons.

**European Oilfields.**—Production week September 19, 89,600 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 42½ copecks per pood.

**New Schibaieff Petroleum.**—Production week Sept. 12, gross, 106,722 poods (or 1,721 tons). Net, 70,784 poods (or 1,142 tons).

**Ural Caspian Oil.**—Production week September 16, 200,800 poods (or 3,239 tons).

The board of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Ltd., have appointed Mr. Robert Graham to succeed the late Mr. F. Eustace Faithfull as secretary to the company.

**Cities Services Co.**—Net earnings for August, \$298,170; Increase, \$45,589; aggregate for 12 months to August 31, \$3,895,732; increase, \$324,267.

**Port of Para.**—July, net earnings, 146,000 milreis; inc. 34,678 milreis. Aggregate from January 1, 1,283,000 milreis; dec., 231,894 milreis. Navigation earnings—Gross (July), 202,000 milreis; dec., 70,833 milreis. Aggregate, 2,264,000 milreis; dec., 558,831 milreis. Note.—The figures given for navigation earnings do not include the subvention from the Federal Government, amounting approximately to 874,000 milreis per annum. In consequence of the fluctuations in the rate of exchange, the earnings are given in Brazilian currency, so as to show the actual monthly results of operation.



### American Business Notes.

It is not often that amusement is to be extracted from incidents connected with the war. This week, however, the Government has provided the world with something to laugh over. The correspondence and other documents taken from Mr. James F. J. Archibald, the American journalist who has played "neutral" observer with great success among Germans on several occasions during the course of the war, have been published in a White Paper. It forms amusing reading which may be commended to those "idiotic Yankees," as Captain von Papen describes them. It may give them food for reflection. The leading diplomatic characters of the Austrian and German Embassies may be said to be involved, but the two chief performers are Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, and Dr. Dumba, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador. This latter gentleman is not so adroit as the German count—does not betray the same perfection in the art of mystification or such skill in the "injured innocence" part. At the beginning there is a memorandum by Count Bernstorff dealing with the accusations levelled against him and his department by the foolish American Press. It is self-righteous, and phrased in a manner calculated to impose or beguile. "The right of Germany to purchase arms in the United States cannot be questioned," he said. "Indeed, there are humanitarian reasons why the purchase might be allowed. From the German point of view purchases at this time by the German Government of war material manufactured in the United States, while it would involve the sacrifice of large sums of money, would be justified alone by the consideration of the human effects such purchases might accomplish in the saving of the lives of the German soldiers whom, in the hands of the Allies, this war material would wound and slay." Is not that an admirable pose coming from the official representative of a man-slayer caste which pays as little regard to the lives of the millions of wretches it drives into battle as the Turks pay to the Armenians? But Count Bernstorff's sweet innocence is very much wounded by the newspaper attacks made upon him, and he misses no opportunity of setting forth the action and purpose of the British Government in the most sinister possible light, always with a view to inflame opinion in the United States against us and to enhance by contrast the noble moral elevation of the Germans. Incidentally, however, the helplessness of Germany crops up all through, in the acknowledgment, for instance, that the purchase of war material in the States would be quite useless to Germany in the war. Our fleet holds her by the throat, and will starve her out, time given.

Dr. Dumba, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, appears to be a personal friend of Mr. Archibald. He calls him "My dear Mr.," while Count Bernstorff is only able to say "Dear Mr." Both gentlemen, however, use him as a go-between, as if he were their commissionaire, and the introductions given to him by Captain von Papen are not exactly suggestive of his perfect ignorance of the nature of the postman's job he was asked to perform. Not only is Dr. Dumba more open and friendly with this "neutral" newspaper correspondent, much in favour in Berlin, but he is much more outspoken in cackling about the schemes framed by himself and the German Ambassador to raise trouble in the United States. They are at it all the time—trying to organise strikes under specious pretences, utilising newspapers carried on in their interests to emphasise the "miseries" of the workmen about which they care so little. In one of his memoranda Dumba talks of getting a certain paper representing the "American Magyar" to join in the fun. It would doubtless be compelled, willingly or unwillingly, to follow the movement initiated by another rag, all his own, and great hopes were founded upon the effectiveness of this Press hubbub.

But the first necessity was money, and although the Ambassador does not appear to be too flush, he sug-

gests that "as many reliable Hungarian and German workmen as possible" should be sent to the Bethlehem Steel Works to begin their propaganda "in secret" amongst their fellow-workmen. "For this purpose," he goes on, "I have my men turners in steel-work. We must send an organiser who in the interests of the Union will begin the business in his own way. We must also send so-called 'soap-box' orators, who will know and so start a useful agitation." And money is wanted to enable the plotters to hold popular meetings and possibly for organising picnics. It never occurs to these gentlemen that they are degrading and disgracing their position as representatives of a foreign State and debasing themselves to the level of paid fomenters of anarchy and sedition. It is only the Yankees they are seeking to trick.

In the whole revelation we behold such a manifestation of moral obliquity, of emancipated rascality, as Americans may have difficulty in comprehending. Perhaps we might describe the German representative as a "cultured" Jibbeway Indian and the Austrian as a Sioux. They are at least as devoid of any moral sense as the worst Red Indian of them all, and Dr. Dumba has proved himself to be as ready to create a disturbance within a country with whose Government he was supposed to be in friendly relationship as the Sioux were to rob and murder in 1862, when hunger drove them into a predatory war which cost the Washington Government some £8,000,000 to suppress. If the American people can attune their minds to regard these manifestations of Teutonic unscrupulousness and guile in the light of their own past experience, and as adepts in a form of roguery which may be called Red Indianism, it may be that their courage will rise sufficiently to buoy up their President to treat such pests as they deserve. Count Bernstorff seems to be the abler man of the two Ministers, and possibly the more guilty. Whether or not he should be told to go home as peremptorily as his Austrian colleague has been is not for us to say. They may be contemptible enough as statesmen and politicians, but not at all as intriguers, stirrers up of sedition and suborners of false testimony. No "trooper" ever lied so blandly, and it is for the American people to decide whether they, too, are to become objects of the world's laughter.

The documents first discovered and published by the *New York World* were characterised by Count Bernstorff as things of no account:—"It is inevitable that the holder of an official position such as I occupy as representative of one of the great nations who are involved in this unfortunate world-war should receive from every conceivable sources the most unbalanced and irresponsible offers, proposals, and advice. The majority of the documents which were found in the portfolio stolen from Dr. Albert were of this kind." How nice and persuasive! Note the word "stolen," because it is just that sort of use of language which helps the German to be so successful with the unthinking. The documents were found, not stolen, their custodian having left them in a train, or so it is said, but it would not do to use truth in German diplomatic correspondence; that would defeat or mar the German ideal. Simulate, simulate, therefore, make black appear white, or at least grey, and try to entrap by guile. We have all been "idiotic" in the extent to which German subtlety has been allowed to darken our vision and keep us unmindful of the danger that threatened us, and we in Europe are paying for our idiocy. It is for the people of the North American Republic to take good care that they likewise may not be called upon to pay.

Credit still continues to expand on the New York market, and for last week the loan average rose by £6,440,000, making the total in the loans about £560,000,000. This shows that the necessity for the new loan is becoming greater, but there does not seem the least reason to fear that it will not be arranged. Talk of German opposition has died down in the newspapers, and there should be no difficulty whatever in raising the £140,000,000 now said to be the amount fixed upon to be lent on the joint security of France and



the United Kingdom. It is not a very large sum, and it may not be enough to see us through, but for a good many months to come it ought to be sufficient to steady the New York exchange and to prevent also business from going elsewhere. It must be of the utmost importance to the United States farmer that he should be as well placed in the wheat market as his Canadian neighbour. If, however, Russia also seeks accommodation, as is probable, it will be for other but not less weighty reasons.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In the year ended June 30 the Straits Plantations harvested 318,477 more coconuts at 4,410,874, and increased its output of copra by 64 tons to 1,104 tons. A further reduction of £3 8s. 7d. to £9 10s. 5d. was effected in the f.o.b. cost, although this figure included 7s. 8d. per ton for war risk insurance, but other outgoings were seriously affected by war conditions. The rate of freight rose from £3 5s. 10d. per ton on the first consignment to £7 3s. 4d., and the total charges averaged £6, as against £3 16s. 8d. in the preceding year, an increase which accounts for a good part of the drop of £6 18s. 7d. to £16 3s. in the nett price realised. Rubber produced 18,449 lbs. more at 68,934 lbs., and the f.o.b. cost was 7.52d. lower at 1s. 0.20d., while the company was fortunate enough to secure an improvement of 1.84d. to 2s. 0.21d. in the nett price. Profits showed a decrease of £629 at £9,236, but as £5,200 or £3,247 more was brought in the amount to be dealt with was £2,618 up at £14,436. The directors, however, begin the accumulation of a reserve with £5,000, and in order to do so they cut down the dividend on both classes of shares from 7 per cent. to 6, and carry forward £1,507 less at £4,187. Capital expenditure amounted to £4,856, raising the cost of the property to £101,620, exclusive of buildings, plant, &c., and cash balances are £4,908 lower at £2,042. For the current year the crops are estimated at 4,600,000 coconuts and 54,000 lbs. rubber.

The Russian Petroleum Co. announces that it has received cabled advice from its Baku office that the balance of the loan from the Russian Government has now been paid off.

We shall have to await the meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. (1909) next week to get a proper insight into the domestic wrangles that have led to the resignation of the chairman, Mr. Herbert Allen, and as this took place on August 11, while the report is dated for September 14, we think the fact ought to have been stated, instead of leaving Mr. Allen to make the announcement through the financial papers. In view of nearly two months' work being lost owing to the strike at Baku, the total production fell off 2,143,250 poods to 6,406,240 poods, and the weekly average dropped over 40,000 poods to 123,200 poods. The average price realised also was 7.27 kopecks lower at 35.47 kopecks, while cost of production rose 3.14 kopecks to 28.27 kopecks. Gross profit consequently fell no less than £54,776 to £27,250, and after providing for debenture interest and taxes there is a balance of £37,814 to be carried to credit of depreciation account, whereas last year £40,000 was placed to reserve, £5,264 was applied to redemption of profit-sharing certificates, and £10,527 was carried forward. Creditors have been reduced by £22,000 and cash is £54,060 lower at £5,988, otherwise the changes in the balance-sheet are not of much significance. The fortunes of the company have, of course, been adversely affected not only by the strike already referred to, but also by the war and the closing of the Dardanelles, which prevented important parts of machinery from reaching the property, while boring was further delayed by the lack of sufficient labour. Steps, however, have been taken to effect economies both in London and Baku, and when normal conditions are re-established the prospects ought to improve.

While the Kern River Oilfields of California did very well on its own properties during the year ended May 31, its achievements were quite put in the shade by those of its subsidiary, the St. Helens Petroleum Co. The

nett production of the Kern River showed a small reduction at 771,838 barrels, but a further saving was effected by the extension of electric pumping to practically all the wells, and nett profits were £9,852 better at £36,396. On the St. Helens property the production, after deducting the amount used for fuel, rose by 692,884 barrels to 1,000,607 barrels, and the nett profits by £47,727 to £78,567, so that with the balances brought forward the combined total was £58,241 up at £115,765. The Kern River has written off £9,900, or £1,812 more, for depreciation, and the St. Helens £39,088, or £31,253 more, and after providing £14,811 for profits derived from McLeod lease held in suspense, and meeting sundry charges, £7,500 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend is raised from 5 per cent. to 8, leaving £826 to be carried forward. The balance-sheet of the Kern River Co. shows reductions of £23,696 to £302,199 in the property account and £16,573 to £16,635 in loans and investments, but the interest in the St. Helens Co. is £22,324 up at £134,621, apart from £22,047 due for the dividend declared by that company, and cash comes to £17,670 more at £89,055.

### Insurance News.

At a meeting of the Prudential Assurance Co., held on Thursday, fresh articles of association were submitted proposing that the business of the company be divided into three distinct branches, and that extended powers be taken. The company now proposes to undertake fire insurance business in all its branches, and most other classes of insurance will also be included in the proposed new general branch, such as sickness, accident, fidelity, as well as risks against injury or loss to property caused by naval or military operations, while the company will also be prepared to act as executors or administrators. It will be interesting to watch developments on the lines of the extended powers to be taken, which powers, it will be noted, are of a most comprehensive character, including all that the great composite offices now have and more. The directors are taking free powers respecting the distribution of such profits as may arise.

The question of aircraft insurance profits has been raised in the House of Commons, but Mr. Runciman stated that in view of the large number of fire insurance companies receiving premiums on account of the Government it was not possible even if it was desirable at this stage to give the amount of premiums received. He pointed out that the scheme must be on a national footing, and profits would not be distributed as bonus among the people insured. Residents on the East Coast are now able to obtain insurance at the flat rate of 2s. or 3s. per cent., whereas before the Government scheme came into force they were paying as much as £1 per cent. In some quarters the opinion has been expressed that the Government rates should be reduced, but as the rates in force are those recommended by the expert Committee which formulated the scheme it is not proposed to modify them. The experience acquired during the two months the scheme has been in operation is, needless to say, altogether insufficient on which to base any estimate as to the adequacy or inadequacy of the rates of premiums charged.

In consequence of the high rates of premiums quoted the amount of business done in connection with Budget

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ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

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risks was quite unimportant, so that the liabilities of underwriters were insignificant.

New prospectuses have been issued by the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society, and various new tables and other changes have been introduced following the recent incorporation of the society by special Act of Parliament. A special annuity prospectus has been prepared, while in the ordinary life department the development of the monthly premium business is to be taken in hand.

### The Week in Mines.

There has been an appreciable diminution in activity in the Mining markets this week, owing partly to a natural reaction in South African shares and a desire to adopt a waiting attitude pending the introduction of the Budget and a consideration of its probable effects. The recent advance in South Africans brought out more shares, and with a disposition on the part of speculative holders to secure profits prices relapsed generally. Copper shares have been fairly well maintained on bullish trade advices from the United States, and tin shares have met with some support.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has been much quieter, with a drooping tendency in evidence. Modderfonteins dropped to 15½, Central Minings to 6½, Modder B's to 5½, and Modder Deeps to 5. Rand Mines were dull at 4½, and City Deep was offered down to 3½. Gedulds have relapsed on profit-taking to 32s., Springs to 25s. 6d., Goerz to 13s., and Knight Centrals after having touched 12s. 3d. have dropped back to 10s. 9d. There has been some buying of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment on the report, and the price has risen to 15s. Government Areas of Modderfontein have also been in good request at 25s. 3d. Anglo-French Exploration shares were bought after the meeting to consider the preference capital scheme, as in spite of some opposition the scheme met with approval from the bulk of the shareholders. The ordinary shares have advanced from 11s. 3d. to 12s. 3d. The Robinson Deep scheme is less liked the more it is examined, and the shares have been on offer persistently and have fallen to 1½ sellers. In the Rhodesian department Shamvas relapsed to 1½ and Charteredds to 9s. 9d., but Falcons were steady at 8s. on the quarterly report showing an improvement in extraction results and in developments at the seventh level. Among West African shares Ashanti Goldfields have been supported at 17s. 6d., and Abboniakoons have further improved to 8s. Rayfield Tins have been on offer under 3s., though as the Niger Co.'s report demonstrates, the Nigerian tin industry continues to expand pretty rapidly. Diamond shares have been weak, with De Beers deferred at 10½.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The international copper shares have been fairly firm on American advices. Anacondas have retained their advance to 7½, but Rib Tintos have relapsed ½ to 55. Arizona shares were marked down to 1½ on the announcement that operations had been temporarily suspended owing to labour difficulties. Mount Lyells at 20s. 6d., Hampdens at 26s., and Mount Morgans at 2 have been on the dull side. Russian descriptions have also been a poor market. In the Broken Hill group the tendency after being firm weakened, and Proprietarys declined to 43s. 6d. and South Silvers to 6½. Among Indian shares Mysore have reacted to 3½. In the tin group Siamese Tins have been in request at 59s. West Australian shares have been rather easier with Great Boulders at 15s. 6d. and Golden Horseshoes at 2.

### MINING NEWS.

**APEX CAPITAL SCHEME.**—The directors of the Apex Mines now announce their intention of distributing its holding of New Kleinfontein shares among the shareholders. These shares, numbering 150,000, were received by the company in payment of the gold section of the property, which was sold to the New Kleinfontein at the time of the Benoni amalgamation. This will mean that the shareholders will receive one Kleinfontein share for every two Apex shares. The distribution will be regarded as a return of capital; and to effect this the capital will

be reduced from £300,000 in £1 shares to £150,000 in 10s. shares. Thus the distribution of Kleinfontein shares will mean that the shareholders will receive half their capital back in shares whose market value is about 15 per cent. in excess of the nominal value.

**KAMSFERDAM MINES.**—The report for the year ended June 30 states that the mine was closed down early in August last year on account of the war, and therefore the accounts cover practically only one month's working. Owing to the ceasing of operations there has been no opportunity of earning money to pay for fixed charges, and debenture interest is now 12 months in arrears. To meet advances and bank's overdraft, second debentures to the amount of £7,500 have been created, carrying 7½ per cent. interest. Owing to a fall of reef since operations ceased, it may be necessary on resuming work to abandon the system of open working and to operate by shafts.

**RAYFIELD TIN.**—The Nigerian tin industry is passing through a difficult period. The accounts of this company for the year ended September 30, 1914, show a loss of £4,534, as compared with a profit of £41,708 in the preceding year, when 2s. per share was paid in dividends. No dividend, of course, can be paid on the present occasion. The poor results were partly due to the average gross price realised for tin sold falling from £154 to £108½ per ton. In the early part of the year bad transport and, after the war broke out, scarcity of labour caused a considerable falling-off in production.

### MINING OUTPUTS.

**Alaska United.**—Crushed 45,300 tons; total production, \$72,200; net loss, \$1,300.

**Apex.**—Sales of coal, 17,772 tons; profit, £2,068 (July sales of coal, 19,029 tons; profit, £2,269).

**Briseis Tin.**—Shipped 10 tons tin.

**Chino Copper.**—Output for July, 6,650,429 lb.

**Jumbo.**—2,300 tons, 693 ozs.; sold for £2,879; profit, £101.

**Kyshtim.**—Total production of blister copper, four weeks ended Aug. 29, 419 tons.

**Lena Goldfields.**—Abstract from report from Lenskoie from Sept. 30 to Aug. 10, 1915 (o.s.):—Gravel mined, 796,785 cubic yards; gravel washed, 787,843 cubic yards; gold dust and nuggets produced, 396,971 ozs. troy; value, £1,481,893.

**Manchester Ship Canal.**—August receipts, £58,597; aggregate, £476,674; inc., £62,764. In August, 1914, receipts were £19,100 less than in August, 1913.

**North Broken Hill.**—Produced 1,220 tons concentrates, containing 719 tons 4 cwt. lead, and 25,620 ozs. silver.

**Ray Consolidated Copper.**—Output for July was 4,471,399 lbs.

**Sissert Company.**—Sissert Mining District Company report month ended Sept. 13:—Ore raised 1,613 tons, averaging 3.8 per cent. copper; copper produced (best selected) 32 tons. Official note—Lack of labour and delay in transport of consignments of coke hindered operations.

**Spassky Copper.**—Refined copper produced month ended Sept. 13 264 tons.

**Utah Copper.**—Output for July 4,641,009 lbs.

**Weardale Lead.**—Ore raised 261 tons; pig lead smelted, 338 tons.

Messrs. Meethuen and Co.'s autumn list of forthcoming books seems to us almost as big as usual. It is certainly as varied, and in its fiction alone offers such a variety of light literature as few publishing houses could outstrip. A timely new book on *Naples and Southern Italy*, by Mr. Edward Hutton, is promised, and should have a warm welcome. All books about the countries of our Allies ought to find a wide public in these times.

We must give a word of welcome to the "China Supplement" issued by the *Manchester Guardian*. It is the best thing of the kind we have come across for some time, and will be most valuable to file. China is a country that the Allies will have to look to to assist them in the recovery of their trade when the war is over, and they must see to it that no loop-hole is given to the Teuton again to steal a march upon them there.

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E. M. JANION, Manager.

## JAMES EADIE, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares of this Company will be CLOSED from 22nd September to 5th October, both inclusive. By order of the Board,

CHARLES W. INSLEY,  
Secretary.



## Answers to Correspondents.

Hamish.—No, were the Empire wiped out to-morrow, your stock would be properly secured.

Jos.—Not so bad as that. We should buy a few more if the price goes below 12.

J. J. A.—In interest almost none, and as to capital you are, perhaps, fully as well off with the stock you have, because the other is being added to so fast.

B. J. F.—(1) The company has just come into the dividend-paying list with a good distribution, and its prospects seem good, but the shares are already fully priced at their present figures. (2) These should be a good enough purchase. The output is being increased at a very rapid rate, and the company should do well. (3) These also seem a promising speculative purchase. The initial dividend was smaller than had been expected, but the company is prudently managed.

F. N.—Yes. Judging by the crop returns to date, the company should get the large increase in its output foreshadowed in the last report.

M. R. W.—Have nothing to do with the concern.

R. H. T.—Quite good, but not likely to appreciate.

P. U. C.—We fear not. Earnings show a small surplus, but the board will probably not distribute any of it. Prospects seem a little better, and we think you should hold on.

K. E. P.—We think you should. Cost is small—under 1 per cent.

S. A.—Yes, we think so.

C. W. R.—Possibly some alteration will be allowed before long. In the meantime you can do nothing.

## THE NEW TAX ON INCOMES.

The following tables show the amount of tax payable on certain incomes and the virtual rate charged in the £ under the existing law and under the proposals made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on September 21, 1915:—

INCOMES WHOLLY EARNED.				INCOMES WHOLLY UNEARNED.			
Income.	Old Tax for 1915-16.	New Tax for 1915-16.	Proposed Tax for 1916-17.	Old Tax for 1915-16.	New Tax for 1915-16.	Proposed Tax for 1916-17.	
£.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
131	—	0 19 9	1 3 1	—	1 6 4	1 10 9	
140	—	1 16 0	2 2 0	—	2 8 0	2 16 0	
150	—	2 14 0	3 3 0	—	3 12 0	4 4 0	
160	—	3 12 0	4 4 0	—	4 16 0	5 12 0	
180	1 10 0	5 8 0	6 6 0	2 0 0	7 4 0	8 8 0	
200	3 0 0	7 4 0	8 8 0	4 0 0	9 12 0	11 4 0	
250	6 15 0	11 14 0	13 13 0	9 0 0	15 12 0	18 4 0	
300	10 10 0	16 4 0	18 18 0	14 0 0	21 12 0	25 4 0	
350	14 5 0	20 14 0	24 3 0	19 0 0	27 6 0	31 12 0	
400	18 0 0	25 4 0	29 8 0	24 0 0	33 4 0	37 11 4	
450	22 10 0	30 10 0	34 15 0	29 0 0	39 4 0	43 14 8	
500	26 5 0	35 0 0	39 15 0	34 0 0	45 0 0	49 3 3	
550	30 10 0	40 10 0	44 5 0	39 0 0	51 0 0	55 3 4	
600	34 5 0	45 0 0	49 5 0	44 0 0	57 0 0	61 3 4	
650	38 10 0	50 0 0	54 5 0	49 0 0	63 0 0	67 3 4	
700	42 5 0	55 0 0	59 5 0	54 0 0	69 0 0	73 3 4	
750	47 0 0	60 0 0	64 5 0	59 0 0	75 0 0	79 3 4	
800	51 5 0	65 0 0	69 5 0	64 0 0	81 0 0	85 3 4	
850	56 0 0	70 0 0	74 5 0	69 0 0	87 0 0	91 3 4	
900	60 5 0	75 0 0	79 5 0	74 0 0	93 0 0	97 3 4	
1,000	75 0 0	90 0 0	95 0 0	90 0 0	110 0 0	114 0 0	
1,500	131 5 0	157 10 0	183 15 0	150 0 0	180 0 0	210 0 0	
2,000	200 0 0	240 0 0	280 0 0	250 0 0	300 0 0	350 0 0	
2,500	291 13 0	345 0 0	408 6 8	350 0 0	420 0 0	490 0 0	
3,000	375 0 0	450 0 0	525 0 0	450 0 0	540 0 0	630 0 0	

HALF EARNED AND HALF UNEARNED.				INCOMES OVER £3,000.			
Income.	Old Tax for 1915-16.	New Tax for 1915-16.	Proposed Tax for 1916-17.	Income.	Old Tax for 1915-16.	New Tax for 1915-16.	Proposed Tax for 1916-17.
£.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
131	—	1 6 4	1 10 9	3,001	395 0 4	471 0 10	546 1 4
140	—	2 8 0	2 16 0	4,000	579 3 4	679 3 4	779 3 4
150	—	3 12 0	4 4 0	5,000	779 3 4	904 3 4	1,029 3 4
160	—	4 16 0	5 12 0	6,000	995 16 8	1,145 16 8	1,295 16 8
180	2 0 0	7 4 0	8 8 0	7,000	1,229 3 4	1,404 3 4	1,579 3 4
200	4 0 0	9 12 0	11 4 0	8,000	1,479 3 4	1,679 3 4	1,879 3 4
250	9 0 0	15 9 0	18 0 0	9,000	1,737 10 0	1,970 16 8	2,195 16 8
300	14 0 0	20 14 0	24 3 0	10,000	1,995 16 8	2,279 3 4	2,529 3 4
350	19 0 0	25 14 0	29 8 0	20,000	4,579 3 4	5,529 3 4	6,029 3 4
400	24 0 0	30 10 0	34 15 0	30,000	7,162 10 0	8,779 3 4	9,529 3 4
450	29 0 0	35 4 0	39 15 0	40,000	9,745 16 8	12,029 3 4	13,029 3 4
500	34 0 0	40 10 0	44 5 0	50,000	12,329 3 4	15,279 3 4	16,529 3 4
550	39 0 0	45 0 0	49 5 0	75,000	18,787 10 0	23,104 3 4	25,279 3 4
600	44 0 0	50 0 0	54 5 0	100,000	25,245 16 8	31,520 3 4	34,020 3 4
650	49 0 0	55 0 0	59 5 0				
700	54 0 0	60 0 0	64 5 0				
750	59 0 0	65 0 0	69 5 0				
800	64 0 0	70 0 0	74 5 0				
850	69 0 0	75 0 0	79 5 0				
900	74 0 0	80 0 0	84 5 0				
1,000	90 0 0	95 0 0	99 5 0				
1,500	131 5 0	157 10 0	183 15 0				
2,000	200 0 0	240 0 0	280 0 0				
2,500	291 13 0	345 0 0	408 6 8				
3,000	375 0 0	450 0 0	525 0 0				

The following table shows the effect of the combined income-tax and super-tax on incomes over £3,000.

Income.	Old Tax for 1915-16.	New Tax for 1915-16.	Proposed Tax for 1916-17.
£.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,001	395 0 4	471 0 10	546 1 4
4,000	579 3 4	679 3 4	779 3 4
5,000	779 3 4	904 3 4	1,029 3 4
6,000	995 16 8	1,145 16 8	1,295 16 8
7,000	1,229 3 4	1,404 3 4	1,579 3 4
8,000	1,479 3 4	1,679 3 4	1,879 3 4
9,000	1,737 10 0	1,970 16 8	2,195 16 8
10,000	1,995 16 8	2,279 3 4	2,529 3 4
20,000	4,579 3 4	5,529 3 4	6,029 3 4
30,000	7,162 10 0	8,779 3 4	9,529 3 4
40,000	9,745 16 8	12,029 3 4	13,029 3 4
50,000	12,329 3 4	15,279 3 4	16,529 3 4
75,000	18,787 10 0	23,104 3 4	25,279 3 4
100,000	25,245 16 8	31,520 3 4	34,020 3 4

NOTE.—The figures in these tables take no account of the allowances in respect of life insurance premiums and children, which, in many cases, would substantially reduce the tax payable and the virtual rate.

## THE WAR CHARGES OF 1914-15.

I.—Statement showing the estimated war expenditure up to March 31, 1915:—

Debt Charges:—

Inside the Fixed Debt charge:

Interest on temporary borrowings £614,000

Outside the Fixed Debt charge:

Interest on War Debt ..... 2,172,000

2,786,000

Expenditure out of Votes of Credit:

Army and Navy expenditure ..... 280,545,000

Advances by way of Loan:

To Dominions, Allied Powers, &c. .... 51,825,000

Advances for purchases of foodstuffs, &c.... 14,640,000

Payments to railway companies taken over by the Government ..... 6,852,000

Miscellaneous services ..... 3,138,000

Total estimated expenditure out of Votes of Credit ..... 357,000,000

Total estimated war charges ..... £359,786,000

Note.—The figures given above represent the Exchequer issues, not audited expenditure.

II.—Statement showing how the above charges have been met:—

(a) By suspension of part of the New Sinking Fund of 1915-15 ..... 3,003,000

(b) By revenue in excess of amount required for meeting peace charges ..... 23,003,000

(c) By borrowing, as shown in Statement III.... 333,780,000

Total ..... £359,786,000

III.—Statement showing how the money borrowed has been raised:—

Amount Received to March 31, 1915 (Cash).

By issue of—

3½ per cent. War Loan, 1925-1928 ..... 296,000,000

3 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..... 47,700,000

Treasury Bills (nett) ..... 64,150,000

Total cash raised to March 31, 1915 ..... 407,850,000

Amount applied to meet Estimated War charges, as in Statement II. .... 333,780,000

Difference added to the Exchequer balance... £74,070,000

## TELEPHONE NEW TRUNK-CALL RATES.

The table illustrates the difference between the present trunk telephone charges and those which it is proposed to bring into operation on October 1:—

Distance from London Area.	Towns Such as—	"Flat Rate."	
		Present.	Future.
25 miles .....	Ascot .....	3d.	4d.
50 " .....	Horsham .....	6d.	8d.
50 " .....	Brighton .....	6d.	8d.
75 " .....	Dover .....	9d.	1/-
100 " .....	Rugby .....	1/-	1/4
118 " .....	Bristol .....	1/6	2/-
153 " .....	Cardiff .....	1/6	2/-
184 " .....	Manchester .....	2/-	2/8
201 " .....	Liverpool .....	2/-	2/8
268 " .....	Newcastle .....	3/-	4/-
401 " .....	Glasgow.....	4/6	6/-

In addition to the above charges the following local fee is payable:—

Message rate (Inner London subscriber), 1d.

Message rate (Outer London subscriber), 2d.

Public call office, 3d.

These charges apply to calls to towns which are worked from the London Trunk Exchange.

The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened a branch at Riebeeck Kasteel, Cape Province.

A branch of the London Joint Stock Bank, Ltd., has been opened at 26, High Street, Colchester, under the management of Mr. W. L. Manning.

## NOTICE.

### THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

#### NOTICE.

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,  
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange,

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.



## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

African Steam Ship.—Interim of 4 per cent. for six months ended June 30, free tax, payable Sept. 30, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

Arauco Company.—Interim of 3 per cent., or 6s. per share, less tax, on account of the current year, same as a year ago.

Bikam Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable, less tax, Oct. 9.

British American Land.—Owing to the inability of many purchasers of land to meet their instalments of purchase money and interest, and also the difficulty of disposing of any further land just now on account of the war, the usual interim dividend will not be paid. Last year 12s. 6d. was paid on the "A" shares.

Coltress Iron.—8 per cent. per annum (less interim paid in April) and a bonus of 2 per cent., making a total 10 per cent. for year. For 1913-14 8 per cent. was paid.

Dobson and Barlow.—5½ per cent. on the preference; carrying forward, £714; no dividend is declared on the ordinary shares.

Ederapolla Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 7½ per cent. actual, less tax, now payable, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

Enfield Cycle.—On the "A" pref. of 7 per cent., less tax, and on the "B" pref. and the ordinary of 20 per cent., free tax, and a distribution of one fully-paid ordinary share for every five existing shares, "B" preference and ordinary, held, subject to the consent of the "B" preference shareholders and the treasury, as to the increase of capital necessary to carry out the scheme. Last year the company paid dividends of 10 per cent. on the "B" preference and ordinary.

Ferreira Deep.—Interim of 17½ per cent. for period ending Sept. 30, payable about Nov. 4, against 25 per cent. a year ago.

Fleming and Ferguson.—The directors, after placing £2,000 to depreciation, declare 5 per cent. on the ordinary, making 10 per cent., free tax, placing £2,000 to depreciation, for the year, with £8,708 forward.

Glover and Main.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary.

Golconda Malay Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of profits for this season, payable 28th prox.

Gopeng Consolidated.—4d. per share on the shares fully paid and 3½d. on shares 17s. 6d. paid, tax free, payable Oct. 7.

H. Holdron (Peckham).—Interim for the six months ended Aug. 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

Idris Hydraulic Tin.—6d. per share, tax free, payable Oct. 5.

Imperial Tobacco of Canada.—Interim of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary.

Kuala Selangor Rubber.—Second interim on account of 1915 of 7d. per share, payable, less tax, Oct. 19, against 16d. a year ago.

Kurau Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Sept. 28.

London American Maritime Trading.—On the ordinary of 27 per cent. In addition to the above the participating preference shareholders will also receive a further dividend of 4½ per cent., making 11½ per cent. for the year.

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus.—6d. per share for quarter ending 30th inst., also a bonus of like amount, making together 1s. per share, payable Oct. 1, same as a year ago.

National and Foreign Securities Trust.—Final at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, making 5 per cent. for year to Aug. 31, against 5½ per cent. last year.

North Broken Hill.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 19.

North Caucasian Oil Fields.—Interim on account of 1915 of 1s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, to be paid on Oct. 1, same as last year.

Philadelphia Co.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 1.

Pindeniya Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent. for year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1. This is the company's first dividend.

Phoenix Assurance.—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share (less tax) in respect of 1915, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Pryce Jones.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 2 per cent. for half-year ended July 31, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency.—Interim of 9 per cent. on the "A" shares and 3 per cent. on the "B" shares, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable 1st prox., same as a year ago.

Robert Addie and Sons' Collieries.—Six months' arrears of dividend on the 6 per cent. "A" preference shares to June 30, 1914. The last financial year showed a loss of £23,352.

Samana and Santiago Railway.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference and of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary.

Scottish Ceylon Tea.—Interim on the ordinary of 10 per cent. actual, less tax, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Selangor Rubber.—Second interim 5d. per share, less tax.

South African Lighting.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 27, against 7 per cent. a year ago.

Sungei Batu (Malaya) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1. Last year no interim was paid, but for the whole year 7½ per cent. was paid.

Sungei Buloh Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable Sept. 21, same as a year ago.

Sungei Kruit Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, for year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1.

Taiping Rubber.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, actual in respect of year ended Sept. 30, payable Oct. 5.

Tempus Shipping.—For half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum (£1 per share), free tax.

Union-Castle Mail Steamship.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (free tax) on the ordinary, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

United Fruit.—Regular of \$2 per share on the common, payable Oct. 15.

Windsor (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 2½ per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 1.

Winnipeg Electric Railway.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. for quarter ending Sept. 30, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on capital stock, payable Oct. 2, against 3 per cent. a year ago.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and September 18, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 18, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Sept. 19, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,952
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	18,861,000	15,931,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	26,821,000	16,321,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	16,018,000	12,405,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	2,803,000	3,879,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	15,574,000	8,284,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	50,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	13,500,000	12,780,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	200,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,002,000	359,475	784,466
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	1,636,537	1,846,218
Revenue .....	267,232,000	96,154,012	72,750,684
Total, including Balance .....		179,604,964	83,185,203
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		480,000	1,150,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	5,100,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		498,000,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		—	1,150,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		232,150,000	62,730,000
Total .....		946,275,717	153,315,203

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 18, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Sept. 19, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	12,474,277	9,851,194
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	4,322,812	255,418
Road Improvement Fund ....	1,451,000	691,395	763,213
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	3,480,947	3,458,279
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,697,000	806,370	769,503
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	597,463,142	103,593,687
Expenditure .....	1,054,676,000	619,242,943	118,691,299
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		775,000	1,390,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		15,994,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,595,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		980,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		60,000	21,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		50,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		80,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £55,104,000, in 1915-16) .....		55,104,000	15,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England .....	65,590,160	15,535,898	—
Bank of Ireland .....	1,049,887	564,847	—
Total .....		946,275,717	153,315,203

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on September 18, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£55,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	182,273,000
Total .. .. .	£237,273,000

\* Includes £71,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, September 20, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

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**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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## Passing Events.

Mr. Balfour's answer to a question designed to elicit information about the German submarines accounted for by our Navy is so perfectly satisfying that we cannot do better than quote it here, because this journal has been in a mild way amongst the querists. It may, however, be added that the latest telegrams intimate from the German side a probable loss to them of 54 of these pirate hornets of the ocean. "The difficulty I feel in satisfying curiosity arises from the inevitable margin of doubt which attaches to any attempt to estimate the numbers of enemy submarines destroyed and the consequent impossibility of giving accurate statistics. A submarine, it must be remembered, is not like an ordinary vessel. If the latter sinks, it sinks for ever. There can be no error as to its fate. With a submarine this is not necessarily true, and we have every gradation from absolute certainty through practical assurance down to faint possibility. Facts like these are not fitted for statistical statement. Were the Admiralty to confine itself to enumerating cases of absolute certainty, we should undoubtedly be understating the truth. If we were to include all the cases of reasonable possibility, we might be exaggerating the truth."

Because there has been little news from Sir John French these last two or three days, many people again begin to think that our troops are taking another rest, and that the French armies are doing all the fighting. This is not so, but what we are actually doing cannot be stated until the object sought is attained, which it may be any hour. Observant persons, however, may note one statement in the Thursday night's French bulletin, which should lead them towards the light: "In Belgium our heavy artillery supported the action of the British fleet against the coast batteries." The British public may depend upon it that our Field-Marshal's instructions to the army were quite in harmony with those said to have been issued by General Joffre: "The offensive is to be pursued, without truce and without respite. Remember the Marne. Conquer or die." In obeying that order up to last Thursday the French troops have captured 121 of the enemy's guns, and, so far as recorded, 24 have been taken by our troops, making 145 in all. The number of prisoners is said to be 23,000—more than a division. What the

German killed and wounded number is not counted, but Lord Kitchener is proving to have been a surer prophet than any of his critics when, in speaking of the position in Russia, he expressed his opinion that "the Germans there had about shot their last bolt." They are now so devoid of reserves as to be compelled to weaken the lines in the East in order to try and keep back the rising tide of conquest in the West, and in spite of his determined hammering, Hindenburg is still ten or twelve miles west of Dvinsk. No German operation is succeeding in Russia, and were Dvinsk captured the armies of the Kaiser would be no nearer the rest of a peace than they were before this last "enveloping movement" of theirs began. But the nearer to the extremity of exhaustion German forces go, the greater the energy with which efforts are made to get help, and the reports now mention concentrations of Austro-German troops to the number of 500,000 for the invasion of Serbia, and speak of the dispatch of Bulgarian troops southwards into the region just handed over by the Turks. These point to an early extension of the war to the Balkans, and seem to forewarn us of one more desperate attempt on the part of Austria, helped by Bulgaria, to get such a hold in that part of Europe as will at least serve for haggling over when peace comes in sight. We have not been taken in by Bulgarian blandishments, and Greece has not been taken in, as the speech of Mr. Venizelos, the Premier, made on Wednesday to the Chamber of Deputies in Athens, opportunely proves. Greece is ready to defend her territory and to assist Serbia in maintaining the ascendancy of the Allied Powers over the destinies of the Balkans. And Rumania? Rumania dare not stand aloof this time, and still less dare join our enemies, however much she wished. We do not think she does wish. Throughout this month we may see fighting proceeding without pause, not only all over Europe, but in the Caucasus and Asia Minor as far down as the valley of the Tigris, where our Indian Army has been acquiring fresh lustre in its vigorous press forward towards Baghdad. And we shall make such progress as should bring an October peace in sight, not the Kaiser's peace, but ours.

Indian papers, according to the London weekly journal, *India*, report that Mian Mahomed Shafi, a Punjab representative, obtained leave to move in the Imperial Legislative Council that "the Governor-



General in Council be recommended to send a representation through the Secretary of State for India to his Majesty's Government urging that India should in future be officially represented in the Imperial Conference." This resolution, moreover, has been accepted by the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, who has proved himself to be the most enlightened, magnanimous, and far-seeing Governor-General India has had for many a day. He stated, at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd ult., that he had been authorised by his Majesty's Government, while preserving their full liberty of judgement, and without committing them either as to principles or details, to give an undertaking that "an expression of opinion from the Council in the sense of the resolution would receive most careful consideration," with more to the same effect. His lordship explained that this was all that could reasonably be expected from the Government; but it is by no means all that the people of India will expect, and we thoroughly agree with the Viceroy that to discuss questions affecting the defence of the Empire without counting India would be ignoring the value and interests of the greatest "military asset" outside the United Kingdom which the Empire contains—and the greatest extraneous source of our wealth as well, by far the greatest. Lord Hardinge understands this, for he went on to say that to discuss trade questions without India would be disregarding England's best customer. It follows that to concede India direct representation at future Imperial Conferences would be no revolutionary or Empire-disrupting concession to Indian opinion, but merely a prudent acknowledgment of her just claims. Doubtless when the move is made to lift India up to her "place in the sun" of our Empire we shall have the usual outcry in this country, the usual exhibitions of insular prejudice as well as race pride, all well calculated to disappoint and perhaps to alienate the nationalities within our Indian Empire, but the true Imperial patriots must persevere until India wins the reward of her splendid loyalty.

Her friends here must stand by her, and possess their minds in calmness and confidence, for her victory is sure. Events are moving in their direction, in the direction which will ensure for India not only representatives in the Imperial Council or Conferences, but much larger rights and privileges of self-government within the Indian peninsula itself. For out of this appalling wealth-consuming war many new institutions must spring, as well as many new rights for the commonalty everywhere, which will be claimed and must be accorded. Instead, for example, of an occasional meeting of delegates from various portions of the British dominions called together by way of being an Imperial Conference, it will in all probability be necessary when the war ends to establish permanently a representative body of this description. The Empire is fighting together, every segment of it, for its life; it will have henceforth to work together as one, and not merely the white-peopled portions of it, but the dark as well. No portion of the British dominions can henceforth be left unrepresented in any Imperial gathering designed to manage or discuss Imperial affairs, and such gatherings should be regular, permanent, and endowed with definite powers and attributes. Just as we now have in the judicial committee of the Privy Council the most marvellous and powerful legal tribunal the world ever saw, so we must evolve out of our necessities, out of the poverty also which will follow this war, a method of unifying the interests of the Empire and bringing them to that impartial review and judgment which will help to consolidate it and provide for its durability.

Indeed, the mind ranges further still, as has more than once been hinted in this journal. All the nations in Europe now united in a stern effort to beat down the Prussian werewolf must draw together and endeavour to work in harmony henceforth, instead of stumbling along, amid jealousies and rivalries, suspicions and mistrust, passions and prejudices, which

have hitherto been as the elixir of life to the devouring spirit of militarism. In a financial sense the war will have proved so costly, even if we should be able to end it within the present year—which we won't be—as to make it necessary for each of the Great Powers, even could they proceed to disarm, to unite with the others in devising methods for augmenting their trade, enlarging their sources of wealth, and improving the positions of the "common people" by whom they exist, and who have fought and died in millions that liberty might be saved for the human race. Should we neglect to do this there is no small danger of our drifting back again into the old ways. That must not be, and because it must not we regret profoundly that Mr. McKenna should have included certain protective duties on foreign manufactures in his new Budget. They are oppressive and immoral, as all such taxes are, and will in no sense accomplish the ends alleged to be expected. But they may raise new hates. It is no longer a question of mere Free Trade or Protection for us, as has already been explained, but a question of high public policy as between us and our Allies. On this ground the proposed duties ought to be fought against until they have been rejected by the House of Commons. As yet, however, we see no trace in the talks that go on there of any perception of this larger point of view. Everything is insular with us, just as if we had no overseas dominions, no India, nor any Allies in Europe loyally standing by us in this appalling catastrophe. It will not do, Mr. McKenna. We cannot afford to travel backward, even amid our oppression of war. It is therefore a satisfaction to see that both the hat and the plate-glass taxes were dropped on Thursday in the House.

Further news about the efforts of the Turks to exterminate the Armenians was given in Thursday's *Times* from its Cairo correspondent, and his letter made one shiver with horror to read. In commenting on it the former special correspondent of the *Times* in Constantinople expresses the hope that the British Government will not condone these abominations, but will make Turkish Ministers, and especially Talaat Bey and his helpers, "personally responsible" for the innocent blood that has been shed. All will echo that hope, and long for the day of retribution. This Talaat Bey, who is Turkish Minister for the Interior, seems to have professed the warmest friendship for three of the leading Armenians who have been murdered in a manner most treacherous. Two of them, Vartkes Effendi and Zohrab Effendi, prominent members of Parliament, together with Aghnuni, one of the chief Dashnakists, and Haladjian Effendi and Pastermadjian Effendi, ex-Ministers of Public Works and Agriculture, were put in carriages at Urfa for conveyance to Diarbekr, and were murdered *en route*, the escort, as a matter of course, reporting that the murders were the work of brigands. Vartkes was but recently the recipient of marks of Talaat Bey's friendship. But that piece of ruffianism was only a minor atrocity. All over the country, from Samsun and Trebizond, from Ordu and Aintab, from Marash and Erzerum tales of atrocities are arriving, of men shot down in cold blood, crucified, mutilated, or dragged off for labour battalions; of women and children treated in the most savage and abominable manner the beast in man is capable of. Some were sent off with their children to the desert west of Mosul, where there is neither water nor food, or to Deireszor, between Aleppo and Baghdad, where there is no food, and left there to die in misery. Many of these unfortunates did not reach their destination because the escort so overdrove the victims that many fell out, and as flogging and kicking were unavailing, they were left to perish by the roadside, their corpses distinctly defining the route followed, and, blackest thing of all in one respect, some German Consuls "directed or encouraged" the proceedings. "Thus Rossler, the Consul at Aleppo, a fitting companion to his colleague at Haifa, went to Aintab to superintend in person," and "the notorious



Baron Oppenheim suggested the removal of women and children of the Allies to Urfa, where they could not fail to witness the barbarities committed by the troops in the streets, which literally ran with blood." Surely the day of retribution draws near. Is not the avenging army of the British already on its way? Every step it takes up the Tigris Valley raises hopes which, this time, should never be belied.

Below we give a table, for what it is worth, which contrasts the prices of certain articles of food in London and in Berlin at July, 1914, and last July. It was explained by the President of the Board of Trade, who provides these figures, in answer to a question put to him by the member for South-West Manchester, that in the case of bread the London price refers to bread made of wheaten flour, whereas in Berlin rye flour is used of a quality which has been reduced since the war. As regards meat, "the statistical methods used are so different as to make any comparison of actual prices very difficult." It should further be noted that the London prices refer to July 1 in each year, whereas the Berlin prices are "the average of several ascertainment during July." It will be seen that as far as can be guessed most prices are higher in Berlin than here where comparison can be given.

	London.		Berlin.	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rye bread .....per 4lb.	—	—	0 6	0 8½
Wheaten bread.....per 4lb.	0 5½	0 8½	0 10	*1 0½
Butter (fresh) .....per lb.	1 1½	1 4	1 2	1 8½
Butter (salt).....per lb.	1 1½	1 3½	0 8½	1 8½
Lard .....per lb.	0 8½	0 8½	0 9	1 1½
Beef (average of several cuts).....per lb.	—	—	—	—
Beef (English, ribs) ..per lb.	0 10½	1 2½	—	—
Beef (English, thin flank) ..per lb.	0 5½	0 9	—	—
Beef (chilled or frozen, ribs) ..per lb.	0 7½	0 11	—	—
Beef (chilled or frozen, thin flank).....per lb.	0 3½	0 7½	—	—
Mutton (average of several cuts).....per lb.	—	—	0 11	1 3½
Mutton (English, legs), per lb.	0 10½	1 1	—	—
Mutton (Eng., breast), per lb.	0 5½	0 8½	—	—
Mutton (frozen, legs), per lb.	0 6½	0 9½	—	—
Mutton (frozen, breast), per lb.	0 3½	0 6½	—	—
Pork .....per lb.	0 8½	0 11½	0 8½	1 6½
Bacon .....per lb.	0 11½	1 1½	0 9	1 8½
Sugar (granulated)....per lb.	0 2	0 3½	0 2½	0 3½
Potatoes .....per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 4½	0 3	0 5½
Peas (split) .....per lb.	0 2	0 3½	0 2½	0 7
Haricot beans .....per lb.	0 2½	0 2½	0 2½	0 7½

\* Fancy bread.

Many a problem of no small perplexity will have to occupy the attention of Treasury officials when they come to deal with the taxation of war profits. Here is the Birmingham Small Arms Co., which made up its accounts 21 days short for its past year because of the factories having been taken into control by the Government as from July 12. It is showing a profit more than double that for the preceding year of full twelve months to July 31, 1914. The new accounts are dated July 10, 1915, and disclose a profit of £408,455, an increase of £218,026. The balance of £68,284 brought forward was also £5,698 up, and consequently the £476,739 of free revenue is £223,724 larger than it was in 1914. No wonder then that the company is able to give the ordinary shareholders, in addition to their 10 per cent. dividend, a bonus of 2s. per share as against 1s. for the previous year, or 20 per cent. in all, free of income-tax. Altogether the amount disbursed in dividends and bonus, including the dividend on the "B" preference shares, was about £44,000 more than in the preceding year, and the board was able also to transfer £83,491 more to the reserve fund, or £133,491 in all, raising its total to £483,491, with £96,334 more at £164,628 left to carry forward. It may be that the directors can demonstrate that all this wealth represents pre-war profits, and then a comparatively simple question would present itself to be determined. It is, however,

likely to be complicated by the decision of the directors to capitalise £383,491 of money spent out of the reserve fund and free balances. They say that "a very large amount had to be expended last year on extensions, mainly to the rifle department, to provide the enormously increased output demanded by the Government," and that this expenditure, amounting in all to £418,284, was met chiefly out of the reserve fund, that is from profits accumulated prior to the outbreak of the war. It is the greater portion of this expenditure which they now propose to add to the ordinary capital in the form of £1 shares which will be distributed in the proportion of one new share distributed gratis for every two old now held, thereby raising the par value of the ordinary share capital to £1,180,341. Assuming that the Government admits the legitimacy of this step, which may be doubtful, how will it affect the Chancellor of the Exchequer's claim for half the excess profits? Should not his basis for division be formed on the capital as it stood at the end of the year preceding the outbreak of war, and in that case could he admit the right of this newly-created capital to take in the current year its proportion, say its 6 per cent. dividend, before the division of profits between Government and company took place? This question is not asked in any carping spirit, but simply in order to give students of company finance some inkling of the difficulties which are likely to interfere with the smooth working of this new tax. It is all done straightforwardly, and we have not a word to say against the policy of the board. It appears to be reasonable enough to turn what has really been capital expenditure into shares, thus giving the proprietors back their own money, instead of allowing the outlay to appear amongst the assets as a cross-entry representing a part of the reserve. The balance-sheet shows us that altogether the value of the freehold land and buildings, plant, machinery, and tools at Small Heath, Sparbrook, and Redditch rose during the year closed July 10 last by £470,407 to £1,047,457. At the same time, the stock-in-hand has increased by £117,299 to £352,530 and the investments by £51,213 to £704,932. Sundry debtors, however, owe £72,712 less at £135,056 and cash and bills are down £7,991 to £207,784. The general reserve fund shows an increase of £50,000 at £350,000, but that, of course, is without reference to the proposed capitalisation which, when carried through, will wipe the reserve out but still leave over £130,000 of the balance carried forward in hand. Nothing more surely is required to indicate the company's excellent position.

We are asked to support the appended appeal to Mr. McKenna, on behalf of those who may become victims of spoliation under the 50 per cent. of war profits tax. The case cited does appear to require consideration, perhaps redress, and in many other cases the three years' average is likely enough to involve hardship if rigidly adhered to. Some measure of discretionary latitude might possibly be permitted, and we should have a good deal to say about the hardships of this and other forms of taxation were the need of money less great. All the taxed suffer hardships—we have to endure a few ourselves—but in a crisis like the present all save the worst have to be borne in silence.

Copy of letter to the Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer, Whitehall, London, S.W.

#### BUDGET PROPOSALS—SPECIAL PROFITS TAX.

SIR,—I am instructed to bring to your notice the grave injustice which will accrue from the application of the general principle of the assessment of special profits as enunciated in your speech of the 21st instant on the introduction of your Budget, namely, that the datum line (by comparison with which the amount of excess profits liable to special profits tax is to be arrived at) is to be the amount assessed for income-tax based on the average trading results of the three years prior to the year of assessment.

In some businesses the trading results thus brought into average are of years of exceptional depression. For example, the Argentine Republic during the past two or three years has passed through a financial crisis of unprecedented severity. Export merchants doing business in that country have there-



fore suffered severely. Their average profits of those years reflect, not the normal profits, but the minimum profits of a long period of years.

The purpose of the special profits tax is to exploit the profits specially resulting from war conditions. In the cases cited the return to merely normal conditions of profit-earning will, on the application of the general rule, show as excess profits results which are in no sense attributable to favourable conditions arising from the war, with the consequence that traders who have passed through a time of exceptional trade depression and consequent loss of profits will on that account be assessed to heavy excess profit taxes, whilst others, who have all along had the advantage of trading under normal conditions, and have consequently been able to maintain their profits, will enjoy absolute immunity from such taxation. The past misfortunes of the merchant who has suffered from adverse trading conditions entirely beyond his control will thus be turned into a weapon with which he will be further penalised.

Thus will arise an injustice which you have no intention to inflict, but for which the grounds for adjustment on appeal set forth in your speech do not appear to provide relief.

I beg leave to submit that opportunity for appeal for relief should be afforded by the adoption, as the datum line, of the average of the normal profits, to be arrived at by eliminating the figures relating to the years rendered unprofitable by a crisis the ruinous character of which, as in the instance adduced, is a matter of common knowledge in the commercial world. This might be done by adopting the average of profits for, say, three or more years immediately before the years of extraordinary financial disturbance.

In the hope that this suggestion may be of help in the equitable adjustment of your taxation proposals.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
(Signed) A. SHUTTLEWORTH.

Lloyds Bank Buildings, King Street, Manchester,  
September 25, 1915.

From the comments and criticisms filling the newspapers one must infer that the general notion amongst company shareholders was that munition manufacturing firms alone would be subjected to the 50 per cent. of excess profits tax. We never thought so, for it was hardly worth while on the part of the Government to pass a general law merely to put it in a position to lay hold of the profits of a particular group of companies. Mr. McKenna confirms this view. Mr. Fell asked him whether gold and other mines operated abroad whose profits had increased during the war, but not as a consequence of the war, would be liable to the tax, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer was that they would be. That means a universal collection from joint-stock companies, and to many of them the prospect is the reverse of comforting. It is plain, however, that many of the difficulties are recognised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and rules have been framed with a view to mitigate the severity of the impost. Thus nett profits of a controlled establishment are defined according to a Parliamentary White Paper as being "profits made without deduction of income and interest, or in respect of assets not employed in the controlled establishment." This, though not too lucidly expressed, seems to mean that all nett profits are included, from whatever source; but in determining these profits for any period of assessment adjustments are to be made for special wear and tear of plant, buildings, and machinery. Extra capital expenditure for munitions work will also be taken into account, as well as the probable value to the owner of special plant, buildings, &c., at the end of the period of control. It is further arranged that special provisions or terms of contract, exceptional services, increases of managerial or directorial salaries, and "other matters deemed material," will be taken account of in arriving at the true nett profit. And in the case of increased capital beyond the average for the standard period, that is to say, the period of the two years preceding August 4, 1914, 8 per cent. per annum is to be allowed, presumably as the dividend or remuneration ascribable to such new capital before halving up, and where a greater volume of output is made than the average for the standard period equivalent allowances will be made. These rules, however, which offer difficulties enough, apply mostly, if not exclusively, to the controlled firms, and it will be interesting to learn what Mr. McKenna's arrangements are to be with regard to other joint-stock companies, many of whom may have made increased

profits during the war from sources neither directly nor indirectly implicated in that war. The South African gold mines, for example, have made larger returns in spite of the war.

A very cheerful circular has been issued by the directors of the Forestal Land, Timber and Railways Co., Ltd. Last year, it will be remembered, the interim dividends on the preference and ordinary shares were withheld and paid only in July after the completion of the company's year. The board, however, now feels itself in a position to resume payment of these interim dividends, and announces that, barring unforeseen circumstances, these will henceforth be paid at regular periods, viz.—interim in January of 6 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares, and the final in July after the annual general meeting. Consequently shareholders of both classes are able now to look for their interim dividends to be paid in due course next January. The financial position of the company, it is added, is most satisfactory, and is likely to be further strengthened in the course of the coming year. Its managing director, Mr. Joseph C. Baldwin, jun., has recently returned from Argentina, and reports that the condition of the company's properties and factories is "eminently satisfactory," and that "the organisation and administration of the company's affairs are as efficient as can be desired." That is as comforting a piece of news as we have lately come across.

The well-being of the Colonial Bank depends almost entirely on the result of the crops of sugar and cocoa in the West Indies. Both of these for the past season were light, but as prices in the six months ended June 30 were high, the bank benefited very substantially. Its gross profits were £10,617 up at £66,732, and as expenses only increased by £2,618 to £35,977 the nett balance was £7,999 better. With £36,135 brought forward, the amount available for distribution was £13,207 larger at £66,890, but the directors write off £18,000 for depreciation of investments, and keep the dividend down to the usual 3 per cent. for the half-year, which leaves £30,890 or £4,793 less to be carried forward. The balance-sheet changes would appear to indicate that the larger profits had been earned in spite of some reduction in the volume of the business. Current and deposit accounts show a shrinkage of £73,267 at £2,203,247, and bills payable and other liabilities come to £42,914 less at £475,389, but notes in circulation have risen by £15,412 to £429,637. Against these specie is £144,153 down at £434,573, bills receivable have been reduced by £10,012 to £913,568, and sundry debtors on current accounts in the colonies by £53,127 to £304,124, while bills discounted, advances, &c., are only £10,107 higher at £886,641. Money in London has been increased by £93,490 to £191,569, and investments stand in the books at £1,114,688 or £16,135 more, but the special reserve for depreciation will now amount to £68,000, and allowing for this, the directors say, the value is in excess of market prices on June 30.

War conditions left their mark on the results obtained by the Bank of Australasia in the six months ended April 12 in the shape of a decrease in gross profits. These were £9,740 down at £409,784, but the decline was greater than it appears, as the figure is arrived at after providing only £12,426 or £15,130 less for rebate on current bills. Expenses rose by £5,205 to £159,024, and rates and taxes in Australasia and London took £10,174 more at £41,982, so that the nett profits were £25,119 smaller at £208,778. The directors, however, had foreseen and prepared for this shrinkage by increasing the undivided surplus at the end of October by £84,406 to £114,575, with the result that they now have £323,353 or £59,287 more at their disposal. Out of this they resume the appropriations to reserve, which were temporarily suspended a year ago, with a transfer of £40,000, and then pay the usual dividend and bonus at the rate of 17 per cent. per annum, leaving the balance carried forward



£19,287 up at £113,353. We were under the impression that the note issues of the various banks were being gradually withdrawn and replaced by the exclusive issue of the Commonwealth Government, but this bank's note circulation has again expanded by £62,906 to £258,793, an increase which follows one of £34,177 a year ago. Deposits are £1,439,976 higher at £20,699,953, and bills payable and other liabilities have risen by £114,104 to £3,159,819. On the other hand, loans at call and short notice have been reduced by £1,770,600 to £620,000, but cash and Government notes are £2,300,799 up at £7,137,665, investments in British Government securities are valued at £1,065,470 or £242,722 more, and Indian Government securities and other investments at £881,146 or £20,518 more, while bills receivable, advances on securities, &c., are £900,185 up at £19,427,303, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £1,696,274 larger than a year ago at £29,151,918.

A great deal of interesting information is contained in the report of the Netherlands Bank for the year ended March 31 last. We have not space to set forth this information in detail, and, moreover, the English translation of the report does not embrace the documents printed to illustrate the progress of the crisis induced by the war. Much of the interest in the report, moreover, is purely domestic, and it offers emphatic testimony to the skill and vigilance with which the affairs of the bank are controlled by its directors, but is not of so much value to us in illustration of the general strain which has been thrown upon credit the world over by the outburst of German savagery. This Bank had to provide for all sorts of demands, although hitherto Holland has kept itself clear of active participation in the war. Such demands for currency arose that small bank-notes had to be issued by the Government; municipal cash bonds were also put into circulation locally to tide over the troubled period, and silver had to be bought to be minted in order to meet the general demands for more currency. Thus "after more than 40 years" absence the item "bullion silver" has again made its appearance in the accounts. No moratorium was called for or decreed, thanks to the skill with which difficulties were met as they arose, but it is obvious that Holland has by no means escaped from the effects of the ravages of wealth caused by the war. The efforts to mitigate the distress of the Belgians alone have heightened Government expenditure, and precautionary measures of defence forced the Government to borrow £22,000,000. The Netherlands Bank, however, is strong and solid. Its stock of gold coin has risen from F. 71,217,000 at the end of the previous year to F. 82,646,000 at the end of March last, and the profits for the year amounted to F. 13,252,561, or F. 4,301,710 more than those of the previous year. Out of this sundry losses have been written off, or assets written down, and expenses met, leaving the nett profit at F. 7,775,348, or F. 708,521 more. Under the constitution of the Bank  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of this is set aside for the shareholders of F. 20,000,000 of capital, and in addition F. 704,788 are added to the reserve fund, which got nothing a year ago. From the balance 3 per cent. is paid to the management and the Board of Commissioners, while out of what remains two-thirds, or F. 4,119,629, goes to the State, and, finally, the shareholders get their dividend made up to F. 96 for the year, over and above the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. first set aside. This is F. 3 less than a year ago, but the total paid, including the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interim on first charge dividend, is F. 131, or just F. 3 less.

It was announced on Thursday that Parr's Bank had taken over the banking business of Messrs. Thomas Barnard and Co., of Bedford, and will in future conduct it as a branch, but without change of management and under the personal superintendence of Mr. Thomas Barnard as local director. The business absorbed is an old-established one, dating back to 1799, and its balance-sheet at the end of September, 1914, showed that the partners' capital was £80,000, while the liabilities on deposit and current account

amounted to £357,902. It also had a fixed note issue of £34,218, of which, however, only £5,670 was in circulation, and this will now disappear. The assets comprised cash and money at call and notice, £131,999, British Government securities £55,360, Indian and Colonial Government securities £50,094, other investments £48,963, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £157,163.

Is not an explanation due by the board of the International Mercantile Marine Co.? It first made an assessment on the preference shares under the re-organisation plan, and thereby caused the price of the shares to fall to about 9. After the bottom had in this way been knocked out of the market, a notification was issued that the company did not require the assessment money, having plenty of funds without it. Those who had meanwhile paid up accordingly got their money back, and the price of the shares rebounded to about 40. In the case of a mere common or bubble company, we should suspect many things, and probably say a few. But with a mighty affair like the "Morgan Shipping Combine" this is not permissible—silence must be maintained—only some people are thinking rather hard, and we do venture to suggest that the board should find out how the mistake arose which has cost the unsuspecting rank and file shareholder so dear. Who, in short, beguiled the directors into a betrayal of the shareholders?

There is an engaging air of frankness about the report of the United States Lumber and Cotton Co. that is quite refreshing in its way. The directors give the impression of taking the shareholders completely into their confidence as to the handling of the business under very difficult conditions, and if they blow their trumpet more than we are accustomed to they seem to have sufficient justification for doing so. No two industries suffered more by the outbreak of the war than cotton and lumber; cotton was a drug in the market for the time being, and the lumber business was almost killed by freightage. This company was strong enough to hold its cotton until prices recovered to a normal level, which has since been reached, and as regards lumber, the directors remark that, while they have curtailed operations, "standing trees will practically grow dividends by the increase in size." Special attention has been devoted to clearing land so that the cotton acreage can be greatly increased whenever the conditions appear to be favourable, and in the meantime the cattle business is being developed on the cleared lands with very encouraging results. The accounts cover a period of 18 months, and an exact comparison with the previous year is not possible, but the gross income from timber, cotton, &c., was over \$100,000 higher at \$1,289,800, and there was practically a similar increase in expenses at \$574,920. Interest absorbed nearly \$50,000 more, and the nett balance comes out at \$566,050, against \$605,620. After distributing \$207,474 against \$242,000 in dividends, \$303,850 against \$83,800 is written off for depreciation, expense of bond issue and clearing land, leaving \$54,728 to be added to the surplus carried forward, out of which \$50,000 against \$100,000 is placed to reserve, and the final balance on June 30 was \$1,085,840. There is nothing in the balance-sheet to call for comment, but the policy of the directors in conserving the resources of the company ought to be justified by events.

The year ended June 30 was an exceptionally prosperous one for Sir J. L. Hulett and Sons, tea and sugar planters, of Natal, but the profit and loss account has been rearranged in such a fashion as to prevent accurate comparison with the previous year's figures. No doubt it could be done by making a series of calculations, but we have neither the time nor the inclination for that. The rise in the price of tea benefited the company considerably, as large stocks were in hand at the beginning of the year, and receipts from this source rose by £19,668 to £55,629. Sugar, however, is the mainstay of the



business, and sales, including treacle, increased by no less than £61,636 to £572,399. Expenses naturally were heavier, £44,530 more having been spent on cane alone, but after meeting all charges, writing off £40,068, or £14,739 more, for depreciation and £12,265 off cost of debenture and new share issues, compared with £10,000 off that fund and £4,000 off tea estates a year ago, and providing another £10,000 for debenture redemption, the nett profit was £58,888. A year ago £11,812 was transferred to reserve and £9,473 was written off for balance of weighbridge claims, and after some hesitation a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, while £6,000 was set aside for Union income-tax. On the present occasion £12,500 is reserved for income-tax, and the distribution is increased to 8 per cent., which will leave £16,287 to be carried forward. Further reductions have been made of £7,290 to £192,700 in buildings and £30,848 to £266,000 in plant and machinery, with the intention, the directors say, of making adequate provision for maintaining and augmenting the efficiency of the mills and refinery and of taking advantage of improved appliances and labour-saving apparatus in order to make the company less dependent upon native labour. Stocks of tea and sugar are £23,282 larger at £98,592, and cash has risen by £19,346 to £19,746, while the bank overdraft of £11,616 has disappeared, and there is a small reduction in sundry creditors at £100,883.

### At Last!

The suspense is over, and brings welcome deliverance—to the Army probably much more than to the people at home, although the Army has throughout been confident and only we were doleful. But the reason why both France and England have apparently marked time for so many months is now surely now beginning to be understood even by the mobs of the Harmsworth Press. As originally planned, our great offensive was to have begun in May last. It had to be put back because we—who, according to the Kaiser, are the aggressors, forced him to arm and compelled him to wage a war of fiends as ally of the most barbarous horde of robbers in Europe—had not provided ourselves with enough ammunition. Men we soon had in plenty, but neither guns nor rifles, nor bullets nor shells. All summer, therefore, we have been making good this deficiency, and now the result begins to be seen. Unless the men in command of the Allied armies of the West had now been satisfied that the supply of ammunition would be kept up, it is to be inferred that their offensive would have been still longer delayed. As it is, it has begun well, and the preliminary defeats of the entrenched German armies have already had a marked effect in raising people's spirits all over the world outside Germany. Apparently the self-conceit of the Germans remains impregnable, and we hope it will until accounts between us are nearer settlement. It is just possible, though, that that Lutheran pastor in Hamburg who has been upholding with due unction the pirate policy of German submarines may begin to modify his views, or at least his language, when the Kaiser's armies begin to roll back, and a permanent tax on Hamburg to help to pay for German atrocities in piracy, murder, and rape comes into view. "The German public," this preacher told his audience, "exults over the deeds of our airships and of our submarines because these at last make our worst enemy, the British Empire, feel what war really is." This from a man who professes the religion of Christ would be disgusting enough did we not know by now that all such manifestations of feeling on the part of Germans of influence and authority are emanations of minds astray. When was the British Empire Germany's "worst enemy"? It is vain to ask, but the language of the priest should warn us to fall into no premature mood of exultation over our successes. It would be a hard task, and a long one, to put this morally atrophied race down, to beat it sufficiently to enable the Powers to disarm it for many generations, let us hope for ever, or at least until such time as a

new mind is created for people now seemingly wholly given over to the devil. At that same meeting in Hamburg a professor named Niemeyer, from Kiel University, is reported to have declared that "it is not only for the seas that we are fighting, but also for the liberation of the peoples of the earth from English despotism," and the pastor who presided capped this by giving it as his opinion that "the right which was born of might has never been the worst right." Indeed a noble Christian! These expressions, though, are curiously interesting because they reveal so much, show us how far we have to go before attaining our end. The killing that lies ahead of the Allies involves the obliteration of two blighting empires.

Meanwhile, it seems probable that our help has come just in time to enable the hard-pressed Russian armies to "make good," as the phrase is, against the insolence in aggression of Hindenburg and other Prussian generals. Every night for a fortnight or more back a tremendous conflict has been raging around Dvinsk, and it is possible that, by his usual recklessness in throwing away the lives of his fellow-countrymen in tens and hundreds of thousands, Hindenburg might have attained his end and captured that town, hoping after that to shut in Riga and make it an easy prey. Valiantly have our Russian Allies resisted the enemy in that quarter all this time and kept him from reaching his coveted goal. The sacrifice of the Russian lives must have been almost as great at times as of German, but the enemy has been held, and now troops have had to be detached from the Eastern front to come to the help of the hard-pressed German armies confronting the French and Belgian trench lines. That must relieve the pressure in Lithuania, and should enable the Russians—who have plenty of men and now, we believe, abundant ammunition—not only to hold Hindenburg up, but to drive him back, and this time, once the Germans begin to retreat, there will be no resumption of the forward movement into Russia. From some points of view we should regret a too early or too precipitate retreat, because a winter in Russia would have done more to rid the world of a race grown malarial than perhaps two years' of active fighting.

In the South likewise the offensive of the French armies and our own will spoil more than one plot, will probably, for example, keep Ferdinand of Bulgaria—who is, by all accounts, essentially a coward—from carrying out his selfish designs, and even impel the Turk to think several times whether it is worth his while to go on resisting in the Gallipoli Peninsula and Asia Minor until even the tolerant British will say, "Begone for ever from among civilised peoples." Austria will not be able now to form an army of sufficient strength to invade Serbia with the slightest hope of success in penetrating that country and attaining a mastery that might make it possible for her to assert her claims to hegemony in the Balkans. The Greek King, too, will either have to go or to submit to obey the will of his people, which is emphatically in favour of active co-operation with the Great Powers of the West in the effort to get rid of the Turk and his master. As for Italy, the heroic, who is—with a patience and indomitable pluck as yet too feebly comprehended or recognised in this country—steadfastly working her way towards the complete deliverance of Italian lands and cities south of the Alps, her task likewise will also be lightened, because in proportion as German troops are consumed by the advance of the Allied hosts in the West, the power of Austria to keep up the strength of her continually diminishing forces in the Trentino will dwindle to vanishing point. The more surely will this be so if Russian victories continue in Galicia, as we have every hope that they will.

In one direction at home the cheering news has had an excellent effect. Recruiting, which had stagnated, and no wonder, during the dark days of hope deferred, has sprung into activity again, and we have no doubt that the greater the progress of the Allies the greater will be the enthusiasm with which men of all classes will now again flock to the colours. But as yet the conscriptionists have not been influenced, if one may



judge from that pitiful exhibition of Captain Guest's in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening. Disregarding the appeal of the Prime Minister, he proceeded to trot out again all the stale arguments in favour of forced service of every kind—"National Service" he called it—and found just the right sort of support in men like Sir Frederick Banbury, Captain Stanley Wilson, and, of course, Mr. Amery. In justice, however, to the House of Commons, it should be admitted that all the men there who, at Lord Northcliffe's bidding, agitate in season and out of season for conscription—for coercion of "labour"—are not of what may be called the Harmsworth "standard brain" in capacity or morale, and it is pleasant to have to point to Sir Charles Henry as one who had the courage to leave the ranks of *Daily Mail* sour hearts and speak up and support the Prime Minister. Mr. Asquith had warned the House and plead with the House to leave the subject alone. "It is engaging the most careful and anxious consideration of his Majesty's Government," he said . . . "but we are at a very critical moment in the history of the war . . . and I do not think a greater disservice could be rendered to this country and to the Allied cause than that at such a moment as this any suggestion should go forth to the world that there is any division of opinion amongst us." Only the Harmsworth type of standard brain could have been able to resist that patriotic appeal. But the country notes and does not forget.

### What About Bulgaria and the Balkans?

An important statement was made on Bulgaria by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, on Tuesday afternoon in the House of Commons. It was obviously drawn up with the utmost care, and is so pregnant with significance, not only to Bulgaria, but to all the Balkan States, that we think it well it should be reproduced here for future reference. Like Sir Edward, this journal has no hostility whatever to the Bulgarian people, but it may be said here, what no responsible Minister could say, that we have all along had an intense distrust of its ruling caste, at the head of which stands the interloping Coburger, Ferdinand. It may be that there are many in this country who have "a warm feeling of sympathy for the Bulgarian people," as Sir Edward phrases it, but with far more it has grown to be a sympathy chilled by the conduct of Bulgaria's rulers. Yet we must not be too hard upon the people. It is not two generations since they were ground-down serfs of the Osmanli, toiling without outlook, without hope. That they should be incapable within the interval between then and now of rising to the self-respecting independence of mind, the honourable straightforwardness, of people long in the enjoyment of liberty is not to be wondered at, and we should not blame them for their crimes and treacheries now, only that they have been the disturbers of the peace in the Balkans almost from the day they were liberated. Those who captured their minds have instilled into them a conception of their position and right in Balkania which is not warranted by the facts; and to Bulgarian treachery, or the treachery of Bulgaria's masters, more than to any other single evil influence, we owe the long melancholy history of Macedonian assassinations, of fights between the Bulgarian bands and Greek, of claims to territory founded on false standards of race, and, finally, that second Balkan War which startled the world by its treachery, and made it regard the aggressor, Bulgaria, with a suspicion not to be removed by smooth words.

Sir Edward Grey quoted some of these smooth words, repeating the assurance given by the Bulgarian Government that it has taken up a position of armed neutrality "to defend its rights and independence," to which the real answer is—there is no room in Balkania for a nation in "armed neutrality." It must be a disarmed neutrality if peace is to be maintained. Bulgarian mobilisation, we have not the slightest moral

doubt, was ordered by Tsar Ferdinand, as he calls himself, with a view to joining the Austrians and Germans in a renewed attempt to destroy Serbia, or to attack both Serbia and Greece in order to clear the way for the passage of Austro-German armies through the Balkans to the Dardanelles and Constantinople. Was it "neutrality" which dictated that pact in virtue of which Turkey has ceded territory not Turkish to Bulgaria, or that arrangement in virtue of which Bulgaria is reprovisioning the Porte? No, no; the whole trend of events, and all that has leaked through with regard to the attitude of Sofia, point to an understanding, if not an alliance, with the Teuton and his Turk. That immediate attacks have not followed King Ferdinand's mobilisation order is probably due to the sphinxlike attitude still maintained by Rumania and, even more, to the successful advance of the Russian armies in Southern Galicia. Rumania is, from some points of view, almost as untrustworthy as the ruling spirit in Bulgaria. Its sovereign is a Hohenzollern, and, naturally enough, sympathises with German aspirations. In three of the Balkan States—Rumania, Bulgaria, and Greece—the ruling caste is Germanic in race and sympathies, and before the peoples they preside over and ornament can be freed to speak their minds and follow the bent of their own intelligence, these Germanic influences will have to be put aside, if not given their *congé*, like an unacceptable Ambassador. Rumania, like Bulgaria, sits on the fence now, but there it is probable that the desire to possess Transylvania and Bukovina will make the balance incline towards an alliance with the four liberating Powers now busy over the Titanic work of destroying two maleficent and anti-humane military empires. Here is what Sir Edward Grey read out in the House of Commons:—

"My official information from the Bulgarian Government is that they have taken up a position of armed neutrality to defend their rights and independence, and that they have no aggressive intentions whatever against Bulgaria's neighbours.

"It would, perhaps, be well that I should, with the leave of the House, explain quite shortly our view of the Balkan situation. Not only is there no hostility in this country to Bulgaria, but there is traditionally a warm feeling of sympathy for the Bulgarian people. As long, therefore, as Bulgaria does not side with the enemies of Great Britain and her Allies there can be no question of British influence or forces being used in a sense hostile to Bulgarian interests; and, as long as the Bulgarian attitude is unaggressive, there should be no disturbance of friendly relations.

"If, on the other hand, the Bulgarian mobilisation were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in

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our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification.

"We are, of course, in consultation with our Allies on the situation, and I believe that the view that I express is theirs also.

"Our policy has been to secure agreement between the Balkan States, which would assure to each of them not only independence, but a brilliant future, based as a general principle on the territorial and political union of kindred nationalities. To secure this agreement we have recognised that the legitimate aspirations of all Balkan States must find satisfaction.

"The policy of Germany, on the other hand, has been to create for her own purposes disunion and war between the Balkan States. She first made use of Austria-Hungary to precipitate a European war, with the result that that empire is now completely subordinated to Germany and dependent upon her. Turkey, whose interests would have been preserved by remaining neutral, was gratuitously forced by Germany into this war, and, having been used, is now being subordinated and made dependent upon Germany, in order to realise the German aspiration of German influence from Berlin to Baghdad. In the same way it would naturally be Germany's policy to use any Balkan State she could influence to further this plan, with the inevitable result that that State would eventually be subordinated to her; and, though territorial gains might be promised, it would lose real independence.

"This is directly contrary to the policy of the Allies, which is to further the national aspirations of the Balkan States without sacrificing the independence of any of them."

### The German Loan—You Could Subscribe in Sausages.

Really we sometimes think that the Prussians deserve a better fate than to be destroyed off the face of the earth. Take away the gore, and they would be the most diverting fellows to be found in all the wide world. Witness that third German War Loan. Could anything be more amusing than its fake up? The problem Helfferich and the bankers had to solve was not merely how to evolve something out of nothing, but how to make the nothing appear to be something before it vanished into space. The complexity of the puzzle was beautifully illuminated by the cartoon of that famous Dutch artist, Mr. Louis Raemaekers, reproduced by the *Daily Chronicle* last Friday from the *Telegraaf* of Amsterdam. A wonder-stricken peasant stands holding a receipt for 100 marks in his hand representing his subscription to the third German loan, and with wide, staring eyes he soliloquises thus:—"For the first loan I gave 100 marks and was given a receipt; for the second loan I gave back the receipt, and was given a new receipt; for the third loan I gave up this new receipt and got a third receipt. Now then, have I got 300 marks or has the State got 300 marks, or have we both got nothing?" This is one way, and a telling way, of stating the problem set by the loan, but it is not quite so simple as all that. As one stern fact the State does owe 300 marks, but every day it is becoming less able ever to pay back any percentage of its debt, and meanwhile it has drained the nation of all its possessions. When the war ends, therefore, the German Empire—and even more, perhaps, the Austro-Hungarian—will have lost not only its manhood, but all the wealth accumulated in the years of peace. There will be universal obligations to pay, and nothing to pay with. The Habsburg Empire was bankrupt before the war began, and the Hohenzollern one on the verge of bankruptcy—its prosperity was a "bluff," like all else about it—so that for them to initiate and sustain a war of far greater magnitude than the world ever saw before has been really a most stupendous feat. But make-believe and hocus-pocus will not square accounts, bluff as you may, and each fresh display of

financial magic only serves to render the day of reckoning the more vivid as an exhibition of war's desolations.

This is naturally by no means the Prussian view. It is claimed in Berlin that the latest German loan has been a dazzling success. The ever-braggart Kaiser cannot conceal his joy over it—from the enemy least of all conceal it—and bellows forth that joy in his usual gaseous fashion to Dr. Helfferich: "I congratulate you on this new splendid success in financial warfare which I entrusted to your direction. The German nation, in full confidence of its own strength, has thus shown the enemy and the whole world that it is for the future united as one man and unshakable, that it will continue to a glorious end the war forced upon us by a criminal surprise, and that it will joyously make every necessary sacrifice of its good blood for the security and liberty of the Fatherland." And he signs triumphant "Wilhelm, I.R.," and looks round like the bantam cock on his dung hillock for the world to admire. Not content with this, after receiving the exact figures of the loan, he sends a second telegram from Main Headquarters to Dr. Helfferich, saying:—"My warmest thanks for the report of the favourable results of the third war loan, which exceed all expectations. They are equal to the splendid victories on the battlefields, and have demanded no sanguinary sacrifices." Well, the victories have really been rather "splendid" lately, but hardly for the armies of this pernicious lunatic.

Not to be outdone, the deft Helfferich sent out through his "reptile Press" the assurance that "the sum subscribed to the third war loan surpasses even the second English War Loan, which was praised all over the world as an unrivalled achievement. The third German War Loan, therefore, is the greatest financial operation in the history of the world. By means of long-term loans England till now has altogether got £925,000,000, Germany £1,275,000,000." Wunderbar! Hoch, hoch! Was ever the story of the frog and the bull more aptly exhibited in action? Have mercy, oh! Helfferich, the hallucinator, lest we die of laughter! Yet is not the man in the right? In one very droll sense the loan is "the greatest financial operation in the history of the world."

But how then was the thing done? Simply enough. We pointed out when the flaming prospectus was issued that most of the subscriptions at first announced by way of ground bait for the gudgeons consisted of debts owed by the bankrupt Government. "You owe us 100,000,000 marks," quoth Krupps to the Kaiser—a shareholder, by the by—"and you cannot stump up a pfennig in hard money. Suppose we take bonds of the new loan for 40,000,000 marks and wait for the rest." And the Kaiser's Helfferich advertised forthwith the two million pounds subscribed, and set his Press tout agoing to work up the furore, which, shriek as it might, it failed to do. It was thus throughout; debts impossible to collect were converted into scrip of the third loan, and as the German expenditure on the mechanics of war—exclusive of the human carrion which does not count with the Kaiser and his brutal horde—has probably been nearer double the amount admitted, it is little wonder that the aggregate subscribed has been splendid. Bosch and Co. subscribed their soda-water, and Tallow and Co. their 10,000 m. in axle-grease. But when we pass outside the area of State creditors the dazzle fades at once. The banks had no more money, saved or earned, to hand over—unless they misappropriated what trust funds were still left in their hands—and as for simple Hans and Michael, well, they, like the Krupps, the Thyssens, the Bosches and Deadheads of all degrees, could contribute in kind. If Hans, the yokel, had just killed his pig, it was open to him to subscribe in sausages. Nothing could be more easy or simple. He parted with his pork, and received in exchange the empire's promise to pay, and everybody is presumably satisfied. "And the power of Germany to continue the war on this kind of 'finan-



cial strength' is not 10 per cent. greater than it was before the loan appeared." It depends now, as ever, on the continued willingness of the inhabitants of the two empires to throw away their lives and to part with all they possess in order that their masters may avert the doom hanging over them. If they decide to continue to the end, to die and to strip themselves of the last sausage, then master and slaves must perish together. Other way of deliverance there is none. The Teuton god has been the machine. Secretly, with the fervid energy of his non-moral, intensely selfish mind, the German prepared to overwhelm civilisation and conquer Europe by means of the machines, his monster guns, his death-dealing weapons of every conceivable sort. Such masses of these did he pile up, such ingenuity and fierce energy did he display in the invention and manufacture of other and still more diabolical instruments of wholesale slaughter, that for a short while it almost seemed as if his faith in his home-made god was going to justify itself. But not for long. The German biped was part of the machine, and as such failed from the first against men, in spite of his mechanically-massed dash and obstinacy. It was really all over for him in the West when the beaten man had to dig himself in. That told the world that man is still master of the machine, even of the human machine. For a time, and for reasons now beginning to be fully understood, the machine appeared to be destined to retrieve against Russia the failure in the West, and we cannot guess how many suits of clothes the Kaiser has got ready to enable him to celebrate his Eastern "conquests" in proper histrionic splendour, for the poor, forlorn madman has not yet got a chance to parade himself in one of them, not even at Lemberg or Warsaw, let alone Novo Georgievsk, the blood-drowned. But the man in Russia has all through been nobler than the servile German machine, and is now also proving himself the master, in spite of Germany's formidable tools. At last everywhere the equipment of the Allies is rising to the level of the work demanded from it, and the power of the Teuton to outstrip them in production is lost for ever. By going on he is merely sealing the doom of the races and nationalities that have been servile enough to leave their destinies in his hands.

Two Scotch "cronies" were returning from a funeral of the good old sort, at which the whisky had flown freely. One of them had imbibed so freely as to become more mixed even than the above-mentioned Michael. "It's been a gran' success, a real gran' success," he meditatively hiccupped, "but whaur was the bride?" "The bride, ye gowk," his companion answered, "there wasna a bride; it was no a marriage, it was a funeral." "Ah, weel, ah, weel," replied the meditative Scot, "aw canna help it. A funeral was't? Ony wye, it was a gran' success." And the latest German loan has been "a gran' success." Although there has been little or no "bride" in the shape of hard cash in it—not cash enough to enable the duped and denuded peoples of the German Empire to get drunk at the funeral of all they have been taught to think their own peculiar glory and privilege.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### RAILWAYS.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern.—After providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks and all other charges there remains, subject to audit, an available balance of £571,875, out of which is paid a balance of 2 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, making 4 per cent. for whole year ended June 30, carrying forward £57,952. For 1913-14 the dividend was 5 per cent.

Buenos Ayres Western.—The board transferred £160,000 from general reserve fund to net revenue, recommends a balance dividend on the ordinary of 3 per cent., less tax, making 5 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £56,202. For the preceding year the dividend was the same.

Central Argentine.—For six months ended June 30 3 per cent. on the consolidated ordinary, making 5 per cent. for the year, and 5 per cent. for the year on the deferred. A year ago the dividend on the ordinary was 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, and on the deferred 5 per cent.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Alliance Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 7 per cent., less tax, on account of year ended Dec. 31, 1915, payable Oct. 8, against 4 per cent. a year ago.

Atlas Assurance.—Interim on account of 1915 of 3s. a share, less tax, payable Oct. 30, same as in 1913 and 1914.

Bank of Adelaide.—Interim for half-year at 8 per cent. per annum, payable Nov. 10, same as a year ago.

Bell's United Asbestos.—Interim of 1s. on the ordinary, payable Oct. 14, same as a year ago.

Clan Line Steamers.—For half-year ended June 30 an interim of 25s. per share, tax free, on the ordinary, payable Oct. 15, against 6s. a year ago.

Ceylon Tea Plantations.—Interim of 20 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary on account of 1915, payable Oct. 29, with 10 per cent. a year ago.

D. H. Evans and Co.—Interim of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 21, same as a year ago.

Federated (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31, 1916, payable Oct. 7, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Galang Besar Rubber.—On the ordinary of 5 per cent., free tax, in respect of year ended June 30, payable Oct. 9, same as a year ago.

Gandy Belt Manufacturing.—Interim of 4 per cent., actual, less tax.

Godfrey Phillips.—Interim of 10 per cent., thus making 15 per cent. to date for the year 1915.

Ivanhoe Gold.—In accordance with the new regulations, income-tax will be deducted from No. 69 dividend at the rate of 3s. in the pound, and not 2s. 6d., as previously stated.

John Barker and Co.—Usual interim at the rate of 8d. per share on the ordinary for six months ended Aug. 31.

Johnson, Hodgkinson and Pearson, quilt manufacturers, Manchester.—On the ordinary of 8 per cent., less tax, and 12 per cent. bonus, less tax.

Kamuning (Perak) Rubber and Tin.—15 per cent. in respect of year ended June 30, equivalent to 3s. 0 3-5d. per share, and income-tax will be deducted at the rate of 2s. in the pound, payable Nov. 11, against 10 per cent.

Lancashire Dynamo and Motor.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (3 per cent. actual), same as a year ago.

London and Brazilian Bank.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 of 14s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 15, against 12s. a year ago.

London Asiatic Rubber and Produce.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual) in respect of financial year ending December 31, payable, less tax, Nov. 1. It has been decided to pay one interim dividend of 10 per cent. on account of the current year instead of two at 5 per cent. as last year.

Lunuvu (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Oct. 21, against 3 per cent. a year ago.

Miller, Rayner, and Haysom.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary.

New England Breweries.—Usual interim, viz., 4 per cent. on the preference and 1½ per cent. on the ordinary, payable early in Oct.

Pryce Jones.—On the ordinary was at the rate of 2 per cent., against 1½ per cent. a year ago.

Rubber Estates of Bentota.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, now payable. The dividend for the whole of 1914 was 6 per cent.

Sapumalkande Rubber.—Interim of 3 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Oct. 20, equivalent to 7 1-5d. per share, same as a year ago.

Scottish Manitoba Company.—The directors have resolved to postpone the consideration of the dividend until the accounts for the full year are before them. At the corresponding date of last year an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, was paid, and 5 per cent. was paid for the whole year.

Straits Rubber.—Second interim of 7½ per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 7, same as a year ago.

Sungei Buaya (Sumatra) Rubber.—Final of 10 per cent. in respect of year ended June 30, 1915, making 15 per cent. for the year, writing £4,000 off development account; income-tax will be deducted at the rate of 2s. 0½d.; payable Oct. 27, against 7½ per cent. for the preceding year.

United States and South American Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ending Oct. 4, payable 5th prox., against 6 per cent. a year ago.

W. H. Chaplin and Co.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year to Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Hudson's Bay Co.—Sir Thomas Skinner has resigned his position on the committee of the Hudson's Bay Co., and his son, Mr. T. Hewitt Skinner, has been elected a member of the Committee in his stead. Mr. R. M. Kindersley has been elected governor. Mr. Leonard Cunliffe having retired from the position of deputy-governor, Mr. Charles V. Sale has been elected to that post.

PORT TALBOT GRAVING DOCK AND SHIPBUILDING CO., LTD.—Apparently the war has brought business to this small undertaking as well as to the larger companies, and the profits for the year ended July 31 rose by £2,403 to £8,251. The balance of £3,454 brought forward was £848 larger, and after providing for debenture and other interest there was £9,613 or £3,257 more available. Of this £630 is as usual set aside for debenture redemption, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is then doubled at 10 per cent., tax free, leaving £985 more at £4,438 to be carried forward. Except for an increase of £8,538 to £11,896 in sundry debtors, and one of £2,106 to £4,495 in sundry creditors, the changes in the balance-sheet are of little importance.



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

A further instalment of 10 per cent. on the War Loan, amounting to about £40,000,000, had to be met on Tuesday, and on the same day £3,500,000 of India sterling bills were paid for, most of which the Money market had to provide as the maturing bills for £2,000,000 were held in other quarters. The turnover of credit was therefore considerable, and its effect on the market was increased by the steady buying of Treasury bills over the counter during the past few days, and to a small extent by the movements incidental to the end of the quarter. Money has consequently been in good demand, and the general charge for day-to-day or seven-day loans has been  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., although business was still occasionally possible at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Some assistance has also had to be obtained from the Bank, which lent a moderate amount both on Tuesday and yesterday.

The discount market has again had to contend against a very limited supply of bills, and with a fair inquiry rates have been inclined to give way. December paper changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., but for the full three months' bills which are now a January maturity, the quotation is firmer at  $4\frac{3}{4}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. With ordinary remitted bills so scarce brokers have been more inclined to turn their attention to new three months' Treasury bills, which until yesterday could be bought to mature within the calendar year, and a fair business in these has been done at the Bank. The India sterling bills were dealt in at  $4\frac{1}{8}$ -5 per cent. Foreign Treasury bills were also in request, Russian changing hands at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., and the new French bills at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., while a demand sprang up for the Japanese Treasuries maturing in February and March next at  $4\frac{5}{8}$ - $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on the announcement that they will not be renewed.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Tuesday next for £1,500,000 Liverpool Corporation bills, of which £1,000,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on the 10th inst. The bills will be dated October 9, and will be payable at six months after date, viz., on April 9, 1916.

Very little business has been done in foreign exchanges, but the New York cable rate hardened to 4.72 on Lord Reading's announcement that the negotiations for an American loan had been concluded. We deal with the terms of the loan in another column. The Paris cheque, after fluctuating between 27.50 and 27.60, dropped sharply to 27.20, and Petrograd and Amsterdam have both been easier.

During the Bank's week ended on Wednesday £1,187,000 in gold was taken for abroad, but £296,000

came back from the country, and stocks of coin and bullion were consequently only £891,000 down at £62,009,000. The note circulation, however, showed an expansion of £1,177,000, so that the reserve was reduced by £2,069,000, and the proportion to liabilities dropped to 24.7 per cent. A good part of the last War Loan instalment appears to have been handed over to the Treasury, and Public Deposits were £7,478,000 higher. "Other" Securities showed a decrease of £3,362,000, and Other Deposits were £12,957,000 lower at £76,689,000, which is the lowest level reached since August 12, 1914.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended September 29 £3,943,349 in £1 notes, £1,214,421 in 10s. notes, and £270,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £2,931,040 in £1, £641,997 10s. in 10s. notes, and £160,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £1,694,752 10s., leaving a total of £72,022,325 outstanding, made up of £52,528,722 in £1 notes, £17,483,603 in 10s. notes, and £2,010,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £443,455 3s. 7d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £20,400,000 in Government securities, and £22,969,280 3s. 7d. at the Bank of England, while £214,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £382,500 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

Business in the silver market was again very quiet, and, in the absence of buyers, the quotation declined to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. The loss, however, has since been recovered, owing to Continental support, and to a fair demand on home account for coinage purposes, and the closing quotation is steady at 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. With regard to the outlook, Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. apparently look for an early resumption of the buying by the U.S. Treasury, while they consider that the withdrawal of gold from circulation is good for silver, owing to the preference shown for coin over notes of low denomination. Continuous support is, therefore, expected from a demand for coinage throughout the war, and when substantial orders like those of the U.S. Treasury come into the market, an advance in price may be recorded.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 1,50,000 in bills, Rs. 1,91,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,84,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 1,51,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 19,20,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 29,29,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 10 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 4,01,362 in bills and Rs. 10,10,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 28th ult. the total sales were Rs. 4,73,73,935, realising £3,156,448, compared with Rs. 5,59,44,861 for £3,733,127 to September 22 last year.

#### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 29, 1915.

##### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	80,267,625	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,035,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	61,817,625
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 80,267,625		£ 80,267,625

##### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 31,286,742
Reserve .. ..	3,777,147	Other Securities .. ..	132,314,524
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	47,467,640
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	191,266
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	116,216,656		
Other Deposits .. ..	76,688,867		
Seven Day and other Bills	24,502		
	£ 211,260,172		£ 211,260,172

Dated Sept. 30, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.



## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Sept. 30.		Sept. 22, 1915.	Sept. 29, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,849,223	Rest ..	3,757,424	3,777,147	19,723	—
22,243,798	Pub. Deposits ..	108,738,385	116,216,656	7,478,271	—
337,287,173	Other do. ..	89,645,537	76,688,867	—	12,956,670
10,671	7 Day Bills ..	23,057	24,502	1,445	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
94,732,087	Gov. Securities.	31,313,057	31,286,742	26,315	—
116,519,799	Other do. ..	135,676,805	132,314,524	3,362,281	—
36,391,971	Total Reserve..	49,747,541	47,658,906	2,088,635	—
				12,956,670	12,956,670
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
34,974,625	Coin and Bullion	31,622,635	32,799,985	1,177,350	—
52,916,604	Proportion ..	62,900,176	62,008,891	—	891,285
22½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	5 p.c.	24.7 p.c.	—	0.3 p.c.

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,187,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Bars .. .. £ 70,000	Saturday—Bars .. .. £ 262,000
Wednesday—Bars .. .. 725,000	Foreign coin .. .. 26,000
	Canada .. .. 6,000
	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. .. 380,000
	Switzerland .. .. 50,000
Nett Efflux .. .. 778,000	Wednesday—Egypt (set aside) 270,000
	Thursday—Bars .. .. 5,000
	Spain .. .. 200,000
	Friday—U.S. .. .. 154,000
	Egypt (set aside) .. .. 220,000
£1,573,000	£1,573,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.  
(For 12 days ended Sept. 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. .. £ 1,902,000	National Debt Service .. 7,709
Excise .. .. 1,034,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 514,133
Estate, &c., Duties .. 697,000	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. .. 233,000	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty. 10,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax .. 1,211,000	Charges .. .. 142,916
Land Values Duties .. ..	Supply Services .. .. 54,513,525
Post Office .. .. 1,100,000	Bullion Advances .. .. 200,000
Crown Lands .. .. 10,000	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares 244,296	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. 271,456	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid .. 150,000	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) 608,000	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)* 15,994,000
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	Issues under Section I of
War Loan, 1925-45 .. .. 30,000,000	War Loan Act, 1915 .. ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	Act, 1913 .. .. 150,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	Under Post Office (London)
Issue of War Stock and War	Railway Act, 1913 .. ..
Bonds .. ..	Under Housing Act, 1914 .. ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Old Sinking Fund 1911 .. ..
East Africa Protectorate	Under Military Works Acts,
Loan repayments .. .. 2,385	1897-1903 .. ..
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Under Public Buildings Ex-
account of principal .. ..	penses Act, 1903 .. ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency advances repaid
China Indemnity .. ..	Ways and Means Advances
Ways and Means Advances	repaid .. .. 316,000
Decrease in Exchequer	Increase in Exchequer
balances .. .. 2,453,340	balances .. ..
£39,926,477	£39,926,477

\* Decrease.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 10, 1915.	Sept. 3, 1915.	Aug. 27, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	42,426,000	41,873,800	42,229,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	237,400	232,400	220,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	13,738,000	11,576,000	11,186,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,047,000	3,854,800	3,975,500
Total reserves ..	60,448,400	59,537,000	57,611,400
10-day bills and loans ..	946,800	977,800	889,000
30-day bills and loans ..	2,417,000	2,283,600	2,131,600
60-day bills and loans ..	3,306,400	3,352,000	3,441,800
90-day bills and loans ..	1,730,400	1,693,800	1,716,000
Maturities over 90 days ..	251,000	279,000	380,000
Total ..	8,651,600	8,591,200	8,567,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,770,400	1,768,600	1,767,200
Municipal Warrants ..	4,742,000	4,802,600	5,161,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. ..	2,675,000	1,552,200	2,498,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,628,000	2,588,200	1,398,000
All other assets ..	768,200	815,000	992,400
Total assets ..	80,684,000	77,654,800	77,996,600
Paid-up capital ..	10,954,400	10,952,400	10,937,800
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	65,610,600	62,463,200	63,397,800
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,505,400	3,534,000	3,347,600
All other liabilities ..	613,600	705,200	313,400
Total liabilities ..	80,684,000	77,654,800	77,996,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	83.6 %	83.3 %	82.1 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	89.6 %	89.3 %	88.2 %

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. 1 ..	275,985,000	155,707,000	120,278,000	—
" 8 ..	255,092,000	167,196,000	87,896,000	—
" 15 ..	254,607,000	180,216,000	74,391,000	—
" 22 ..	239,471,000	184,844,000	54,627,000	—
" 29 ..	250,838,000	207,994,000	42,844,000	—
Total ..	9,920,811,000	11,715,523,000	—	1,794,712,000

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 26, 1914
Loans ..	546,876,000	539,768,000	533,338,000	445,342,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	103,672,000	105,764,000	101,114,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	28,780,000	27,888,000	27,622,000	83,136,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	5,904,000	5,862,000	5,936,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	557,854,000	549,926,000	534,676,000	396,650,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	26,698,000	27,608,000	28,160,000	—
Circulation ..	7,328,000	7,348,000	7,396,000	27,452,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	41,752,000	43,400,000	41,978,000	76,142,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.  
\* Deficit.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 25, 1915.	Sept. 18, 1915.	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 26, 1914.
Loans ..	116,678,000	117,274,000	117,692,000	117,120,000
Specie ..	9,942,000	9,978,000	9,934,000	8,220,000
Deposits ..	121,376,000	121,292,000	121,706,000	115,360,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,784,000	1,726,000	1,730,000	2,700,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 9, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	182,005,680	180,002,960	177,502,360	175,097,640
Silver in hand ..	14,565,840	14,646,240	14,584,840	14,573,040
Bills discounted ..	11,189,040	9,982,960	9,848,080	10,569,200
Advances ..	23,427,000	23,494,680	23,513,960	23,573,240
Note circulation ..	538,332,160	532,383,846	530,681,000	528,921,320
Public deposits ..	2,568,280	4,725,120	3,034,800	2,291,360
Private deposits ..	107,839,600	103,504,720	102,651,960	99,149,760
Foreign Bills ..	66,160	52,400	66,960	62,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £268,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £39,180,160, decrease £271,880, and at the branches to £40,169,960, decrease £242,040.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	122,870,100	122,860,400	122,816,750	85,225,700
Treasury Notes ..	9,194,150	10,287,950	12,479,100	7,646,600
Bills discounted ..	266,343,350	257,622,100	253,370,050	235,607,600
Advances ..	615,900	689,600	638,050	6,273,850
Note circulation ..	277,433,050	278,533,700	277,994,250	199,640,300
Deposits ..	112,641,700	100,465,850	98,401,150	135,448,700

Clearing House returns during Aug. £210,075,490 against £252,034,605 in July.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 14, 1915.	Sept. 5, 1915.	Aug. 29, 1915.	Sept. 14, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	10,916,400	6,854,100	5,942,100	7,142,500
Cash in reserve ..	158,884,300	158,579,200	158,545,800	161,163,900
Gold in reserve abroad ..	5,220,800	5,223,000	3,365,300	17,785,100
Circulation note issue ..	432,000,000	417,000,000	417,000,000	262,500,000
Treasury deposits ..	21,229,100	21,021,700	19,078,100	23,685,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	12,129,020	12,112,198	12,031,367	9,271,841
Bills ..	5,013,160	4,979,713	5,344,538	10,494,720
Note circulation ..	16,290,304	16,224,085	16,169,794	17,271,802
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,005,568	3,077,313	3,473,302	3,486,810

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 22, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915.	Sept. 22, 1914.
Gold ..	3,359,000	3,446,000	3,453,000	2,650,000
Balance abroad ..	—	—	—	—
Foreign Bills ..	3,790,000	3,755,000	3,720,000	1,361,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	783,000	784,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	3,907,000	3,961,000	4,075,000	6,500,000
Notes in Circulation ..	7,865,000	8,322,000	7,893,000	7,257,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,470,000	1,486,000	1,731,000	1,263,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 26, 1914
Gold ..	32,102,183	32,071,602	31,644,337	13,111,042
Silver ..	189,422	173,295	157,511	207,856
Bills discounted, &c. ..	12,831,347	12,640,678	12,313,787	26,084,577
Note circulation ..	43,504,702	43,326,466	43,265,924	36,737,062
Deposits ..	2,440,483	2,341,070	1,758,334	2,728,069



## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 26, 1914
Gold .. .. .	£ 29,674,682	£ 29,638,163	£ 29,355,495	£ 21,949,577
Silver .. .. .	29,602,218	29,528,299	29,480,475	27,524,503
Foreign Bills ..	4,671,232	4,675,071	4,767,095	7,250,287
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,233,956	26,186,338	26,355,941	33,570,822
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,198,766	29,309,164	29,585,373	28,387,040
Notes in Circulation ..	80,914,091	80,863,718	80,856,270	79,432,416
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,403,233	25,330,781	26,059,975	23,028,549
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,082,864	1,143,621	1,330,404	1,488,662
Government Securities ..	3,079,802	3,147,703	2,723,695	5,916,421

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 20, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	June 20, 1915	Aug. 20, 1914.
Total cash .. .. .	£ 57,730,440	£ 57,603,480	£ 55,052,440	£ 49,264,240
Inland Bills .. .. .	26,441,080	27,922,000	35,332,160	33,608,200
Foreign Bills .. .. .	833,000	832,240	859,040	3,257,080
Advances .. .. .	8,640,720	9,143,640	7,764,320	6,309,840
Government securities ..	7,735,440	7,913,400	8,219,600	8,177,200
Circulation .. .. .	110,494,520	111,891,000	115,001,880	83,840,800
Deposits at notice ..	11,506,680	11,068,760	12,861,800	8,127,800
Current accounts ..	17,064,040	17,250,760	19,819,120	3,906,240

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 18, 1915.	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 4, 1915.	Sept. 19, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£ 6,300,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 6,301,000	£ 5,739,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,834,000	5,627,000	5,718,000	2,650,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,651,000	2,673,000	2,702,000	1,231,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,882,000	4,905,000	5,726,000	8,501,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,590,000	15,709,000	15,889,000	15,390,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,666,000	3,455,000	4,073,000	3,481,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 28, 1915.		Sept. 30, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	11.74	11.73*	11.74	11.79
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	11.55	11.60	11.53	11.58
Italy .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	29.95	30.05*	—	—
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	29.47	29.57	29.43	29.53
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers .. ..	34½	35½	34½	34½
Do. do. .. .	Three months' bills ..	—	—	34½	34
Paris .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	—	—	27.55	27.80
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	27.50	27.60	27.28	27.33
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. ..	137	139	137½	139½
Scandinavia .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	18.05	18.25	—	—
Do. .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	18.35	18.55	18.30	18.50
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	46	46½	46½	46½
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	24.75	24.85	24.70	24.80
Switzerland .. .	Three months' bills ..	25.35	25.50*	25.35	25.50
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. ..	24.90	25	24.90	25

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. .. .	chqs.	27.55	27.23	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels .. .	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. .. .	sight	29.60	29.40
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.60	11.53	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. .. .	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12½ d.	12½ d.
Hamburg .. .	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	48½ d.	48½ d.
Vienna .. .. .	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
Petrograd .. .	3 mths	137½	138½	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
New York .. .	sight	4.72	4.72½	Hong Kong .. .	T.T.	1/8 d.	1/8 d.
Lisbon .. .. .	sight	35½ d.	35½ d.	Shanghai .. .	T.T.	2/3 d.	2/4 d.
Madrid .. .. .	sight	24.9½	24.75	Singapore .. .	T.T.	2/4 d.	2/4 d.
				Yokohama .. .	4 mths	2/1 d.	2/1 d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. .. .	4½	4½
Six months .. .. .	4½	4½
Nine months .. .. .	4½	4½
Twelve months .. .	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½	4½
Three months .. .. .	4½	4½
Four months .. .. .	4½	4½
Six months .. .. .	5	5
Three months foreign bills ..	5½	5½
Four months .. .. .	5½	5½
Six months .. .. .	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
.. .. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits .. .. .	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
.. .. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½	4½
.. .. for call loans ..	4½	4½

Messrs. Linklater and Co. state that they are instructed by the committee of the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway to notify that they have extended the time within which bonds may be deposited with the Bank of Montreal until October 31. The amount of bonds deposited to date is £823,700.

The Societa Bancaria Italiana di Milan announces that in consequence of its amalgamation with the Societa Italiana di Credito it will change its business with from October 4 next, be carried on under the title Banca Italiana di Sconto.

## The Week's Stock Markets.

There are no stock markets, and cannot be, at any rate until the fate of the American loan to France and England is revealed. The latest news points to a most gratifying over-subscription, and no doubt the money will be found without difficulty, so that its success should have a stimulating influence on things here. No great business, however, can be done yet, but we should like this week to give a word of caution to that large class of simple-minded investors who are so easily dodged out of their money. From what has come before us in a variety of ways, we infer that the outside broker and bucket-shop keeper is assiduous beyond usual in trying to persuade holders of depreciated securities to sell them now, when at or near the lowest, and to put the proceeds into fresh securities, occasionally good, often indifferent, sometimes rankly bad, of their choosing. It has throughout been the policy of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW to resist this kind of business. Nothing is more easy than to persuade people who are disappointed with the stocks they hold to sell them and buy something else. It is by selling cheap and buying dear that the public loses and the market makes money. This is not a time to sell anything that has substance in it, not even a speculative deferred stock of a British or American railway, because there is no new security obtainable, not even new British Government stocks, that can be expected to advance in price to a degree in any measure calculated to bring back some of the lost capital. Our advice is hold on as a general rule of conduct even to rubbish, and only invest what is now being saved in fresh securities. This advice is based upon the experience of many years. No crisis markets have ever passed through as equalled in extent or devastating consequences the one amid which we now live, but it will end some day like the others, and the first consequence of peace will be a rebound in prices. It may be a feverish rebound, the whole of the ground gained by which cannot be held, but at least tired holders will then be able to save more of their capital than they could do by selling now.

There has been a decidedly more cheerful feeling in the Stock Exchange this week, although, unfortunately for the great majority of members, it has not been due to any appreciable increase in the volume of business. But the long-expected and anxiously-awaited move of the Allies on the Western front, which began so auspiciously at the end of last week, had an inspiring effect, and prices responded gaily, even without the stimulus of active dealings. The conclusion of the Anglo-French loan in New York also helped to encourage optimism, as it will tend to ease the financial situation, and no one believed that the Yankees would not exact the very highest terms they could. War Loan stock opened at 97½ ex and 97½ cum. rights, but crept up to 97½ and 97½ respectively with the aid of purchases by the Government broker. The old 3½ per cent. War Loan was also a substantial fraction to the good, and there was a fair inquiry for several short-dated Colonial issues. New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland stocks being particularly prominent. In the Foreign section Russians made good progress in sympathy with the fine achievements of their troops, and Japanese bonds were in good demand. Argentine and Brazilian loans received support, and Peruvian Corporation stocks were inquired for. Chinese 1912 bonds were bought in fairly large parcels, and they appear to be gradually getting into stronger hands.

Home Railways were able to shake off the depression which has so long overshadowed the market, and substantial gains were marked in many of the leading stocks. At first the movement was almost confined to the lower-priced issues, like South-Eastern deferred, Brighton "A," Great Easterns, and so on, but it afterwards spread to the Heavies under the lead of Great Westerns. The market, however, is still in a rather cheerless condition, owing to fears about the demands of labour, and there is not enough sustained investment demand to keep dealers in good spirits for any length of time. American Railroads continued to advance until the definite announcement with regard to the Anglo-French loan, which it is hoped will restore the exchange to a more normal level and make purchases in New York less attractive. The appointment of a receiver for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad knocked the price of Missouri down to \$5, although the news was not unexpected. Violent fluctuations occurred in International Mercantile Marine preferred, which advanced to 38 on the non-assessment news, but it dropped back to 30. Steels also were dealt in rather heavily, but otherwise the market was not particularly active. Canadian Pacifics were very strong at one time, but close below the best. A decrease of \$1,117,000 in gross receipts for August was converted into a nett increase of \$79,000 by a reduction in working expenses. Grand Trunks were not so



much in favour, although the company was able to turn a decrease of £55,000 in gross receipts into a gain of £37,000 in nett earnings. Argentine Rails were in fair demand on the dividend announcements, which were quite up to expectations. Buenos Ayres Great Southern pays 4 per cent., against 5 per cent., and the carry-forward is reduced by £58,000. Buenos Ayres Western maintains the dividend at 5 per cent., but in order to do so has to take £160,000 from the reserve. Both these companies suffered severely from floods, as well as from the

movement was an advance in Sewing Cottons, for which there was some demand. Armament shares were inclined to dullness, but the Canadian group showed strength under the lead of Canadian Car and Foundry. Dominion Steels also received support. Hudson's Bays at one time rose to over 6, but afterwards fell back to 5½. Forestal Lands improved. Marconis were rather lively in the early part of the week, Americans being especially prominent, but there was a sharp reaction later. Catering shares were moderately dealt in, and the tone on the whole was firm, Lyons and Aerated Breads being bought on the theory that they will benefit from the extra ½d. to be charged for cups of tea. Brazilian Traction received support, but Shawinigan Water and Power eased off a little.

Rubber shares have been a moderately active market, a steady investment demand being stimulated by the strength of the raw material. Rubber Trusts were dull on the somewhat disappointing report, but generally the dividends announced have been encouraging, and investors are on the hunt for high yields. They are also prepared to pick up low-priced shares which have a reasonable prospect of entering the dividend list before very long. Business has been well distributed, but perhaps Java properties have been most in favour recently. The announcement that Rubber companies will be subject to the war profits tax had no appreciable influence. Oil shares developed a cheerful tone on the war news, but dealings were very restricted. Royal Dutch, Shells, Mexican Eagles, and the Russian group were well supported, and Roumanian Consolidated were steady, but comparatively few shares, apart from the leaders, attracted any attention. The total production of Roumania for the seven months to the end of July is given as 1,041,000 tons, as against 1,027,000 tons for the corresponding period.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—During the week business pursued a steady course, attention being mainly centred on white descriptions, while values were kept at a steady level. Cane kinds experienced slow support. Of home refined, Tate's cubes No. 1 sold at 50s.; granulated at 32s. 3d. to 33s.; and pieces at 23s. to 30s., as to make. Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. American granulated, on spot, sold 32s. 6d.; and cubes at 50s. White Java, in outputs, at 30s. to 30s. 6d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week 7,500 tons, against 4,000 at same time last year. Centrals at work 1, against nil. Of cane sorts, Jamaica good mid crystallised sold, 29s. 6d. St. Lucia, mid yellow, 29s. 3d., and Trinidad, good mid yellow, 29s. 9d.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies in auction passed off slowly at about late rates. Costa Rica, fair to good bold, 70s. 6d. to 75s. 6d.; peas, 71s. to 82s. 6d. Vera Paz, fine bold, 85s. 6d.; peas, 98s. Colombian, fair to fine bold, 62s. to 71s. 6d. Futures inactive.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies in auction met a slow demand, but values showed no material change. Ceylon, ordinary to good, 74s. 6d. to 82s. Trinidad, mid, 85s.; Grenada, common, 76s.; Jamaica, fair common to very fine, 74s. to 80s.; Costa Rica, fair, 75s.; Colombian, very fine extra bold, 120s.; Panama, common, 69s. to 70s. 6d.; good to very fine extra bold, 96s. 6d. to 105s.; Santo Domingo, ordinary to fair, 71s. 6d. to 73s. 6d.; Samoa, fair, 76s. to 78s. Curacas, good unclayed, 86s. Privately, Trinidad sold 85s.; Grenada, 84s.; St. Thome, 78s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met with good competition, and prices ruled in sellers' favour, especially for all grades under 11d. per lb. Ceylon auctions encountered an active demand, more particularly for grades up to 10½d. at an advance of fully ½d. per lb. Medium, however, ruled generally in favour of buyers, but good to finest realised full rates. Java sales met a good demand, and prices ruled firmer.

**SPICE.**—Pepper firm, and a fair demand existed. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sold, 5½d.; fair Tellicherry, at 6½d. to 6½d.; Lampong, 6d., sellers. Fair white Singapore, spot, sold, 8½d.; Muntok, at 10½d. to 10½d. To arrive, black Singapore, September-November shipment, at 5½d. to 5½d.; white ditto, September-November, quoted 8½d.; Muntok, ditto, sold, 9½d.; Penang, ditto, sellers, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves quiet, but steady. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6½d.; January-March delivery, 5½d.

Rice steadily held, but business restricted. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 9d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d. Broken C one, afloat, and October-December, sold, 9s. 4½d., c.f. and i., London.

JUTE commenced firmer, but declined later. Native first marks, spot, sold, £26; ditto, September-October, at £26 10s. to £25 10s.; red marks, spot, at £29 17s. 6d.; Daisee No. 2, spot, £25 10s., £25 15s., and £25, c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila parcels steady, but quiet. New graded, fair, September-November and October-December, sellers, £39; medium, near, sold, £36; coarse, October-December, at £30; coarse brown, ditto, sellers, £28. New Zealand slow, but steady. G.F., October-December, sellers, £33; H.P.F., £32 5s.; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Market for spot parcels quiet but steady. Fair T.N. orange sold, 69s.; A.C. free garnet, sellers, 66s. Futures firmly held. October delivery sold, 68s. 6d. to 69s.; and December at 70s. to 70s. 6d.

GAMBIER quiet but firm. Good marks, October-November shipment, sold, 34s. 3d., c.f. and i.

**QUININE.**—Market ruled firm. Continental brands, December delivery, sold, 2s. 2d.

**INDIA-RUBBER** firmer, and in fair demand. Plantation standard crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.; October, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 4d. Smoked sheet, on spot, done 2s. 4d. to 2s. 4½d.;

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	
66½ Consols.....	65x	65	—	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	97	97
— War Loan 3½% ..	92½	92½	—	— 4½%, 1922-7 ..	95½	96½
— " 4½% (£80 pd.) ..	2½ dis	2½ dis	95	New Zealand 4% ..	95	95
69½ India 3½% ..	69½x	69½	92	Queensland 4% ..	92	92
80½ " 3½% ..	80½x	80½	—	— 4½% new	97½x	97½
92 Canada 4%, 1940-60 ..	92	92	—	Union of S. Africa	—	—
— 4½%, 1920-5 ..	97½	97½	—	4½%, 1920-5 ..	97½	97½
92 N.S.W. 4% ..	95	95	—	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5 ..	97½	97½
66 Belgian 3% ..	66½	66½	—	French Rentes ....	67½	66½
— Brazil, 1913 ..	63	63	82½	Japan 4½% (1st) ..	88	89
— " New Funding ..	69½	69½	83	— (2nd) ..	86½	87½
— Chinese 1896 ..	94½	94½	—	Russia 4% ..	73	73
— " 1913 ..	82	82	—	— 4½% ..	75	74½
— Egypt Unified 4% ..	85	85	—	— 5% ..	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	54½	54½	—	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	22½	23½
Caledonian defd. ....	8½	8½	—	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	—	Metropolitan ..	23½	23
Gt. Central pf. ....	13½	13½	—	Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	96
— dfd. ....	7	6½	—	Met. District ..	13½	13½
Gt. Eastern ..	32½	33	—	Midland dfd. ....	56½	58
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	38½	39½	—	Nth. British dfd. ....	15	15
Gt. Western ..	92	94	—	Nth.-Eastern ..	101½	101½
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	68½	69	—	Nth.-Western ..	100½	102
—	—	—	—	Stb.-Eastern dfd. ....	22½	23½
Canadian Pacific ..	165	169½	—	Chesapeake ..	50½	53
Do. 6% Notes ..	107½	107½	—	Erie ..	32½	34½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	94½	94½	—	Milwaukee ..	89	90½
Grand Trunk ord. ....	10	10½	—	N. Y. Central ..	99	101½
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24½	24½	—	Southern ..	17½	20
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	97	97	—	Southern Pacific ..	95	95½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " ..	97	97½	—	Union Pacific ..	138½	140½
Atchison ..	107½	109	—	U. S. Steel ..	83	82½
Baltimore ..	89	92½	—	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	82	82
Antofagasta dfd. ....	124	126	—	Do. 5% Notes ..	100½	100½
Do. 6% Notes ..	102	101½	—	Do. 6% " ..	103	101
Brazil Common ..	6	6	—	Leopoldina ..	34½	34½
B. A. & Pacific ..	45	45½	—	Mexican ord. ....	17	16½
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	79	77½	—	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	160	163
B. A. Western ..	83	83½	—	United of Havana ..	71	72
Bank of Australasia ..	109½	107½	—	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A" ..	7½	7½	—	London County & West ..	14½	14½
Do. "B" ..	94	98	—	London Joint Stock ..	19½	19½
Capital & Counties ..	20½	20	—	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	22	22
Chartered of India ..	52½x	52½	—	Do. (£12 pd) ..	26	26½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	71½	72½	—	Parr's ..	26½	27
Lloyds ..	22½	22½	—	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½
London & Provincial ..	14½	14½	—	Union & Smiths ..	23	23
London & S.W. ....	11½	11½	—	Forestal Land ..	35½	36½
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	—	Furness, Withy ..	31½	31½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	35½	34½x	—	Hudson's Bay ..	51½	51½
Associated Cement ..	24	24	—	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	23½	22½
Birmingham Small Arms	59½	59½	—	Do. dfd. 'A' ..	36½	36½
Borax dfd. ....	25½	24½	—	Kynochs ..	30½	29½
Bovril ..	18½	19½	—	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½
Brazil Traction ..	49	49½	—	Lyons, J. ....	4	4½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	63½x	63½	—	Marconi ..	1½	1½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27½	27½	—	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	24½	23½
Brunner, Mond ..	3½	3½	—	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½
Cammell-Laird ..	5½	4½x	—	National Steam Car ..	11½	11½
Castner-Kellner ..	60½	61½	—	Nobel Dynamite ..	16	15½
Coats ..	48½	48	—	Pears, A. & F. ....	11½	7½
Cunard ..	55½	55½	—	P. & O. dfd. ....	268	265
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	28½	—	Royal Mail ..	80	80
Dorman, Long ..	21½	21½	—	South Durham Steel ..	27½	27½
Eastmans ..	7½	7½	—	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	72	7½
English Sewing Cotton ..	32½	33½	—	Vickers ..	33½	33½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24½	24½	—	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	4½	4½	—	North Caucasian ..	27½	26½x
Baku (10s.) ..	2½	2½	—	Roumanian Cons. ....	13½	13½
Burmah ..	38	38	—	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44	44½
Lobitos ..	27½	27½	—	Shell ..	43½	43½
Malakoff Combine (10s.) ..	3½	3½	—	Spies (10½) ..	13½	14½
Maikop Pipeline ..	3½	3½	—	Ural Caspian ..	14½	14½
Mexican Eagle ..	1½	1½	—	Linggi ..	14½	13½x
Anglo-Malay ..	8½x	8½x	—	London Asiatic ..	5½	5½x
Batu Caves ..	12	11½x	—	Malacca ..	4	4
Bukit Mertajam ..	2½x	2½x	—	Malayalam ..	20½	20½
Bukit Sembawang ..	2½x	2½x	—	M. rimau ..	4½	4½
Damansara ..	2½	2½	—	Rubber Trust (15 pd.) ..	10½x	10½
Gula Kalumpung ..	1½	1½	—	United Serdang ..	9½	9½
Highlands ..	2½x	2½x	—	Vallambrosa ..	13½	13½
Johore Rubber Lands ..	14½	14½	—	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	10½	9½
Abbotiakoon (10/-) ..	7½x	8½	—	East Rand ..	14½	14½
Brakpan ..	23½	23½	—	Gt. Boulder (2/-) ..	15½	14½x
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	43½	44½	—	Meyer & Charlton ..	5½	5½
Cam & Motor ..	13½	13½	—	Modder "B" ..	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) ..	6½	6½	—	Do. Deep ..	12½	5
Chartered ..	9½	9½x	—	New Modder (£4) ..	15½	15½
City Deep ..	3½x	3½x	—	Rind Mines (5/-) ..	4½	4½
Cons. Gold Fields ..	1½x	1½x	—	Rio Tinto (£5) ..	54½	54
Cons. Langlaagte ..	1½x	1½x	—	Van Ryn Deep ..	21½	2½
Crown Mines (10/-) ..	3½	3½	—			

economic troubles through which Argentina has been passing. Central Argentine again pays 5 per cent. for the year, although the published traffic decrease was £275,000. San Paulos were in demand, and there was some inquiry for Antofagasta and United of Havana. Mexican Rails were scarcely mentioned.

Very little of importance occurred in the Miscellaneous markets, but on the whole the tone was cheerful. In the Shipping division some of the leaders, like P. and O., Royal Mails, Cunard, and Furness Withy, received support, but business generally was on a small scale. Bank shares were quiet and rather irregular, London banks, as a rule, being dull, while South Americans, Australian, and Hongkong and Shanghai showed strength. Brewery shares were scarcely mentioned, but there was a little business in Bass and Meux's debentures. Textile shares were quiet, and almost the only



October, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4¾d.; November-December, buyers, 2s. 4¾d.; January-June, 2s. 4d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 4¾d.; October-November, 2s. 4¾d. to 2s. 4½d.; November-December, 2s. 4½d. Soft fine, on spot and near, buyers, 2s. 1d.; ball, ditto, sellers, 1s. 9½d.; and scrappy, 1s. 9d. per lb.

COPRA steady, but generally quiet. To London: Ceylon, September-October, buyers, £24 10s.; Malabar, ditto, £25 10s.; F.M.S., Singapore, ditto, £23 12s. 6d.; South Sea Islands, ditto, £22 7s. 6d., sellers. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, September-October, buyers, £23 15s.; Cebu, £23 7s. 6d.; Manila, £23. c.f. and i.

WOOL.—Good competition was forthcoming at public sale this week for all desirable qualities, but inferior and faulty descriptions moved off slowly.

TALLOW.—Market steady. At public sale, 1,429 casks were brought forward, and 881 sold, prices being unchanged to 3d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 38s.; fair to good, 36s. 6d. to 37s. 3d.; dark to dull, 33s. 6d. to 35s. 3d.; hard, 37s. Beef: fine, 37s. 6d.; fair to good, 34s. 9d. to 36s.; dark to dull, 32s. 6d. to 33s. 9d.; sweet, 38s. per cwt. Market letter unchanged. Town tallow, 35s. 6d.; smelted stuff, 25s. per cwt. Rough fat, 7d. per 8 lb.

OILS.—Linseed firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £27; barrels £27 15s.; Hull (naked), spot, £24. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £36 to £38; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £34 to £35. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), September-October, £32s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £28 10s.; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £31; sweet (barrels), £36, £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, September-October, £23 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine firmer. American spirits, on spot, 35s. 9d.; Spanish, spot, 32s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market firmer. Calcutta, spot, 54s. 9d.; afloat, 54s. 9d.; September-October, 56s.; October-November, 56s. 3d. La Plata, October-November, 52s. Rapeseed: Guzerat, September-October (pure), 62s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 53s. 6d. Cottonseed dearer. London: Egyptian, loading, £10 10s.; October, £10 8s. 9d.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Increased firmness has characterised markets since last Monday, the tone being influenced by a continued shortage of supplies at present and rising freights, business being on a moderate scale and sellers reticent. Wheat: English, both whites and reds, delivered up, range at 45s. 6d. to 49s. 6d., per qr., 504 lbs., according to quality. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, now due, held for 59s. 6d.; and No. 2, ditto, 58s. 6d.; hard winters, No. 2, 50s., ex ship. Plate, 55s., landed; No. 2, club, Calcutta, ditto, 54s. 6d. Flour: Minneapolis, first spring patents, 45s. 6d. to 47s. 6d.; and Manitoba patents, 40s. 6d. to 41s. 6d., both landed terms. Grinding barley: Plate, 35s., ex ship, 30s., ex quay; Japanese, ex ship, arriving, 37s. Oats: Plate, 27s. ex ship, 27s. 6d. upwards, landed. American white clipped (new), 27s., ex ship, and (old) 32s., landed. Maize: Sound Plate, 31s. 3d., ex ship, 32s. 3d., landed.

METALS.—Copper: The warrant market, while irregular at times, has developed increased strength since last Monday, when standard cash settled down at £70 17s. 6d., and three months at £71 17s. 6d. A further rising tendency characterised price movements, and by the middle of the week, in sympathy with American advices, closed at £71 5s. and £72 5s. respectively. Sellers were reserved on Thursday and business was somewhat checked, cash reaching £72 and three months £73. Electros, £87 to £88, c.f. and i. Tin: Moderate inquiries prevailed throughout, and the market manifested frequent irregularity. Standard cash by Tuesday fluctuated to £153 5s., and three months to £154. During the middle of the week a little selling desire of near dates led to a slight recession, while no material change occurred on balance. Values of these dates closed at £153 5s. and £154 respectively. Selling pressure followed on Thursday, cash delivery reacting to £151 5s., and three months to £152 10s. Lead dearer. English, £25 5s.; foreign, September to January, £24 15s. to £23 5s. Spelter firmer. American, G.O.B. (c.f. and i.), September, £68; and November, £62. Iron dearer.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The feature of interest in the market this week has been the irregularity in raw cotton prices after a considerable advance during the last few weeks. An uncertain feeling has prevailed, and the conditions have not been at all favourable to a large turnover in either yarn or cloth. A much steadier feeling will have to show itself before an extensive trade can be done, and the violent fluctuations in raw material rates are very disconcerting. Inquiry in piece goods has run on small lines, and speculative purchasing at the present time seems to be quite out of the question. Fewer bids have been met with for India, and there seems to have been no attempt to arrange prices for lots of any quantity. Some tentative offers have been mentioned from time to time for China, but shippers are not at all eager to purchase, and the buying which has taken place has been chiefly in specialties. No weight of trade has been done for the minor outlets both East and West, but it may be said that South America is rather better than Egypt and the Levant. Some producers of satens have sold rather more freely for the home trade. Numerous complaints are being received from Blackburn manufacturers, and not far off half the looms in that town are standing idle for want of work. It has been rather difficult to secure full prices in printing cloths. American yarns for home use have been purchased sparingly, and sales of any importance have been quite exceptional. Stocks are practically non-existent in coarse and medium numbers, and spinners are holding firmly to quotations. There has been very little activity in shipping counts either for India or the Continent. Bolton spinners have been irregular in price when tested, and demand has ruled generally slow, but some

producers, owing to having recently received delivery instructions on a freer scale, are not so badly situated as they were.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—Refined market steady at late rates. In auction, a moderate supply of crystallised West India met a very slow demand. Low greyish Jamaica sold 27s. 9d. to 28s. Mid-yellow St. Lucia at 29s. 3d.

COFFEE.—Market remains very quiet. Futures idle. December, March, and also May deliveries quoted 36s. 4½d.

JUTE dull of sale. Native first marks, September-October, quoted £25 10s., at which price business done to Dundee in October-November, and £24 10s. Daisee.

HEMP slow at late level of values.

#### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 10 6	2 10 0	Australian	1 3 — 2 8	1 8½ — 2 6
Ditto, No. 2	2 10 0	nom.	Scoured Merino	1 0½ — 1 8	1 0½ — 1 8
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Crabbs	1 0½ — 1 6½	1 5½ — 1 4½
Lytle's granulated	32 3 — 32 9	32 3 — 32 9	Greasy Merino	0 9½ — 1 7	0 5½ — 1 3
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9½ — 1 7	0 5½ — 1 3
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 9 — 2 8	1 11 — 2 4½
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 8½ — 1 6	0 9 — 1 6
Crystallised, West India	24 9 — 27 6	24 9 — 27 6	Cape snow white	1 8 — 2 0	1 8½ — 2 6
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indian rubber</b> —lb		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1½	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe	0 9½ — 1 1½	0 9 — 1 2½	Crepe	0 2 4	0 2 4½
Broken	0 9½ — 1 1½	0 9½ — 1 3½	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Orange	0 9½ — 1 3	0 9½ — 1 3½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 — 2 0	10½ — 1 4½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souehong	1 0 — 1 1½	0 9½ — 1 0	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½ — 1 1½	0 9½ — 1 0	Seconds	18 0 — 19 0	18 0 — 19 0
Broken	0 8½ — 1 1½	0 9½ — 1 0	Steamers, best	16 0 — 17 0	16 0 — 17 0
Orange	0 8½ — 1 0	0 10 — 1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½ — 1 0½	0 10½ — 1 1½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souehong	0 8½ — 1 0	0 9½ — 1 0½	English Pig	25 0 0	25 0 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1½	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft, Sept.	24 10 0	25 5 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0 — 86 0	80 0 — 86 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	16½ — 16½	10½ — 10½
Grenada	75 0 — 82 0	75 0 — 82 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
West Africa	nom.	nom.	English Ingots	151 — 152	150 — 150½
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 — 90 0	72 0 — 90 0	Do. bars	152 — 153	151 — 151½
Guayquil Arriba	88 0 — 90 0	88 0 — 90 0	Standard cash	£151 7 6	£150 0 0
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2½	per cwt.		Tin Plates, per box	17 4½ — 17½	17 0 — 17 3
East India	62 0 — 94 0	62 0 — 94 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	47 0 — 120 6	47 0 — 120 6	English, Tough	£86½ — £87½	£87 — £88
Costa Rica	55 0 — 82 0	55 0 — 82 0	Best Selected	£81 — £82	£85 — £86
<b>Provisions</b>			Sheets	£96	£98
Butter, per cwt.			Standard	£69 12 6	£73 0 0
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	172½ — 178½	170½ — 183½	Native firsts for sh'pmt.	£26 10 0	£25 10 0
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b>		
Russian finest	134½ — 140½	138½ — 142½	Linseed, per ton	£26 — £26½	£26½ — £27½
Normandy baskets	124½ — 158½	120 — 160½	Rape, ref. English	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Danish finest	190½ — 192½	198½ — 202½	Casks	£36 — £38	£37½ — £38
Brittany rolls	15 0 — 17 0	15 6 — 17 6	Brown English, naked	£34 — £35	£35 — £36
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£27½ — £28½	£28½
Irish	98 0 — 105 0	101 0 — 105 0	Ditto, refined	£30 — £36	£31 — £37
Continental	98 0 — 107 0	96 0 — 107 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Canadian	80 0 — 95 0	82 0 — 95 0	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
American	74 0 — 87 0	74 0 — 87 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 4½ lbs., Sept-Oct.	2 15 9	2 15 6
Irish	72½	118½ — 128½	Rape, Guzerat	3 1 0	3 2 0
Canadian	82 0 — 87 0	82 0 — 87 0	Sept-Oct.		
American	49 0 — 88 0	52 0 — 86 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	3 4 1	3 4 10½
Kam	86	nom.	<b>Tobacco</b> —per duty, unmanufactured		
Canadian	74 0 — 78 0	76 0 — 77 0	5/6 to 6/24 per lb.		
Gouda	78 0 — 84 0	nom.	Maryland & Ohio		
English Cheddar	78 0 — 96 0	82 0 — 96 0	per lb. bond	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Virginaleat	0 5½ — 1 6	0 5½ — 1 6
New Zealand	76 0 — 78 0	76 0 — 77 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Latakia	0 4½ 1 0	0 4½ 1 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 — 6 0	1 0 — 6 0
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6 — 2 0	0 6 — 2 0
Saigon c. f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Dutch	18 6 — 22 0	18 6 — 22 0	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130½ — 150	130½ — 150½
Russian	10 6 — 12 6	12 0 — 13 6	Indian Teak	250½ — 600½	250½ — 600½
Danish	18 0 — 21 0	18 0 — 21 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		

SHELLAC.—Market quiet. T.N., October delivery, sold 69s.

INDIARUBBER steadily held, though quiet of sale. Business done in standard plantation spot crepe at 2s. 4½d.; October-December ditto and standard ribbed smoked sheet sold 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot and near, quoted 2s. 4½d., and forward 2s. 4½d.

PEPPER dearer. Black Singapore, September-October, 5½d.; white, 8½d.; Muntok sold 9½d., c.f. and i.

OILS.—Linseed, spot (pipes), landed, £26 15s.; barrels, £27 10s. Hull, spot, £24. Rape, ordinary brown (naked), spot, £35 to £36. English refined (barrels), £37 10s. to £38. Turpentine, American, spot, 35s. 3d.

SEEDS.—Linseed quiet. London Calcutta, spot, 54s. 9d.; September-October, 55s. 6d.; October-November, 55s. 9d. La Plata, October-November, 52s.



**METALS.**—Copper: A firm tone again existed in the standard market and values further hardened, while a fair amount of business was effected. Cash closed 20s. and three months' 17s. 6d. higher since previous day's final. Standard cash sold finally £73, and three months' at £73 15s., £73 10s., and £73 17s. 6d., closing £73 and £73 17s. 6d. respectively. About 600 tons sold. Settlement price £73. Electros, £87 to £88. Tough, £87 to £88. Best selected, £85 to £86. Strong sheets, £98. Tin dealings were on a restricted scale, and prices again moved downwards, Eastern advices showing a further decline. Cash and also three months' settled down 25s. lower compared with Thursday's final. Standard cash sold £150 and three months' at £151 5s., £151 10s., and £151 5s., closing £150 cash and £151 5s. three months. Some 100 tons sold. Settlement price £150. In the East 100 tons sold on the basis of £153, c.f. and i. Lead again firmer. English, £25 10s.; foreign, September value, £25 5s.; October shipment sellers £24 15s., buyers £24; October delivery buyers £24 10s., March sellers £23. Spelter dearer. G.O.B. officially quoted at £70 to £65 according to position. Antimony nominal. Tin plates I.C. cokes, 17s. to 17s. 3d. basis, f.o.b. Wales. Iron firmer. Cleveland cash 64s. 10½d., one month 65s. 3d., and three months 66s. 1½d. Quicksilver, £16 5s. to £16 10s.

### American Business Notes.

It would be untrue to say that we did not expect somewhat better results than have been achieved from the visit of the British and French Commissioners to New York for the purpose of contracting a joint Anglo-French loan there. Perhaps if the negotiations had begun now the outcome would have been rather better. As it is we must accept things as they are and be as thankful as we can. After long negotiations, as it seems to us, the Commissioners have succeeded in making a contract for a loan from the United States bankers and people of £100,000,000 for five years, nominally at 5 per cent. per annum. We expected to pay 5 per cent., but not more. In reality we shall pay almost 5½ per cent., because the underwriters get the bonds at 96, intending to re-sell at 98. Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. and their friends thus get 2 per cent. for their trouble, or £200,000, which looks perhaps an unreasonable commission in the circumstances, only that finance and philanthropy are never bedfellows, and the money has to be divided up among the first subscribers. Some guess that the estimable bankers may even get an extra ½ per cent. on the strength of good war news by raising the price of the bonds to the public to 98½ per cent. And why not? Although the usance of these 5 per cent. bonds is five years, they are to be convertible at the option of the holder into 4½ per cent. bonds of both Governments, payable not sooner than 15 years or later than 25 years after issue, and we hope that France and the United Kingdom will be in a position to pay the loan off in full out of their own means well within the five years. After all, too, the transaction, as we have already pointed out, helps the traders in the United States just as much as the Allies. Driven to the wall, we could have provided all our ammunition without going to America by taking a little longer time—by making up our minds, for example, to endure another winter campaign almost in the passivity which has been maintained on the Franco-Belgian frontier, with few important interruptions, during all the past summer. It was, however, better to borrow, and we begin to feel something of a mental assurance that this £100,000,000 will be enough for the purpose. When things were at their blackest and the stagnation seemed immovable, we thought of a £300,000,000 loan to be on the safe side—though never expecting to get it—but even if we have again to appeal to American credit for assistance we think the terms next accepted are likely to be more favourable than the Allies have this time been obliged to accept. No mention is made of Russia, and no doubt we shall be able to arrange for the financial help required in that quarter without going to the States. For us it is merely a question of buttressing the American exchange, and that almost as much in the interests of producers there as in our own. In the long run it will certainly be the people of the States who will gain most if their fiscal policy should meanwhile grow sane.

Many people are grumbling that the two greatest nations in Europe have been treated with such

apparent scurviness. We are not going to join the grumblers, either on this matter of lending or in regard to the apparent political impotence of the Washington Government, because, for one thing, we have no desire at all that a quarrel should be picked with Washington, and, for another, have learned to recognise more clearly the complexity of adverse influences through which President Wilson has to find his way. Not only is the entire German, or German-descended, population of the United States—a matter of perhaps 15,000,000 human beings, many of them wealthy and influential—out of sympathy with the Allies fighting for life against the Prussian aggressor, but sentimentalists of other races, even of British descent or origin, as a correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* has opportunely pointed out this week, stand either coldly neutral or hostile to our endeavour. They do not understand, any more than our own Harmsworth misguided public does, the far-reaching moral consequences that would follow upon our defeat. But yet for the President of the Republic to assume what might be called a "Rooseveltian attitude" would, we feel sure, prove to be infinitely mischievous to his Administration and to the country. There might be none of that "civil war" the wilder of the Germans have threatened in their truculence first, and now in their bitter despair, but great confusion, social unrest and continual revolts of labour would probably be the reward of the President's stern policy. We are far too prone to forget that the great Republic of North America does not contain a homogeneous people like the French, or even like ourselves in this United Kingdom, where the quarrels between the different nationalities it contains are found to be not even skin-deep when the real pinch comes. The United States is filled with a mixture of races, out of whose union may come a hundred years or two hundred years hence a powerful and united nation, proud of its history and of its ideal, but whose division at present might very well threaten the fabric of the Republic with disruption were a bold line adopted by the President on such a question as this war. For the four years of his office he is in many things an elected despot, but his power for good or evil is limited by the sentiments possessing the mob-soul by whose "vote" he was lifted into his seat.

### Insurance News.

At a recent meeting of the London Insurance Committee Mr. Handel Booth, M.P., declared that the finances of the Committee had hopelessly broken down, and that the heads of the Committee should at once seek an interview with the Insurance Commissioners before every shilling of their funds was absorbed. A committee has now been appointed to interview the National Insurance Commissioners on the whole subject of the finances of the Committee. It is becoming evident that the war will very soon necessitate some drastic modification of the Insurance Act, either in the way of a reduction of benefits to, or increased contributions from, insured persons, or both. The Sanatorium Benefit Fund is, it is stated, without any money at all.

While insurance companies will feel the effect of the increase in the income-tax, the life assurance rebate will be of greater value than ever to policyholders, and by the lowering of the exemption and abatement limit the number of those to whom the concession will appeal should be somewhat increased.

According to a useful compilation made by the *Post Magazine*, the margin of profit made by 53 British insurance companies transacting employers' liability business for the year 1914 was of a fairly substantial character. The nett premiums brought into account increased by the unearned premiums (or reserve from unexpired risks) at the end of the previous year, and diminished by the corresponding amount at the end of the year of account, amounted to £3,697,519. Payments under policies, including medical and legal expenses in connection therewith, after deduction of sums re-



insured, came to £1,801,615, or 48.73 per cent. of premiums earned, while commission absorbed £482,153, or 13.04 per cent., and expenses of management £757,007, or 20.47 per cent., leaving a profit margin of £656,744, equal to 17.76 per cent. of premiums. The number of tariff offices included 34, and although the period under review included nearly five months under war conditions, these companies secured an increase of £113,120 in earned premiums, while paying and providing £98,390 less in claims. Expenses increased by £58,330, the nett result to the tariff offices being an increase of 4.8 per cent. to 20.25 per cent. in the profit margin.

The General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation has been informed by its representative in Mexico that many of the best companies still retain their German agents in Mexico City. This is a state of affairs that should no longer obtain. The General Accident Corporation, immediately war began, gave instructions to its representative in Mexico not to do business of any kind on its behalf either with persons of German nationality or with German insurance or re-insurance companies. The most obvious course for all British insurance companies should be at once to rid themselves of any German agents still in their employ. It is understood the process has been going on gradually in neutral countries, but that owing to the extent of the German ramifications in certain parts of the world, the complete eradication of the German element has not been as easy a matter as might be wished.

The proposed alteration of the articles of association has been unanimously approved by the shareholders of the Prudential Assurance Co. Under the regulations hitherto existing the directors were limited to borrowing an amount not exceeding £250,000, that power being granted originally in 1878, when the total assets of the company were £1,400,000 compared with the present assets of 91 millions. The amount the directors are now to be allowed to borrow is limited to the authorised capital, namely, £2,000,000. The chairman gave as the reason for asking for the powers that should a favourable opportunity arise, the board may be fully prepared.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Some impatience may be felt by shareholders in the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., at the slow progress made by the company and the absence of a dividend (which was 5 per cent. last year) will be sadly missed in these hard times. But so large a proportion of the company's investments must be regarded as in the development stage that some time will have to elapse before the normal earning capacity of the Trust can be ascertained, and although it is unfortunate that the non-payment of a dividend should coincide with a call of 2s. 6d. per share, we may hope that the disappointment will only be of temporary duration. Income dropped £24,155 to £28,237, and with higher interest charges and expenses the nett result is a loss of £378 against a profit of £34,034 for the year to March 31, 1914. Capital shows an increase of £165,125 owing to the half-crown call, and temporary loans are up £160,630, while investments have increased £52,400, properties £158,250, and loans to subsidiaries £95,150. The depreciation on investments was £5,500 less at £193,300, and the directors are doubtless justified in regarding this as temporary, but we must confess that the average cost of the acreage represented by the company's holdings when in full bearing is decidedly stiff at £65, an increase of £5 on last year's estimate. The tea crop from the Sumatra properties for the year 1914 was only 513,390 lbs., against an estimate of 635,000 lbs., owing to delay in the erection of the Simbolon factory and the "all in" cost of this initial crop was 10.66d. per lb., while the price realised was 9.03d., and the loss of £3,405 has been written off. It may be interesting to mention that of the company's investments, amounting to £915,190, about 60 per cent. is

represented by rubber, 30 per cent. by tea, and 10 per cent. by tobacco and other products.

Very satisfactory progress was made by the Tanjong Malim Rubber Co. in the 12 months ended June 30, as not only was the crop 196,552 lbs. larger at 571,538 lbs., but the f.o.b. cost was reduced by 5.85d. to 10.80d. The directors had to write off £4,703, or £4,191 more, for loss on exchange in connection with the balance in the hands of the Antwerp agents, but after allowing for this the "all-in" cost still showed a decrease of 4.63d. at 1s. 3.76d. On the other hand, the gross price was a shade better at 2s. 3.09d., and the outcome was an increase of £15,409 to £26,514 in nett profits. Adding £13,999, or £11,104 more, brought forward, the total was £26,514 up at £40,513; and a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid as against nothing a year ago and 4 per cent. for 1912-13. By an agreement of a most unusual character with the vendor the company is precluded from using the profits from the area taken over already planted for any purpose other than payment of dividends. Profits from the further area planted by the company are as yet unappreciable, but the undivided surplus includes £7,819 from interest earned since its formation, and the directors utilise this to write down the underwriting commission, leaving £7,694, or £6,305 less, to be carried forward. Property account is unchanged at £229,872, but buildings, &c., have been reduced on balance by £2,780 to £27,118, while £24,747 has been spent on development, making a total of £169,008 under this head. Stocks of rubber are £6,030 larger at £19,844, and balances in hands of agents, including £30,021 in Antwerp, are £27,117 up at £52,491, but cash has dropped by £11,394 to £29,403. On the other hand, £19,455, or £16,221 more, is due to creditors and bills payable. In addition to £9,161 for balance of underwriting commission, preliminary expenses amounting to £10,000 are still carried as an asset. For the current year a crop of 750,000 lbs. is expected.

Owing to a further thinning out of its trees, the crop of the Inch Kenneth Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30 showed an increase of under 2,000 lbs. at 255,402 lbs., and as 11,730 lbs. were unfortunately lost in the *Troilus*, the actual sales were 9,893 lbs. smaller at 243,672 lbs. A decrease of 2.11d. to 2s. 0.43d. in the nett price was more than offset by the substantial reduction of 4.90d. to 10.60d. in the f.o.b. cost, and nett profits were £1,599 better at £11,288. Only £125 or £1,194 less, however, was brought in, giving a divisible total of £11,413 as against £11,818, but the directors nevertheless raise the dividend from 15 per cent. to 20. Out of the balance £500 less at £2,000 is transferred to the debenture redemption fund, making that fund £11,000, and £582 is written off cost of shares in the Reko Hospitals Association, but the £2,000 put to reserve for capital expenditure is not repeated, and the sum carried forward is therefore £1,154 up at £3,431. Expenditure on the plantations for the year amounted to £1,159, making a total of £65,502, and the directors announce that the capital account is now closed. Investments on account of the debenture redemption fund were increased by £1,889 through the purchase of £2,000 3½ per cent. War Stock, and another £2,000 has since been invested in the new 4½ per cent. War Loan.

The Bukit Lintang Rubber Estates, which is under the same control as the Inch Kenneth, made a better display for the year ended June 30. In spite of tapping being considerably disorganised by labour disturbances immediately after the outbreak of war, the crop was fully up to the estimate, and 42,135 lbs. in excess of the previous year at 280,725 lbs. The "all-in" cost was 2.64d. down at 1s. 0.36d., and as the gross price only dropped by 0.14d. to 2s. 2.93d., the profits, including £976 less at £1,699 brought in, were £4,428 larger at £19,203. Out of this the dividend is increased from 30 per cent. to 40, £3,000 is again transferred to reserve, raising that fund to £21,000, and £5,403 or £2,080 more is carried forward. During the year £2,264 was spent on the Bamnan division,



making the cost of the estates £41,948. The company has ample funds in hand, its cash having risen by £3,182 to £10,000, while £1,416 was invested in 3½ per cent. War Stock at the date of the balance-sheet, and a further £2,000 of the 4½ per cent. War Loan has since been purchased.

Again the Dolok Rubber Estates has altered the period for which the accounts are made up, from 15 months to 12, so as to make the company's financial year coincide with the calendar year. Close comparison is therefore impossible, but it may be noted that the crops amounted to 140,002 lbs. of rubber and 4,635 cwts. of coffee, as against 90,004 lbs. and 3,733 cwts. respectively for the earlier period. Reductions were effected in the "all-in" costs of 6½d. to 1s. 1½d. for rubber, and of 10d. to 31s. 2d. per cwt., but in the case of rubber the reduction was offset by a decline of like amount to 2s. 2½d. in the price for Hevea, while Rambong realised 1s. 11d. The price for Liberian coffee dropped by 5s. 4d. to 72s. per cwt. and for Robusta by 6s. to 47s. 4d. Receipts from all sources amounted to £25,837, and the nett surplus, after providing for all charges, was £12,263. Adding £7,286 brought forward, there was £19,549 available, but the directors do not even repeat the payment of the small dividend of 2½ per cent., as they prefer to strengthen the company's position by clearing the balance-sheet of all dead assets. With this object they write off £6,948 for balance of preliminary expenses, and £10,480 for the whole of the underwriting and brokerage costs, leaving £2,120, out of which the bonus to the staff will be provided, and the remainder will be applied in reducing the item of recruiting expenses, now standing at £3,992. During the current year the area of Robusta coffee in bearing will be doubled, and given normal conditions the crop is expected to be between 6,000 and 7,000 cwts., while the estimate of the rubber output has been increased from the original figure of 175,000 lbs. to 230,000 lbs.

While the crop of the Seaport (Selangor) Rubber Estate for the 12 months ended June 30 was only 18,000 lbs. larger than that of the previous year, the company was able to reduce its "all-in" cost, including 0.33d. for war risk insurance, by 3.03d. to 1s. 2.09d. The gross price was just a shade better at 2s. 2.67d., and nett profits came to £3,647 more at £15,310. Adding £7,286 brought in, the disposable total was £4,060 larger at £22,596, out of which the directors raise the dividend from 6 per cent. to 7½, restoring it to the level of two years ago, and leave £8,534 or £1,247 more to be carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £3,368, making a total of £155,186, or nearly £87 per acre, which seems a high figure. The company is well supplied with funds, having £41,166 in cash. A crop of 280,000 lbs. is expected in the current year.

**GALANG BESAR RUBBER.**—The Dutch undertaking which works this company's properties was only able to show an increase of 16,364 lbs. at 366,364 lbs. in the output for the year ended June 30, owing chiefly to unprecedented drought and sickness amongst the labour force. A reduction of 0.13d. to 1s. 8.24d. in the "all-in" cost did not go far towards offsetting a drop of 0.80d. to 2s. 1.94d. in the price, and nett profits were £946 down at £8,689. The combined profits of the two companies were £527 smaller at £8,885, and £5,815 less at £2,724 was brought in, while the preference dividend required an extra £795 at £930, leaving an available total of £10,679 or £5,547 less. Nothing, however, is set aside, compared with £8,000 transferred to reserve and £1,000 written off for underwriting on preference shares, and by a further reduction of £1,690 to £2,533 in the balance carried forward, the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 5 per cent. The crop for the current year is estimated at 400,000 lbs. at an f.o.b. cost of 1s. 2.77d.

**BROOME (SELANGOR) RUBBER.**—An increase of 52,439 lbs. to 163,517 lbs. in the crop for the year ended June 30 was accompanied by a reduction of 2.87d. to 1s. 3.77d. in the "all-in" cost. This was sufficient to offset the drop of 2.55d. to 2s. 0.11d. in the gross price, and the nett profits showed an improvement of £2,023 at £5,834. Including £4,734 brought in, the available balance is £10,568, but the directors do not see their way to paying a dividend yet, and carry the whole amount forward. Property account is £5,453 higher at £131,810, and buildings, plant, &c., have risen by £1,336 to £7,354. Cash is £1,023 up at £2,165. The crop for the current year is estimated at 262,000 lbs.

**BANTENG (SELANGOR) RUBBER.**—A satisfactory display is made for the year ended April 30. Owing probably to the thinning out of the trees which is being carried on, the crop did not quite come up to the estimate, but it exceeded the previous output by 30,620 lbs. at 218,465 lbs. The gross price realised was only 1.33d. down at 2s. 1.52d., and as the "all-in" cost was reduced by 2.65d. to 1s. 1.94d., the nett profits showed an improvement of £2,583 at £10,575. Including £4,137 brought in, there was £14,712, or £1,262 more, to be dealt with, out of which £5,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend is raised from 7½ per cent. to 12½, leaving £1,613 less at £2,525 to be carried forward. A further £2,685 was spent on development, making the cost to date £68,870, against the paid-up capital of £57,500, but the company has a reserve of £10,000 and a share premium account of £6,937. Stocks of rubber are £1,616 up at £6,980, and in addition to £3,453 in cash, £19,000 has been invested in 1914 War Loan.

**MERGUI CROWN RUBBER.**—In the year ended March 31, which was the first of the undertaking in its present form, a nett profit of £13,930 was earned. Of this £2,000 is reserved for purchase of lease, £1,237 is written off for preliminary expenses, and a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, leaving £2,443 to be carried forward. The crop amounted to 383,330 lbs. nett weight, as against an estimate of 375,000 lbs., and realised 2s. 1.87d., while the "all-in" cost, excluding 1.30d. for interest and war risk insurance, was 1s. 3.85d. An output of 400,000 lbs. is expected for the current year at a cost "all-in Rangoon," excluding depreciation, of 10.81d. per lb., and during the first five months 126,500 lbs. were harvested compared with 110,398 lbs. in the corresponding period of last year.

**DJABOONG (JAVA) RUBBER.**—This company suffered in the year ended March 30 from severe drought and the failure of its cocoa crop, and also from the practical cessation of the demand for coca. Its profits consequently showed a shrinkage of £2,657 at £1,152, and after providing for administration charges the nett balance, including miscellaneous receipts, was £2,457 down at £335. A year ago £1,000 was written off preliminary expenses and £2,000 was transferred to replanting and depreciation reserve, but this time there is no margin for special provision of any kind, and the sum carried out is therefore increased to £460. The company is cutting out some of its cocoa, and is also reducing the number of Ceara and Castilloa trees, and replacing them with Hevea and coffee. Capital expenditure was increased by £1,422 to £44,446, and a loan of £2,501 shown in the previous balance-sheet has been called in.

**ANGLO-MALAY RUBBER.**—Crop harvested for eight months ended August 31 was approximately 934,712 lbs., as against

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896,188 lbs. for the corresponding period last year. Of this crop 542,902 lbs. have been sold to date, at a gross average of 2s. 2.14d. per lb. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 329,280 lbs. out of 1915 crop, at an average of 2s. 2.02d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 483,840 lbs. out of 1916 crop at an average of 2s. 3.06d. per lb. (London equivalent).

### The Week in Mines.

The past week has witnessed a marked revival in the South African market, led by the Modder group, especially New Modderfonteins, which have spurted from 15½ to 15¾, a new high record. The demand for these shares has been stimulated by the proposal to split the present £4 shares into shares of £1 each; and in the market it is expected that the increased marketability of the shares in the smaller denomination may easily cause the price to rise to £5 apiece if the present development results are maintained. Copper shares have been a fairly firm market.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market the Modder and Far-Eastern Rand groups have been very active and strong. Apart from New Modderfonteins, which have changed hands up to 16, Government Areas have been well supported on dividend prospects, and have advanced 1s. 9d. to 27s. Modder B's have rallied to 5 17-32, and Modder Deeps from 4½ to 5. Strong Cape buying caused Gedulds to rise to 32s. 9d. on rumours that a statement may be expected shortly regarding an extension of the plant. Brakpans have also been bought on South African account, and have now risen to 3 3-32, with buyers at that figure. Early this year these shares stood at 2½. Village Deeps at 1¾, City Deeps at 3 7-32, and Meyer and Charltons at 5½ have been supported. Of the finance issues, Rand Mines have been firm at 4 7-32, and Gold Fields have been actively dealt in up to 26s. 6d. Johannesburg Consolidated, ex dividend of 1s., have been in request at 14s. 3d. Village Main Reefs have been exceptionally weak at 1, on news regarding a serious fall of ground in the mine. Diamond shares have weakened further, De Beers deferreds falling ½ to 9¼. Tanganyikas have been in firm spot at 1½ in the Rhodesian section. West African shares have been quiet but steady.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been a firm market. Utahs recovered the \$1 dividend, rising to 14½, but Anacondas relapsed from 15½ to 15¾, despite the declaration of a dividend of \$1 a share. Mount Lyells at 21s. 6d. and Hampdens at 26s. have been bought, but Rio Tintos have relapsed to 53½, and Capes to 2½. In the West Australian section, Kalgurlis have been persistently offered on the poor position disclosed in the general manager's report, and close at 1½d. Bullfinches, however, have been firm at 6s. 3d. Among Indian shares Nundydroogs have been firmer at 26s., and Champion Reefs at 11s.; while of the Americans Casey Cobalts have been weak at 5s., but Orovilles firm at 14s. 9d. In the Tin group Siamese Syndicates were offered after the meeting, and fell ½ to 2½. Broken Hills have been in request. Norths at 1½, and Proprietaries at 44s., both rising slightly.

### MINING NEWS.

**RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £344,493 and is a record figure, the previous highest being £337,241 in October last. The following table shows the production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January ..	207,903	214,918	220,776	249,032
February ..	203,055	209,744	208,744	259,888
March .....	231,647	215,102	257,797	273,236
April .....	221,296	221,476	241,098	295,907
May .....	211,413	234,407	242,452	290,062
June .....	215,347	226,867	241,303	306,421
July .....	237,517	240,514	249,301	320,670
August .....	243,712	239,077	250,576	316,972
September ..	225,777	230,573	250,429	309,398
October ..	218,862	230,072	247,068	337,241
November ..	214,040	225,957	239,036	311,711
December ..	217,026	218,661	254,687	309,669
Totals	2,647,894	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207
				2,517,578

The number of producers last month was 245 against 228 in July; and the output of other metals was 16,830 ounces of silver, 3 tons of lead, 38,143 tons of coal, 321 tons of copper, 4,271 tons of chrome ore, and 26 tons of asbestos.

**WEST AFRICAN GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The output of gold last month amounted to £139,364, a decrease of £11,022 as compared with August, 1914. For the year to date the total shows an increase of £37,552. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Jan. ..	£ 143,649	£ 128,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262	£ 66,107
Feb. ..	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270	63,081
Mar. ..	153,770	131,392	150,060	114,376	67,673
April ..	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796	70,880
May ..	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678	96,409
June ..	135,289	147,269	125,764	114,697	92,174
July ..	140,290	151,923	132,936	122,800	91,955
Aug. ..	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407	103,753
Sept. ..	—	154,316	132,394	142,397	109,039
Oct. ..	—	159,410	137,153	142,414	109,593
Nov. ..	—	154,674	132,694	137,700	99,299
Dec. ..	—	147,699	127,472	144,382	99,569
Totals	1,148,497	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179	1,069,442

**NEW MODDERFONTEIN.**—The report of this Eastern Rand mine for the year ended is a document of records. The tonnage milled, the profits earned, and the amount distributed in dividends each constitute a record in the history of the company. The tonnage milled was 611,500, an increase of 101,200; the yield declined from 38s. 10d. to 38s. 3d., but as costs declined 1s. to 15s. 11d. the net profits rose by 5d. to 22s. 4d. per ton. The working profit was £683,450 against £559,214, and the net profit was £692,126, an increase of £134,549. After deducting the dividend, which is raised from 30 to 3¼ per cent., the sum carried forward is increased from £230,114 to £353,182. The payable ore reserves are estimated at 6,010,800 tons, averaging 8.15 dwts.; a year ago the reserves were estimated at 6,334,500 tons, averaging 8.4 dwts, but this figure included partially developed ore in certain sections which are excluded now, but which stand at over a million tons. The new plant with a monthly capacity of 40,000 tons will not be completed for about two years, but the existing plant will, it is expected, maintain, with technical improvements, the present profits with comparative ease.

**CROWN RESERVE MINES.**—The directors of the Crown Reserve Mines have discontinued the payment of dividends. This decision is attributed to the disappointing results obtained from de-watering the Kerr Lake, which up to the present has not revealed any appreciable ore deposits. This company is one of the Canadian silver concerns whose shares advanced to a great height on vigorous speculation at the time of the Ontario boom.

**AMALGAMATED ZINC.**—The report for the half-year to June 30 states that 156,196 tons of tailings were treated, producing 43,468 tons of zinc concentrates and 420 tons of lead concentrates. With zinc at £21 a ton the working profit is £23,371. The net profit is £22,000, less £5,000 written off for depreciation; but adding £96,335 the amount available is £113,335, which is carried forward. Sales of 70,000 tons of concentrates when completed will increase the profits on the past 12 months' production by £155,000. In the last six months of 1914 the working profit was £36,914, and the net profit £28,302.

**MUNGANA MINING.**—The report for the year to March 31 states that the Chillagoe smelters suspended operations in February, 1914, pending the development of the coalfield, which would enable smelting costs to be reduced. The war had further delayed the resumption of smelting, so with no other market for its ore the directors had to suspend ore production and confine operations to development work. In order to conserve its resources the company has now closed down its mines pending the resumption of smelting.

### What Balance Sheets Tell.

#### STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

No profit and loss is submitted at this time, but the directors, in declaring the usual interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, state that the investments have been written down to their lowest ascertainable value. The balance-sheet shows increases of £3,200,751 to £24,761,236 in deposit and current accounts, and of £151,847 to £1,221,080 in the note circulation, while drafts outstanding have been reduced by £48,390 to £1,009,991, and customers' bills for collection are £389,570 down at £2,300,719. Cash and money at call and short notice come to £8,362,390, or £1,724,779 more, in addition to which remittances in transit amount to £750,873, and native gold on hand is valued at £66,809. Bills discounted and advances have risen by £1,874,748 to £14,539,449 and investments are £488,666 up at £3,132,031, but bills come to £993,224 less at £3,045,371. No returns have been received from the Hamburg agency since June 30, 1914, and pending their receipt £76,980 is carried in suspense account. Bank premises in South Africa and Hamburg stand at £472,682, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £32,841,551.

#### ULSTER BANK, LTD.

An improvement of £7,494 to £130,484 in the nett profits for the year ended August 31 was neutralised by the smaller balance



brought forward, and the disposable total of £146,025 was £3,066 down. Two dividends aggregating 21¼ per cent. have been paid as against 20 per cent., but the distribution is this time less tax instead of tax free, and requires only £95,589, or £4,411 less. Out of the balance an additional £10,000 at £35,000 is written off investments, but the bonus of 10 per cent. to the staff, which a year ago took £7,550, is not repeated, nor is any contribution made to the National Relief Fund compared with £1,000, so that the surplus carried forward is only reduced by £105 to £15,436. Deposit and current accounts have risen by £724,292 to £10,553,480, notes in circulation are £493,315 up at £1,709,803, and bills for collection £6,947 up at £148,583. The whole of these additional resources are represented by cash or securities, investments in Government stocks having been increased by £1,932,360 to £2,831,632 through the purchase of £1,932,045 War Loan stocks, and Colonial Government and other securities by £81,346 to £2,065,966. Cash and balances with London bankers come to £2,758,126, or £194,223, but bills discounted, advances to customers, and short loans on securities, &c., have been reduced by £1,193,480 to £5,971,577.

#### BELFAST BANKING CO., LTD.

A reduction of £5,024 to £70,958 is shown in the nett profits for the year ended July 31, and with a smaller balance of £46,729 brought in the amount available for distribution is £6,097 down at £117,687. The dividends are maintained at 20 per cent. on the "old" shares and 8 per cent. on the "new" shares, but as they are to be paid now and in future less income-tax instead of tax free, the directors have added a half-yearly bonus of 5d. per "old" share and 2d. per "new" share as a set off. Out of the surplus £25,000 or £5,000 more is transferred to investment reserve, and £5,350 has been distributed to the staff as a war bonus in order to meet, as far as possible, the extra burden caused by the great increase in the cost of living. Nothing is put to the superannuation fund, which was brought up to £30,000 by last year's appropriation of £2,055, and the sum carried forward is reduced by £13,182 to £33,546. Notes in circulation show an expansion of £330,080 at £986,368, and current and deposit accounts have risen by £309,500 to £6,945,533. Investments are £1,331,629 up at £2,817,235, the bank having subscribed on its own behalf for War Loan stocks to the extent of £1,484,400, but cash and balances in London are £410,891 down at £1,617,206, and bills discounted, advances, &c., have been reduced by £296,682 to £4,485,378.

#### LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING CO.

Many misfortunes afflicted this company in the first 14 months of its existence in its present form, but it seems to have prospered in spite of them. The directors say that six of the vessels were on time charter at a remunerative rate fixed some months before the war, and they were consequently unable to take full advantage of the high freights which have ruled since. Of the steamers not on time charter two were laid up for over four months through being damaged, and a third was sunk by the Germans, while another, which was bought to replace it, shared the same fate. Notwithstanding this series of calamities, the profits for the period from June 5, 1914, to July 31 last amounted to £130,588, and after providing for debenture and other interest and administration charges, £9,000 is set aside for debenture redemption, £25,000 is transferred to a contingency fund, and £20,000 to general reserve, and £5,500 is written off underwriting and formation expenses. The balance available for distribution is £54,267, out of which the participating preference shares get 4½ per cent. in addition to their fixed dividend of 7 per cent., and the ordinary shares, which all went to the vendors, are given a dividend of 27 per cent., leaving £2,546 to be carried forward. Additions to the fleet, less amounts recovered for vessels lost and sold, cost £68,822, making a total of £466,822, and on this huge total the only provision for depreciation is the £9,000 set aside for debenture redemption. No wonder the auditors only certify the accounts as correct, subject to this sum being adequate. Underwriting and preliminary expenses still to be written off come to £31,228, debtors owe £76,574, balances on uncompleted voyages amount to £11,995, average accounts outstanding to £13,371, while the company has £14,223 in cash. On the other hand, in addition to the share capital of £250,000 and an outstanding debenture debt of £191,015, the company owes £19,000 on loans, £50,632 on bills payable, and £27,372 to sundry creditors.

#### BACKUS AND JOHNSTON'S BREWERY CO., LTD.

In the year ended March 31 this Peruvian undertaking was adversely affected, on the one hand, by the interference with and delay in shipment of brewing and other materials from Europe, and, on the other, by the commercial depression in Peru. Profits were consequently £3,280 lower at £17,888, and after meeting London office charges and interest, writing off £3,000 for depreciation, against £1,209 for discount on debenture stock, and providing £1,593 for loss on exchange, the disposable surplus was only £4,863, or a decrease of £7,286. This is just sufficient to meet the interest on the 7 per cent. income debenture stock and leave £2,627 to be carried forward, as against £2,314 brought in, so, for the first time since 1906-7 the ordinary shares, which got 7 per cent. for each of the two preceding years, have now to go without a dividend. Property and goodwill account is £10,124 up at £207,841, after deducting depreciation; but stocks, plant, &c., have been reduced by £6,695 to £49,890. Debtors owe £4,686 less at £11,499, and cash and bills are £4,732 down at £11,208, while a reduction of £6,082 to £2,853 in bills payable is more than offset by a

loan of £5,000 from the bankers and an increase of £2,479 to £9,730 in sundry creditors.

#### NEW-HUDSON CYCLE CO., LTD.

Government work no doubt contributed largely to the recovery shown in the results for the 12 months ended August 31. Trading profits improved by £24,078 to £38,977, and although expenses include £1,601 for payments to dependents of employees who have enlisted, there was a saving in other directions, and the disposable total, including £1,801 more at £7,273 brought in, was £26,021 up at £35,107. A dividend of 10 per cent., or the same as two years ago, is paid on the ordinary shares, which also get a bonus of 10 per cent. as against 20 per cent. in 1912-13, when, however, it was applied in payment of the final instalments on the new shares. Out of the balance £10,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £25,000, and £4,136, or £3,137 less, is carried forward. Current liabilities are £5,244 higher at £51,758, but the bank loan of £16,167 has been paid off, while, on the other hand, reductions of £12,634 to £50,955 in stocks and £6,489 to £35,122 in sundry debtors are offset by an increase of £39,097 to £44,407 in cash and bills.

#### ALLIANCE AND DUBLIN CONSUMERS' GAS CO.

Receipts from sales of gas in the half-year ended June 30 were £1,388 down as the result of a decrease of 5,121,150 cubic feet in the quantity, but there was a satisfactory improvement in residuals, with the result that the gross revenue was £9,194 up at £165,525. At the same time expenses were substantially lower, thanks to a smaller coal bill and to reduced expenditure on repairs, &c., and nett profits were £35,398 better at £59,340. After providing for interest on debenture stock and temporary loans, £4,083 is written off capital account and £8,120 is transferred to the special purposes fund. To the balance of £38,268 is added £12,145 brought forward, and the maximum statutory dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. is paid on the consolidated ordinary stock, as against nothing a year ago, leaving £10,663 to be carried forward. The debit balance on capital account has been reduced by £6,065 to £50,946, and bank overdrafts are £11,560 down at £42,193.

#### METROPOLITAN GAS CO. (MELBOURNE).

A considerable business is done by this undertaking, which has a paid-up capital of £907,210 and a debenture debt of equal amount, together with a premium capital of £513,745. In the half-year ended June 30 the sales of gas increased by 116,283,000 cubic feet to 1,466,552,000 cubic feet, and the total income was £24,395 larger at £386,226. Expenses, however, increased under all heads, and after providing for special contributions to various war funds, &c., the available surplus, including £33,521 less at £30,075 brought in, was £24,433 smaller at £157,762. Of this an extra £1,000 at £27,000 is transferred to reserve, £3,000 is again written off gas stoves, &c., account, and £8,812 is put to capital account compared with £3,000 to meter renewals account. The dividend of 6s. 6d. per £5 share is then repeated, but takes £3,250 more owing to fresh capital having been raised, and the balance carried forward is therefore reduced by £34,037 to £36,639. Capital expenditure for the half-year amounted to £17,753, but £8,812 was written off as above noted for plant condemned as useless, and as £147,210 was received the debit balance is now only £6,835. Thanks to the fresh money, current liabilities are £57,333 down at £182,186, and bank overdrafts have been reduced by £13,972 to £11,631.

#### BUXTON LIME FIRMS CO., LTD.

It is something to the good that in a trying year like that ended June 30 this company was able to maintain its profits at about the same level as for the preceding 12 months. After writing off £13,520, or only £50 less, for depreciation, &c., the nett balance, including £9,395 more at £9,583 brought in, was £9,619 up at £28,557. The outlook at the close of 1913-14 was so uncertain that the directors paid no final dividend, and shareholders had to be content with the interim distribution at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, but dividends aggregating 4½ per cent. are now paid for the past year, and the sum carried out is reduced by £2,076 to £7,507. Additions to the property cost £24,531, and on balance this item is £10,250 higher at £694,445, against which the reserve stands at £86,025, and is all in the business. Stocks come to £5,229 less at £28,212, but debtors have risen by £3,097 to £80,916, and the small bank overdraft has given place to £5,495 in cash, while current liabilities are £3,328 up at £69,570.

#### DOEUILLET, LTD.

The war has naturally had the effect of stopping this company's business in Paris, and its London house has evidently also suffered severely, although the directors state that the receipts on this side were, under the circumstances, satisfactory. For the year ended June 30 there was a trading loss of £11,197 as against a profit of £32,347 in the previous 12 months, and although nothing is provided compared with £2,000 for bad debt reserve, and £3,500 for depreciation, the nett result after meeting fixed charges was a debit balance of £16,933, which is reduced to £15,425 by the sum brought forward. A year ago £6,000 was also transferred to reserve, and after paying 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares £2,176 went to the holders of the £2,500 of deferred shares. Stocks are never an important item, and have been reduced by £622 to £2,816, but sundry debtors owe £23,980 less at £55,162, and cash is £5,101 down at £15,525, while £2,396 less at £14,162 is due to sundry creditors. Expenditure on the new premises in Paris has risen by £4,840 to £11,682.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## THE SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON CO., LTD.

## REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING.

The shareholders of this company held their annual meeting at Sheffield on Monday, September 27, the directors present being Mr. Frederick Fowler, Right Hon. Lord Aberconway, P.C., Mr. W. H. McConnel, Sir Henry Norman, Bart., M.P., Mr. M. Deacon and Mr. W. B. M. Jackson, with the secretary, Mr. T. E. Haslam.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report, said the profit was £168,375, as compared with £217,092 in the previous year. The profit would have been larger but for the war, which, of course, had upset everything. Many things had conspired to reduce the profit. In the first place, the men did not work so well, and they got such high wages that they could afford to play at the end of the week.

Recent legislation had also added greatly to the cost of coal production, so that there was not the same margin of profit. As to the future, he apprehended that soon after the war there would be some activity in reconstruction work, but there would be no enterprise and no great activity of trade, in his opinion, for a long time, probably years after the cessation of hostilities.

He thought that the price of coal would keep up, at any rate during the war, but the high cost of production would also keep up, so that the margin of profit would probably not be very seriously different from what it was at present. The coal at the new colliery at Rossington, in which the company were largely interested, had proved to be six feet thick and of good quality. The leases in connection with the new Firbank colliery were now mostly arranged, and it had also been arranged with the railway companies to make a branch line to the colliery site.

Lord Aberconway, who seconded, said that those who had read in the newspapers of the high price of coal might have expected a larger profit and perhaps a better dividend, but he thought that those who had looked at the balance-sheets of other companies would agree with him that so far from colliery concerns having made larger profits during the war, in nearly every case they had been smaller than for the year preceding it. He was interested, as a director, in at least fifteen very important collieries, and what had happened in the case of Sheepbridge had happened in every other case without exception. The profits for the year down to the end of last June were less than for the corresponding year 1913-14.

While prices were, no doubt, at a higher level now than they were six or twelve months ago, costs had very materially risen, and were likely to rise still more, and the effect of legislation in cutting down prices at the pit and restricting the export of coal to neutral countries would, of course, be to reduce the margin of profit to the coalowner. He admitted that the public had had to pay high prices for fuel, but the profits had not gone to the coalowner. The coal merchant had had his share, the miners had had large increases in wages, and everybody who supplied stores to collieries had also had his share.

The really important point to consider was the position of the coal trade as affecting the finances of the country during the war. The Sheepbridge group formed a very important element in the production of coal, and their turnover had been much reduced. Coal, pig-iron, ironstone—everything except finished iron—had shown a reduction in output. That naturally meant a smaller profit. The capacity for production had enormously diminished during the war. From Sheepbridge and its subsidiary concerns 2,350 of their best men had enlisted, and what was true of Sheepbridge was true of every colliery in the country.

He was sorry to say that the men who remained at home had not always worked their best. Higher wages in the coal trade did not, apparently, mean better work.

How was this shortage of output affecting our national finances? Italy, Egypt and the Argentine were some of our best customers for coal, and if collieries had worked to the fullest extent we should have been able to sell to these countries as much as in the previous year. Instead of that, we had not been able to deliver the coal. Altogether in those three countries alone our sales had been reduced by four million tons, which meant a serious loss to this country.

When they considered the difficulty we were in in paying huge sums to the United States, and sending gold to buy the munitions of war, was it not the duty of every Englishman to work his level best to promote our exports? The coal question was not merely one for their own pockets; it affected the financial position of the country.

Looking at the finances of the Sheepbridge Co., they had to look forward to further expenditure at Rossington, Firbank and Glapwell, and also in connection with the Newstead colliery, but with the funds already in hand and the further amount to come in next year from the new shares they were in a strong position to face the future.

His lordship then referred to the tax on war profits, saying that no one could complain of the policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, like all other Englishmen, they must put their hands in their pockets to carry the war through to a successful conclusion; but it must be remembered that the reduction in the exports of coal due to the withholding of licences has thrown a considerable quantity of coal back on the market, and, finally, the price of coal is limited by the new Act of Parliament. He only hoped that by the men working their very

best and endeavouring to increase the output they would assist the national finances as far as possible.

The report was adopted, and a dividend of 15 per cent. agreed to.

Lord Aberconway and Mr. W. H. McConnel were re-elected directors, and Messrs. Alfred Tongue and Co. were re-elected auditors.

## THE PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON CO.

The forty-second annual meeting of the shareholders of the Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., was held at the company's office, Bewsey Road, Warrington, on Wednesday. Sir J. S. Harwood Banner, M.P. (chairman of the board of directors) presided.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When we met last year we had only a short experience of the war, and it was difficult to appreciate the position in all its bearings. We were led to believe that the war might mean a possibility of capturing Germany's foreign trade, and that it would be possible to carry on business as usual. Twelve months have passed, and put an end to any such suggestions, and I think all of us feel that while it is important, if possible, to keep up the export trade so as to earn money to pay for imports, yet the most important matter is the energy and determination with which all manufacturers should work for war purposes only, and give all the means at their disposal to that end. First of all, I should like to tell you that from our works over 3,100 men have joined his Majesty's forces. Now, as regards the profit and loss account and the disposal of the balance of profit, you will probably ask why we starved you by declaring no interim dividend to the ordinary shareholders in March last, and also why we increased the transfer to reserve by so large a sum as £47,500, the largest transfer ever made in the history of the company. Well, as regards the first question, our trading to December 31 was most unsatisfactory. Coal, notwithstanding what has been stated in the Press, was almost unsaleable. We were only able to find three days a week work for our miners during the greater part of the period, and we were burdened with heavy contracts at unremunerative prices, together with an increased cost of production. The iron trade was burdened by contracts of a similar nature on sales made, based on material to be supplied before the war at low prices. These purchases were mainly made from Germany, and when the war intervened we were both denuded of our ordinary supplies, and also when purchasing elsewhere obliged to pay prices which left the contracts we had made for delivery of the finished articles most unprofitable. We were luckier than most manufacturers in not having to shut down our works, and we began at once to feel the benefit of our investment in the Partington Steel and Iron Co., Ltd., from whom we were able to obtain stocks to fill up the void produced by the war with Germany, and to continue our business. This was most important for both our works and also our men, but the result of the half-year arising from the prices at which our old contracts were made was unsatisfactory, and when the balance was struck to December 31 last the directors felt that they were not justified with the uncertainty to face during the remaining six months of the year in declaring an ordinary dividend. No doubt you will have all excused the omission when you have received the satisfactory dividend of 7½ per cent. which we are now paying out of the full 12 months' trading. As regards the second question, why we have transferred so large a sum as £47,500 to reserve instead of increasing the dividend, several reasons have induced us to adopt this figure; principally we have to face the great uncertainty which will arise about business at the close of the war, and we consider that we ought to build up a strong reserve to face the position at that time in case of difficulty. Now as regards our allied works, I think I may reasonably congratulate the shareholders on the splendid property they possess in their holding of the ordinary shares of the Partington Steel and Iron Co., Ltd. That company was projected and promoted by the board with the sole object of safeguarding the supplies of raw material for the parent company against the dangerous uncertainty inseparable from dependence on German importations, and it is a matter of satisfaction to the directors that not only has this object been amply achieved in the present crisis, but the works have served a great national purpose in producing a continuous supply of shell steel for months past for war purposes, first for the French, and then for both French and British Armies. In the coal trade production has decreased over 10 per cent., while wages and the cost of material was largely increased, with the result that our profits are less by one-half of the profits of 1913, and £10,000 less than the profits of last year. Our trading this year will be affected by the Coal Prices Limitation Bill and by the pre-war contracts having run off, and as for the year under review our profits were barely 6d. per ton on the output, we can do well with an improvement. Rylands Brothers' works were for the first half-year of the year affected by pre-war contracts and difficulties in obtaining supplies. The improvement in the latter half of the year had a good deal of leeway to make up, and we have been fortunate in doing so. Now you may say that you expect me to indicate the probable results of the present year, and this is a difficult question. In the first place, a great deal of our work will arise from employment by the British Government and the Allied Governments. In the next place, if our profits exceed the basis on which we have paid income-tax this year, the Exchequer will take one-half of them, and, as I have told you, in the case of



Rylands Brothers, which has been included in the munitions area, 80 per cent. And, lastly, there is the uncertainty as regards the war. I am sure you will be the last to complain of the tax on war profits, whether it be, as at present, 50 per cent., or whether it has to be increased to 100 per cent. Sacrifice is demanded all round, and thousands who are shedding their blood are making greater sacrifices than we are; but barring any unforeseen accidents, I should quite hope that we might reach the basis on which we are this year paying income-tax, namely, the basis of 1913, when we distributed a dividend of 8 per cent. I think we should hardly give you as much, because of the necessity of improving our reserves and what proportion of the 8 per cent. you would have to spend as actual cash I cannot tell, as income-tax may absorb a large proportion of the profits available for dividend.

Mr. John J. Bleckly seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### MINING RETURNS.

Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary.—Output four weeks Sept. 22:—Silver, 296,023 ozs.; lead, 6,975 tons; antimonial lead, 59 tons; spelter, 372 tons.

Mount Morgan.—17,349 tons Mount Morgan ore, 3,121 tons Many Peak ore, 2,728 tons concentrates, and 104 tons of secondary products produced 540 tons pure copper and 8,135 ozs. gold, including 57 tons of copper and 21 ozs. gold from Many Peaks. Also 17 tons copper only from secondary products. Concentrator treated 12,940 tons ore, from which 3,808 tons concentrates were produced, containing 241 tons copper and 2,318 ozs. gold. Continuing valuation copper at £55 per ton, estimated value £63,966. In addition, production have matte on hand containing 108 tons copper and 1,215 ozs. gold. Contributing causes low production were low grade ore mined for period and mishap converter crane.

North Broken Hill.—1,215 tons concentrates, containing 717 tons 9 cwt. lead and 25,029 ozs. silver.

Oroville Dredging.—Gross returns week Sept. 2, \$3,602.

Orak.—Two dredges treated 125,410 cubic yards of gravel, producing value Rs.117,000. In addition to the above, tributers produced Rs.23,000.

Sudan Goldfield.—Gold obtained £3,957 18s. 5d.

Troitzk.—Crushed 1,500 short tons ore and 124 tons tributers' ore. Total output, 870 ozs.; value, Rs.33,588.

### The Revenue.

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the year ending March 31, 1916, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	Quarter from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1915, compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.			
	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs .. .. .	£10,967,000	£8,337,000	2,630,000	—
Excise .. .. .	14,181,000	8,298,000	6,183,000	—
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	7,651,000	4,879,000	2,772,000	—
Stamps .. .. .	1,704,000	1,885,000	—	181,000
Land Tax .. .. .	—	—	—	—
House Duty .. .. .	30,000	20,000	10,000	—
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax) .. .. .	5,966,000	2,645,000	3,321,000	—
Land Value Duties .. .. .	11,000	10,000	1,000	—
Postal Service .. .. .	6,750,000	4,950,000	1,800,000	—
Telegraph Service .. .. .	750,000	800,000	—	50,000
Telephone Service .. .. .	1,500,000	1,350,000	150,000	—
Crown Lands .. .. .	100,000	100,000	—	—
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans .. .. .	597,299	779,467	—	182,168
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,062,329	1,627,816	—	565,487
	51,569,628	35,681,283	16,867,000	978,655
				£15,888,345 Nett Increase.

	Period from April 1 to Sept. 30, 1915, compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.			
	Period ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs .. .. .	£20,763,000	£16,910,000	3,853,000	—
Excise .. .. .	27,855,000	16,828,000	11,027,000	—
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	16,715,000	12,850,000	3,865,000	—
Stamps .. .. .	3,036,000	3,981,000	—	945,000
Land Tax .. .. .	20,000	30,000	—	10,000
House Duty .. .. .	320,000	230,000	90,000	—
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax) .. .. .	16,785,000	8,584,000	8,201,000	—
Land Value Duties .. .. .	51,000	50,000	1,000	—
Postal Service .. .. .	9,990,000	8,980,000	1,010,000	—
Telegraph Service .. .. .	1,530,000	1,590,000	—	60,000
Telephone Service .. .. .	3,080,000	2,930,000	150,000	—
Crown Lands .. .. .	210,000	220,000	—	10,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans .. .. .	603,771	787,767	—	183,996
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,907,993	2,211,193	—	303,200
	102,866,764	76,181,960	28,197,000	1,512,196
				£26,684,804 Nett Increase.

II.—AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Period ending September 30, 1915, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1914.
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER ON APRIL 1:—	£	£
Bank of England .. .. .	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .. .. .	1,552,224	1,085,467
	83,450,952	10,434,519
REVENUE, as shown in Account I. .. .. .	102,866,764	76,181,960
ADVANCES REPAID—		
Bullion .. .. .	630,000	1,250,000
MONEY RAISED BY CREATION OF DEBT—		
By Treasury Bills for Supply .. .. .	67,758,000	18,100,000
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	—	1,150,000
By War Loan, 1925-1928 .. .. .	35,798,408	—
By Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. .. .	242,345	—
By War Loan, 1925-1945 .. .. .	528,000,000	—
EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE LOAN—		
Repayment on account of Principal and Interest .. .. .	2,385	—
AMOUNTS TEMPORARILY BORROWED—		
ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—		
By Treasury Bills .. .. .	231,150,000	38,500,000
By other Advances .. .. .	1,000,000	24,330,000
	£1,050,898,854	169,946,479
ISSUES.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1914.
EXPENDITURE—	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt .. .. .	12,481,986	9,851,194
Interest, &c., on War Debt .. .. .	4,836,945	255,418
Road Improvement Fund .. .. .	694,395	763,218
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. .. .. .	3,557,141	3,458,279
Other Consolidated Fund Services .. .. .	949,286	853,670
Supply Services .. .. .	651,977,667	118,615,474
Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue .. .. .	674,497,420	133,797,253
ISSUES TO MEET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	1,130,000	1,800,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .. .. .	60,000	22,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914 .. .. .	500,000	—
ADVANCES—		
Bullion .. .. .	975,000	1,665,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	60,914	60,914
REDEMPTION OF UNFUNDED DEBT—		
Treasury Bills for Supply .. .. .	67,150,000	13,000,000
Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .. .. .	16,395,500	—
REPAYMENTS TO THE BANK OF ENGLAND .. .. .	160,427,623	—
ISSUED UNDER SECTION 1 (5) OF THE WAR LOAN ACT, 1915 .. .. .	9,715,690	—
OLD SINKING FUND, 1907-8—		
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .. .. .	50,000	10,000
OLD SINKING FUND, 1910-11—		
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911:—		
Section 16 (1) (b) .. .. .	80,000	55,000
" " (c) .. .. .	—	85,000
OLD SINKING FUND, 1911-12—		
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .. .. .	250,000	500,250
TEMPORARY ADVANCES REPAID—		
ADVANCES ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—		
Treasury Bills .. .. .	55,420,000	—
Other Advances .. .. .	—	15,000,000
	1915. Sept. 30.	1914. Sept. 30.
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER—	£	£
Bank of England .. .. .	63,398,674	3,395,092
Bank of Ireland .. .. .	788,033	555,970
Total Balance .. .. .	64,186,707	3,951,062
	£1,050,898,854	169,946,479

Treasury, September 30, 1915.

### Answers to Correspondents.

"\* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

N. M. B.—(1) Leave this alone, we do not think it is in strong hands. (2) This is better, and if you want an investment of this class more attractive.

E. P. D.—India 3½ per cent. bonds.

L. R. S.—The interest should be quite safe, and we do not think you should sell now.

Winton.—Yes, safe, but with no great chance of a rise in it. This exhausts your deposit.

Vale.—We think so. The cost would be not more than 1 per cent., probably little less allowing for all expenses.

D. C. B.—There is no hurry, we think. At present prices the current yields are not very high. If there is any setback you might buy a little of (3) and wait again.

H. B.—(Ans. by wire.) Looks honest, promising speculation, but pure gamble at present.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened a branch at Ventersdorp, Transvaal.

Mr. A. J. Milne, of Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, E.C., has resigned his position as a director of the Tcharken Cheleken Oil Co.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Sept. 24	3,578	+ 101	144,278	+ 12,335
Grand Canal ..	" 24	1,139	+ 65	14,143	+ 550
Great Northern ..	" 24	25,835	+ 985	886,145	+ 27,995
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 24	36,014	+ 92	1,257,262	+ 101,530
Midland Great Western ..	" 24	13,273	+ 508	486,326	+ 16,101

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 21	1,05,000	— 17,646	26,18,612	+ 21,388
Barsi Light ..	Sept. 4	13,900	+ 3,900	4,95,700	+ 48,300
Bengal & N.W. ..	Aug. 28	2,56,750	— 501	77,32,810	+ 11,31,538
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 28	6,71,000	+ 73,000	1,64,09,000	+ 1,47,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Sept. 18	11,46,000	+ 78,000	2,81,90,000	+ 4,83,000
Burma ..	Aug. 28	3,39,892	+ 49,255	79,94,002	+ 13,75,821
Delhi Umballa ..	Sept. 18	52,800	+ 5,117	15,10,063	+ 18,492
East Indian ..	" 25	19,91,000	+ 1,58,000	5,21,68,000	+ 1,80,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 18	14,06,300	+ 4,79,900	3,72,89,710	+ 8,31,312
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Aug. 28	35,511	+ 7,026	8,32,408	+ 5,704
Madras and S. ..	" 28	7,65,000	+ 1,33,537	1,93,75,432	+ 8,20,205
Mahratta ..	" 28	94,983	+ 6,782	24,88,322	+ 63,706
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 28	52,128	+ 7,575	15,44,175	+ 4,61,769
" (Metre) ..	" 28				
Rohilkund and ..	" 28	29,254	+ 400	7,64,675	+ 4,495
Kumaon ..	" 28	5,37,157	+ 73,106	1,20,43,467	+ 2,48,443
South Indian ..	" 28	4,63,632	+ 1,31,685	8,89,349	+ 1,10,949
Southern Punjab ..	May 5				

† April 1. § Month. || October 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	July *	32,774	— 15,131	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	Sept 21	\$481,400	— \$85,300	\$3,581,400	— \$726,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	\$2,408,000	— \$170,000	\$22,933,000	— \$451,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	170,741	— 9,205	5,815,379	— 523,204
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	32,877	+ 1,501	1,077,963	+ 15,168
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	12,462	+ 1,289	390,221	+ 22,556
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 21	22,184	— 518	1,50,466	+ 66,267
Mashonaland ..	July *	48,992	— 21,116	233,427	+ 163,095
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Aug. *	5,268	— 4,279	5,268	+ 4,279
New Cape Central ..	" 28	1,405	+ 359	62,740	+ 201
Rhodesia ..	July *	83,636	— 13,491	7,483,798	+ 165,945
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Sept 14	\$103,750	+ 6,591	\$1,222,050	+ \$78,016

\* Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Sept. 14	878,000	+ 51,000	9,197,000	+ 880,000
Chicago G. W. ..	" 14	352,000	+ 40,000	2,967,000	+ 97,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 14	297,000	+ 8,000	2,854,000	+ 13,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Sept. 21	592,000	+ 29,000	5,871,600	+ 241,600
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 14	1,141,000	+ 56,000	12,342,000	+ 318,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	" 7	618,000	+ 38,000	—	—
Missouri Kansas ..	Sept. 21	594,025	+ 38,978	6,813,792	+ 437,400
Missouri Pacific ..	" 14	1,122,000	+ 75,000	12,282,000	+ 694,000
Southern ..	" 14	1,222,000	+ 34,000	12,964,000	+ 937,000

|| 10 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.		NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
		Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	
Atchafon T. & S. Fé ..	Aug.		3,601,000	+ 206,000	2	7,436,000	+ 708,000	
Atlantic Coast Line ..	July		238,000	+ 79,000	2	6,392,000	+ 79,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	Aug.		3,415,000	+ 600,000	2	6,492,000	+ 1,450,000	
Canadian Northern ..	"		238,800	+ 5,900	2	523,900	+ 151,300	
Canadian Pacific ..	"		3,442,000	+ 79,000	2	6,243,000	+ 899,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July		1,258,000	+ 323,000	1	258,000	+ 323,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	Aug.		1,782,000	+ 265,000	1	3,401,000	+ 562,000	
Chicago Buri. & Q. ..	July		2,314,000	+ 438,000	1	2,314,000	+ 438,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	"		242,000	+ 29,000	1	242,000	+ 29,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"		3,259,000	+ 430,000	1	3,259,000	+ 480,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Aug.		903,000	+ 299,000	1	903,000	+ 299,000	
Colorado & Southern ..	"		334,000	+ 24,000	2	602,000	+ 55,000	
Cuba ..	July *		420,000	+ 37,546	1	420,000	+ 37,546	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"		137,812	+ 46,604	1	137,812	+ 46,604	
Do. ..	"		83,000	+ 107,000	7	4,364,000	+ 600,000	
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"		619,000	+ 92,000	1	619,000	+ 92,000	
Erie ..	Aug.		2,269,000	+ 769,000	2	4,223,000	+ 1,465,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"		\$248,700	+ \$13,000	8	\$1,507,500	+ \$6,050	
Grand Trunk Western ..	"		\$39,700	+ \$14,000	8	\$84,800	+ \$63,050	
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"		\$14,300	+ \$10,700	8	\$6,700	+ \$45,850	
Gt. Northern ..	July		2,735,000	+ 345,000	1	2,735,000	+ 345,000	
Illinois Central ..	Aug.		1,123,000	+ 137,000	2	1,925,000	+ 316,000	
Kansas City Southn. ..	"		288,000	+ 19,000	2	653,000	+ 8,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"		1,090,000	+ 52,000	2	2,119,000	+ 58,000	
Louisville & Nashv'l ..	"		1,309,264	+ 114,211	1	1,369,264	+ 114,211	
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	"		423,000	+ 44,000	1	423,000	+ 44,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"		604,619	+ 152,198	1	604,619	+ 152,198	
Missouri Pacific ..	"		1,161,000	+ 540,000	1	1,161,000	+ 540,000	
New York Cent. & H. ..	"		4,376,000	+ 1,343,000	7	22,707,000	+ 7,975,000	
N. Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"		2,175,000	+ 613,000	2	2,175,000	+ 613,000	
New York Ont. & W. ..	Aug.		348,000	+ 14,000	2	730,000	+ 60,000	
Norfolk & Western ..	July		1,688,000	+ 594,000	1	1,688,000	+ 594,000	
Northern Pacific ..	Aug.		2,408,000	+ 636,000	2	3,826,000	+ 408,100	
Pennsylvania East ..	July		9,797,000	+ 1,904,000	7	38,546,000	+ 4,007,000	
and West Lines ..	"		562,783	+ 7,915	1	562,783	+ 7,915	
St. Louis & San F. ..	"		1,070,000	+ 4,000	1	1,070,000	+ 4,000	
Seaboard Air Line ..	"		384,000	+ 50,000	1	384,000	+ 50,000	
Southern ..	Aug.		1,611,000	+ 285,000	2	3,159,000	+ 438,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"		4,597,000	+ 1,242,000	2	9,190,000	+ 2,553,000	
Union Pacific ..	"		3,403,000	+ 53,000	2	6,252,000	+ 120,000	
Wabash ..	July		503,662	+ 236,144	1	503,662	+ 236,144	

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 25	Ps. 7,500	— 2,500	—	Ps. 472,200	— Ps. 34,250		
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 26	25,495	+ 5,135	—	913,900	+ 356,884		
Arauco ..	Aug.	6,750	+ 375	—	55,375	+ 9,974		
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 25	7,234	+ 2,509	—	84,085	+ 22,440		
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *	5,221	+ 1,272	7	31,794	+ 4,649		
Bolivar ..	"	7,250	+ 1,374	2	14,250	+ 1,879		
Brazil ..	July *	M3,272,000	+ M409,778	2	M22,119,000	+ M448,354		
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M16,43,150	+ M14,050	6	M209,050	+ M21,500		
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 25	67,000	+ 12,000	—	998,000	+ 195,000		
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 26	84,000	+ 21,000	—	1,013,908	+ 151,967		
Do. Western ..	" 26	41,000	+ 1,000	—	534,000	+ 77,000		
Central Argentine ..	" 25	112,600	+ 10,200	—	1,396,400	+ 174,300		
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 25	9,878	+ 2,037	—	131,125	+ 24,315		
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 25	3,121	+ 804	—	41,617	+ 10,801		
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 25	1,551	+ 371	—	22,094	+ 4,617		
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 25	1,597	+ 458	—	18,765	+ 4,499		
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	12,700	+ 2,000	—	82,342	+ 492		
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 25	28,100	— 8,580	—	429,800	+ 49,765		
Costa Rica ..	Aug. 7	4,640	+ 1,579	—	26,204	+ 17,019		
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 25	8,259	+ 1,751	—	94,971	+ 10,610		
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *	9,900	+ 100	—	62,900	+ 6,700		
Egyptian Delta ..	" 31a	4,897	+ 353	—	68,878	+ 23,754		
Entre Rios ..	Sept. 25	9,000	+ 1,100	—	112,000	+ 16,000		
French Sante Fé ..	July	73,392	+ 20,560	8	118,760	+ 90,873		
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 18	Ps. 64,679	+ Ps22,352	—	Ps2,216,194	+ Ps315,608		
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 25	7,500	+ 300	—	363,900	+ 100,900		
Havana Central ..	" 25	5,455	+ 942	—	66,165	+ 5,608		
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. c	22,808	+ 14,824	8	168,492	+ 35,739		
La Guaira and Car. ..	July *	6,750	+ 2,250	—	49,000	+ 19,500		
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 25	31,272	+ 9,056	—	1,105,091	+ 42,907		
Manila (Northern) ..	" 25	3,352	+ 775	—	203,748	+ 37,392		
Do. (Southern) ..	" 25	3,427	+ 50	—	145,062	+ 15,997		
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug. *	12,553	+ 5,099	—	22,766	+ 5,610		
Mogiana ..	July	M2,857,000	+ M251,003	8	M12,374,000	+ M276,812		
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Aug. *	\$25,000	+ \$8,258	1	\$46,500	+ \$8,941		
Nitrate ..	Sept. 15b	19,009	+ 7,127	—	231,182	+ 236,413		
Paraguay Central ..	" 25	\$489,000	+ \$229,000	—	\$5,406,000	+ \$224,000		
Paulista ..	July *	M 3,100	+ 173,947	7	M13,550,000	+ M146,961		
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Aug. *	\$819,039	+ \$164,095	2	\$1,543,877	+ \$98,566		
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	"	3,266	+ 649	—	29,442	+ 943		
Salvador ..	Sept. 25	\$15,750	+ \$1,180	—	\$255,500	+ \$14,314		
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 19	36,425	+ 18,025	—	435,068	+ 115,605		
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,228,000	+ M25,292	5	M6,668,000	+ M119,851		
Taitai ..	Aug. *	18,218	+ 1,253	2	26,378	+ 15,135		
United of Havana ..	Sept. 26	23,806	+ 6,254	1	296,448	+ 57,603		
United of Yucatar ..	Feb. 6	\$64,400	+ \$6,200	8	\$403,900	+ \$54,300		
Uruguay Northern ..	Aug. *	1,745	+ 446	2	3,532	+ 678		
West'n of Haven ..	Sept. 25	5,039	+ 343	—	62,600	+ 6,885		
Zafra and Huelv ..	Aug. *	9,613	+ 542	7	62,817	+ 45,898		

\* Months. †



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## Passing Events.

It is rather sad to think that the Treasury should have felt it necessary to issue a solemn warning to British investors against subscribing to the Anglo-French loan in America. As is pointed out, the main purpose of the loan is to give support to the American exchanges, and remittances from the United Kingdom for the purpose of subscribing to or purchasing the loan would have the effect of defeating this object. Holders of the loan who reside here will be liable to income-tax on the dividends, as in the case of other securities held abroad, while no dealings will be permitted in the loan on any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom. All this follows as a matter of course from the nature of the loan, and the only amazing thing is that any people could be found foolish enough to think that they might sneak a mean, petty advantage out of the needs of their country. The idea may be traced to the asinine campaign of a few years back (led, as usual, by the abysmally ignorant Harmsworth Press) in favour of foreign as against home investments, but we should scarcely have thought that it would crop up on an occasion such as this. At the same time, we must say that we think the trouble might have been avoided by a little more forethought on the part of the Government. The condition of the exchange was not so acute when the War Loan was issued, but the subsequent fall might easily have been foreseen, and we believe it would have been quite practicable to earmark £200,000,000, or even more, of the loan for American investors, with the proviso that their subscriptions should be free of income-tax. The publicity campaign here would have been promptly reflected on the other side, there would have been no loss of dignity in keeping the lists open as long as might be necessary, and that the money would have been forthcoming seems to be demonstrated by the great success of the issue just arranged under more adverse conditions, when the Yankees naturally exacted more onerous terms. However, we cannot expect everything to go by clockwork in this gargantuan struggle, and instead of "grousing" about possible mistakes, we may be thankful that there have not been many more of a far more serious character.

Acting on the initiative of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the Council of the Association of Chambers

of Commerce of the United Kingdom have made representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging the desirability of requesting the Bank of England to discontinue the antiquated and inconvenient practice at present in force with regard to inscription and transfer of the greater portion of British Government stocks, and to employ in its place the ordinary modern method of registration and transfer by deed, as adopted for example by the London and North-Western and other railway companies. Certainly the present time would appear to be a most opportune one for the initiation of this reform, and it is difficult to conceive of any sound arguments against it. Of course, old-established customs die hard, and there may be people who actually take a pride in the fact that the transfer of Consols, &c., requires a process different from everything else in the world. But with the vast expansion in the National Debt, and the immensely greater number of its holders, the time has surely come to require hoary antiquity to make way for the new era that we are just entering upon. We hope Mr. McKenna will find time to give the recommendation his favourable consideration.

Another circular has been issued by the Treasury emphasising the necessity for economy in the use of gold coin. It was at the beginning of August last that a notice was issued calling attention to the importance of substituting notes for gold in ordinary cash disbursements with a view to strengthening the gold reserves of the country, and it is admitted that the public response to this request has on the whole been excellent. The Treasury is glad to be able to acknowledge the patriotic spirit in which employers generally, often at serious inconvenience to themselves, have adapted their arrangements to meeting the wishes of the Government, but it appears that in some cases persons are still applying to the banks for gold coin for the purposes of wages payments. If this practice continues there is a danger that those who are now assisting the policy of the Government may be discouraged in their efforts, and employers are therefore again urged to discontinue the use of gold coin altogether for wages payments. No doubt there was at first a certain amount of prejudice against the £1 and 10s. Treasury notes, but that must long since have disappeared, and people who still insist on using gold can only be actuated by ignorant deviltry.



Lest we forget when the time comes for a settlement with the Kaiser, and his bloodthirsty tool Enver Pasha, it may be useful to put on record what Viscount Bryce said in the House of Lords on Wednesday about the appalling Armenian massacres. The question was raised by Lord Cromer, who inquired whether the Government had any reliable information confirmatory of the statements that had appeared in the Press, and whether the statement that German Consular officials had been privy to the massacres rested on any substantial evidence. In reply, Lord Crewe said that a communication had been received from the British Consul at Batoum, largely founded on statements which had been published in the newspapers at Tiflis, where there was every opportunity of ascertaining what were the actual facts. He had no official confirmation of the assertion that German Consular representatives had not merely looked on, but had positively encouraged these horrors. Having regard to the statements made by Americans who were in a position to form an opinion, he was bound to say, knowing what he did of what had happened elsewhere, that there could not be said to be any inherent improbability in the assertion. No words of ours are needed to heighten the horror of the story which follows:—

Viscount Bryce remarked that he was sorry to state that information which reached him from many quarters went to show that the figure of 800,000 people destroyed since May last was unfortunately quite a probable number. It was a premeditated and systematic policy of massacre. It was a policy which had been entertained for a considerable time by the gang who were in possession of the Government of Turkey. They only hesitated to put it into practice until they thought a favourable moment had arrived in May.

In the massacre at Trebizond—the facts of which were vouched for by the Italian Consul—the whole Armenian population, which numbered from eight to ten thousand, was destroyed in one afternoon under orders from Constantinople. He was afraid it must be said that practically nearly the whole of the Armenian nation had been wiped out, and few crimes so hideous and on so large a scale had been recorded in history.

There was no ground for the suggestion that there had been any rising on the part of the Armenians. The Armenian volunteers who had fought with the Russians came from Transcaucasia. There was no excuse on any political grounds for the conduct of the Turkish Government. It was simply an attempt to carry out the maxim once enunciated by Sultan Abdul Hamid, namely, the way to get rid of the Armenian question was to get rid of the Armenians. It was being carried out with more bloodthirsty completeness by the people now in command of the Turkish Government than it ever was in Abdul Hamid's time.

Lord Bryce added that he had not been able to obtain any authentic information with regard to the part played by German officials in promoting or encouraging these massacres, but the only chance of saving the unfortunate remnants of this ancient Christian nation was to be found in an expression of the public opinion of the world, and especially of neutral nations, who might possibly exert some influence even upon the German Government and induce them to tell the Turks that they had gone too far, and that there were some things that the public opinion of the world would not tolerate.

Even at the eleventh hour it might have saved the puppet Tsar Ferdinand from destruction if he could have seen the cartoon in Tuesday's *Westminster Gazette*. "F. C. G." has a sure instinct for a political situation, and he depicts Ferdinand as a mouse about to enter the German trap, baited with Serbia and Macedonia. The cartoon must be seen to be fully appreciated, and it is certainly one of Sir F. C. Gould's happiest and most brilliant efforts. But we are afraid the mouse has nibbled, and the trap has snapped.

For some considerable time past Russian traders have been suffering from much the same difficulty as our merchants have had to contend against in their dealings with the United States. Their trouble, however, has been even greater, as, owing in great measure to the closing of the Dardanelles, it has been impossible to provide credits to meet obligations in this country by means of exports, and the Petrograd exchange has risen to such a point that remittances can only be made at very heavy cost. One of the objects of the recent visit of M. Bark, the Russian Minister of Finance, was to find some method of overcoming this difficulty, and in the end of last week it was officially

announced that a joint course of action between the two Allied Governments had been arranged. The plan which has been adopted is that bills shall be drawn by approved Russian banks on such of the London banks and other financial houses as may be willing to act as acceptors. These bills will have a currency of three months, but will be renewable as they mature until a year after the conclusion of the war, and they will have behind them Russian Imperial Treasury bonds, which will be deposited with the Bank of England as collateral security. According to market gossip, the amount had been fixed at £20,000,000, to be issued at the rate of £2,000,000 a month, but this does not appear to be the case, and it is understood that the total credit will depend partly on the opinion of the Bank of England with regard to the capacity of the market to absorb it. The Bank of England will recognise the new bills as first-class securities, upon which it will lend freely, and the paper will therefore be a welcome addition to the supplies of the market, while at the same time it should help the position of the Russian exchange.

Owing to the pre-eminent importance of events nearer home, less attention has been paid to the internal politics of South Africa than would otherwise have been the case or than they deserve. But we were sharply reminded that things are not going as smoothly as could be desired in the sub-continent by the dastardly, and apparently organised, attempt to assassinate General Smuts when he was addressing a meeting of the South African party at Newlands, Johannesburg. Fortunately the police had received information that an attack on the General was projected, and they were able to take precautions which undoubtedly saved his life. According to the official report issued by the Colonial Secretary, there was a crowd estimated at 1,500 to 2,000 present, largely composed of the hooligan element (some of whom were under the influence of liquor), armed with sticks, pick handles, &c. Such a crowd can easily be collected in any mining camp; and if the supply of liquor has been sufficiently generous it is apt to act first and think afterwards. If the truth is ever ascertained we have no doubt it will be found that German agents were at the root of the trouble, although at the time the *Lusitania* was sunk we are credibly informed the same crowd would have eagerly lynched every German in Johannesburg if it had got a free hand. Local squabbles, however, attain an undue perspective during election contests, and General Smuts took such a prominent part in suppressing the miners' strike that it would be a comparatively easy matter to inflame the passions of a hooligan mob against him. Whatever may have been the origin of, or the ostensible excuse for, the incident, it is a grievous blot on the mining population of Johannesburg. General Smuts has recently done magnificent work for the Empire, and while congratulating him on his providential escape we feel assured that the abominable outrage will react disastrously on his ruffianly enemies.

Contrary to the usual practice, no interim statement is published by the Grand Trunk Railway Co. of Canada on this occasion, the dividend announcement merely stating that 3 per cent. per annum would be paid on the guaranteed stock for the six months, as compared with 4 per cent. per annum a year ago. The market, however, had been calculating on only 2 per cent., and so its satisfaction with the higher rate obliterated any disappointment that might have been felt at the absence of the details regularly furnished in the past. We hope the company is not unduly straining its resources for the sake of trying to keep up appearances. That way disaster lies, as the records of several, indeed most, of our Home Railways testify. The Grand Trunk had a heavy decrease in gross earnings, but by drastic economies, some of which, we are afraid, must have been at the expense of maintenance, it was able to show an increase of £28,000 in nett revenue. On the other hand, fixed charges must have been substantially higher, and for the sake of the



future of the line we think it might have been more prudent to make a more drastic cut in the interim distribution. Of course, the stockholders have no cause to grumble, and we can only hope that events will justify the optimistic attitude of the directors.

Although the figures are poor as compared with those of the halcyon days before the Canadian slump, the statement of the Hudson's Bay Co. for the past quarter and half-year is fairly encouraging, at least compared with the corresponding period last year, when the fortunes of the company were almost at their lowest ebb. For the three months to September 30 the sales of farm lands amounted to 10,900 acres for £31,900, against 1,300 acres for £3,700 last year, and the sales of town lots realised £1,800, against £150. For the half-year the sales of farm lands amounted to 19,500 acres for £63,000, as compared with 5,500 acres and £20,100 respectively, while town lots realised £3,900, against £3,600. These figures show that conditions are recovering from the first shock of the war, but from the shareholders' point of view the most important factor is the amount of actual receipts, and these are far from brilliant. In the past six months they amounted to £72,000, against £127,300 for the corresponding half-year, but it is understood that the trading section has had a lot of Government contracts, which ought to be profitable, and the final results may be somewhat better than present indications would lead shareholders to anticipate.

Except in the case of a few trust estates, Stock Exchange shares are held entirely by members of the House, and a few years ago the price of the £13 share with unlimited liability was as high as £230. At the beginning of this week it was 75, but on the announcement that no interim dividend would be paid it dropped to 60-65. Last year the interim dividend was £4 per share, and for the 12 months ended March 25 the total distribution was £7, or about 54 per cent. As only a few wealthy members hold more than two or three shares, the absence of a dividend will not be severely felt, although in these hard times even a little pocket money is welcome, but the managers can scarcely be blamed for withholding the usual payment. It appears from the statement posted in the House that exemption from payment of subscriptions has been granted to 966 members and 880 clerks engaged on war work, while 508 members have taken advantage of Rule 24, which permits them to take a year's holiday without forfeiting their right to re-election. Consequently the managers are minus the subscriptions of no fewer than 1,474 members and 880 clerks, and so far as the great majority of these are concerned no subscriptions will be paid until after the end of the war. At March 25, 1914, there were 5,032 members and 2,928 clerks, while on March 25 last the numbers were 4,884 and 2,569 respectively. The number of proprietors has risen rapidly in recent years; it was just over a thousand in 1899, and it is now 2,383. For the year ended March 25, 1914, the subscriptions amounted to £231,500 and the entrance fees to £39,400, while in the last financial year the subscriptions were £223,600 and the fees £26,800. But there must be a very serious falling off in the current 12 months, and there has been talk of a further call on the shares, but the managers will doubtless avoid that unpleasant necessity if they possibly can.

War has left its stamp a little and drought more upon the Government railways and tramways of New South Wales. The railway revenue for the year ended June 30 last did not suffer much, but still it is down, partly because the exports of coal and coke were stopped by the war, even to interstate ports, the total sent out being 1,366,514 tons less than in the preceding year. In money the loss was only £62,456, but the movements of grain and flour yielded £310,271 less, and there was a reduction of £133,474 in earnings from general merchandise carried, as well as some slight

decline from wool, so that had it not been for an increase of £78,234 from passengers and of £259,468 from live-stock, the outcome would have been much worse than it is. But alike the movements of grain and of live-stock were the result of drought, or to a large extent that, and consequently instead of an anticipated increase of £350,000, the earnings were £125,730 down. At the same time, expenses were reduced, but only by £98,658, a sum not nearly sufficient to meet the increase of interest charges, let alone balance the loss in earnings. These interest charges went up £205,626, and amounted last year to £2,328,680. Thus on the railways alone there was a deficit of £23,331. Happily, the tramways flourished, and gave a surplus of £90,135 after meeting current expenses and interest charges, so that for the whole year the business was £66,804 to the good—viz., gross income of railways and tramways, £9,602,571; working expenses, £6,922,448; nett revenue, £2,680,123; and interest charges, £2,613,319.

The capital account of these undertakings is now up to the formidable total of £73,553,567, of which £65,583,274 has been laid out upon the railway system. Last year alone £4,318,405 of new capital was spent upon the railways without adding very much to the length of line open, and in the case of the tramways the capital absorption was £341,640, making the aggregate borrowed for tramways £7,970,293. There are now 4,134 miles of railway open and 220 miles of tramway. Tramway receipts, by the way, went up £51,896 to £1,986,060, while expenses came down £57,747 to £1,611,286, being 81.13 per cent. of the receipts compared with 86.29 per cent. in the previous year. Expenses would have been more sensibly reduced if the Chief Commissioner of Railways had had his way and been able to reduce wages, but his attempt to do so failed. In November last he applied to the Court of Industrial Arbitration for the suspension of such clauses of the awards of Wages Boards as provided for periodical advances in pay to salaried officers, drivers, firemen, &c., but his application was dismissed, and so in spite of falling earnings rates of pay have gone on increasing. During the past year the extra charge due to this growth is put at £116,896, most of which is product of awards issued in the previous year. As cost of materials also rose by about £35,000 it is astonishing to find working expenses kept down as they were; but the management, with praiseworthy forethought, cut off unprofitable train mileage and—this was not so commendable—restricted maintenance works to the "absolutely necessary." In this way the costs were kept down, not we trust at the expense of capital at some future day. It may be added that the Chief Commissioner, Mr. John Harper, has been ill, and that the report is signed by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. James Fraser. It will repay study by those interested in Australian State finance.

The South Brazilian Railways Co., which owns the tramway and electric lighting concessions in Curitiba, Parana, Brazil, has formulated a scheme of capital arrangement, which will be submitted to meetings of the debenture-holders on the 19th inst. It is proposed to raise a sum not exceeding £240,000 at 6 per cent. by bankers' loans or prior lien debentures ranking in priority to the existing debentures, and repayable by purchase or drawings within 50 years. Existing debenture-holders are asked to forego absolutely payment of the coupons due October 1, 1914, and April 1 and October 1, 1915, but thereafter their interest will be raised to 6 per cent. if the earnings are sufficient, the first payment to be made on April 1, 1916. The nett earnings from the tramways undertaking will be specifically appropriated to the first series of debentures, and those of the lighting and power undertaking to the second series. Half of such earnings from April 1, 1914, to September 30, 1915, in each case will be paid on April 1 next, and the remaining half on October 1 next. Should there be in any year a loss on the working of either of the undertakings, no interest will be payable for that year on either series until such



loss is made good out of the nett earnings of the other undertaking in that year. The scheme appears to be as favourable as could be expected in the circumstances.

The Assam Railways and Trading Co. suffered rather a sharp drop in its earnings from coaching traffic in the year ended March 31, and the total income of the railways was £4,182 down at £86,490, while expenses were £3,478 heavier at £53,598. There was, however, a satisfactory increase in the output and sales from the collieries, and the nett revenue from all sources was only £1,610 smaller at £102,401. Debenture interest required an extra £4,666, owing to the issue of 5 per cent. debenture stock, which is not yet fully remunerative, and the dividend on the "B" stock has therefore to be cut down from 7 per cent. to 5, which leaves £2,961, or £1,502 less, to be carried forward. During the year £13,033 was spent on the railways, but £48,273 was received from shares and £28,317 from 5 per cent. debenture stock issued, and the credit balance is therefore £63,557 higher at £206,625. The holdings in the River Steam Navigation Co., Makum (Assam) Tea Co., and Assam Oil Co. remain as before, but a further £10,871 was spent on the new tea garden, making the total of these investments £187,737. Stocks are £42,677 larger at £137,440, and cash is £14,923 up at £33,384, but £10,234 less at £72,481 is due from sundry debtors, while current liabilities have risen by £7,390 to £55,782.

An interesting description of the work done by the Port of Manchester Warehouses, Ltd., since its inception was given by Mr. Marshall Stevens, the chairman, at the annual meeting held this week. The company set out to provide the Port of Manchester with warehouses worthy of her position as the fourth port in the United Kingdom, and it has succeeded so well that Mr. Stevens was able to say that "Manchester has now more accommodation than ordinary importers can yet utilise." A number of "cotton safes" have been and are being erected, so that when the new season commences the company will have a storage capacity for over 60,000 bales of cotton, and with the other buildings erected it will have warehouse accommodation for over 150,000 tons of merchandise. One result of this policy is that the company has been able to render considerable assistance to the Government at a time when it was most needed and also to do a good deal towards relieving the congestion at Liverpool and London. As one illustration of the value of the services rendered to Manchester, Mr. Stevens stated that owing to this company's operations the Canal Co. will this year receive an additional toll of at least £10,000 from sugar alone. As with sugar, so it has been with flour and other produce. The company has demonstrated its ability to handle consignments to advantage, and efforts which are now being made to divert part of the wool imports to Manchester seem likely to be successful. Mr. Stevens pointed out that although it had been suggested that under the abnormal conditions the company should charge abnormal rents, he had declined to agree to any such proposals, and this policy should stand the company in good stead when normal conditions return.

At no time since it came into existence has the Enfield Cycle Co. done so well as in the past year. The company became, as from Wednesday, August 18, a controlled establishment, and the directors have therefore closed the accounts on August 17 instead of August 31, but even with this loss of a fortnight the profits showed an increase of no less than £24,319 at £67,933. After providing a rather larger amount for repairs and depreciation, administration charges, &c., the nett profits, including £16,803, or £5,927 more, brought forward, were £26,422 up at £70,095. The "B" preference shares receive a dividend of 20 per cent., tax free, for the full year as against 10 per cent. for eight months in 1913-14, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is also doubled at 20 per cent., after which an extra £6,926 at

£20,000 is transferred to reserve, and the balance carried forward is increased by £6,762 to £23,564. A year ago the directors took £58,074 from reserve to wipe out the item of goodwill, patents, &c., so that the fund with the present addition only amounts to £25,000, and even this the directors propose to capitalise by allotting one fully-paid ordinary share for every five existing "B" preference and ordinary shares, a policy which, to say the least, seems decidedly shortsighted. Stocks are £1,556 larger at £72,732, debtors owe £9,910 more at £42,112, and cash and bills have risen by £29,983 to £63,408, while investments have been increased to £5,571 by a purchase of £5,000 nominal of 4½ per cent. War Loan, against which £44,518, or £9,513 more, is due to sundry creditors.

Profits of the Coltness Iron Co. for the year ended July 31 showed a substantial improvement of £65,224 at £160,341, but the directors are prudent enough to keep the increase in the distribution on the ordinary shares down to a moderate figure. The provision for redemption and depreciation is increased by £10,849 to £48,995, and an extra £2,000 at £5,000 is set aside to meet the expense of relining of blast furnaces, &c., leaving, with £17,254 brought in, a total of £123,600, or £52,596 more, available. Out of this the dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, and in addition they are given a bonus of 2 per cent., after which £45,000 is transferred to ordinary reserve as against nothing a year ago, and a slightly larger balance of £17,850 is carried forward. The depreciation allowance exceeded the expenditure on the property by £7,575, reducing the book value to £596,443, against which the ordinary reserve will now stand at £425,000. Stocks of pig-iron, &c., have been reduced by £54,653 to £244,696, but debtors owe £130,401, or £14,501 more, and cash, loans, and investments are £12,270 up at £218,253. On the other hand, there is a reduction of £95,113 to £33,363 in the liabilities for loans, while creditors are only £9,489 higher at £109,790.

The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Co. felt the effects of the severe drought and also of the war in its year ended June 30, the number of passengers carried having fallen off by 3,808,662 and the receipts by £32,368, and at the same time there was a big drop in the revenue from interest owing to the realisation of securities which has been effected. On the other hand, however, interest on the Tramway Trust debentures required £54,000 less, so that after writing £25,000, or £5,000 more, off freehold properties, the available surplus, including £56,006 brought forward, showed very little change at £344,580. Out of this dividend and bonuses aggregating 6s. per share have again been paid and £38,630 is transferred to general reserve as against nothing a year ago, leaving £17,950, or £38,057 less, to be carried forward. The company has now entered upon the last year of its lease, at the end of which its lines will be taken over by the Melbourne Tramways Trust, but ample preparations have been made and the company's position is exceedingly strong. A year ago 10s. per share was distributed from realised assets, and as the directors have continued to dispose of the investments representing the reserve, they were able to distribute out of the proceeds a further 11s. per share, or £528,000, on July 1, so that they have already repaid more than the paid-up capital. The balance-sheet as at June 30 shows a reduction of £498,018 at £569,370 in the reserves, £480,000 of the decrease being due to the distribution of 10s. per share just mentioned, and the balance to the appropriation of the investment reserve to meet the deficiency on sales of debentures. Municipal and other debentures held show a reduction of £22,859 at £309,435, and the bank balance is £434,685 down at £237,939, while mortgages of £43,000 have been called in, but loans on fixed deposit have been increased by £15,460 to £331,736.

The Chilian Electric Tramway and Light Co. suffered in 1914, not only from heavier working expenses, but from the fall in the exchange. It carried 1,162,462 fewer passengers and received \$61,581 less



at \$9,704,088 but the profits for the reason just given were \$308,400 smaller. In the lighting department the receipts rose by \$955,274 to \$8,614,257, but converted into sterling, the nett profits, after providing for administration charges and interest and redemption of debentures, showed a decrease of £57,472 at £106,086. Of this £60,000 is again transferred to renewals reserve and £7,000 to insurance suspense account, leaving, with £9,438 brought in, a balance of £48,524. In view, however, of present conditions, no further distribution is made on the preference shares, compared with the payment of the dividend for 1913 and of arrears of 1 per cent. for 1902, 6 per cent. for 1903, and 4 per cent. for 1904, a year ago. Further construction work was carried out during the 12 months, and the cost of the property, after deducting renewals reserve and other credits, was £132,767 up at £2,448,600. Current liabilities, including a loan in Santiago, were increased by £262,495 to £1,127,446, and as sundry debtors were reduced by £16,703 to £51,004, cash balances are £97,697 higher at £111,197. Under the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1914, Mr. C. Middleton Kemp, of Messrs. Kemp, Sendell and Co., has been appointed supervisor of the company's business.

We have not been able to obtain a copy of the Lake Superior Corporation report for the year ended June 30 last, but the *Financial Times* furnishes some figures that are highly instructive. It appears that the income from subsidiaries fell to \$343,000, against \$438,000 last year and \$793,000 for 1912-13. In the last-mentioned period the nett profit, after providing for depreciation, &c., was \$419,200, but it fell to \$23,400 in 1913-14, and it has now dwindled to a mere bagatelle of \$1,700. During its eleven years' existence the Corporation has never succeeded in paying any dividend on its common stock, and only on three occasions has it been able to meet the full interest on the 5 per cent. income bonds, so that its career has been a profoundly disappointing one, and its "guarantee" of the bonds issued by the Algoma group of subsidiaries was not worth the paper it was written on. However, it is satisfactory to learn that the Corporation is working loyally with the various committees formed to protect the interests of the bondholders in the subsidiary concerns, and as there is a substantial business behind them, something substantial ought to be saved from the wreckage.

Shareholders of the Rio Tinto Co. seem likely to do a little better this year than last, when no interim dividend was paid, and the final dividend was only 35s. per share, as compared with a distribution of 75s. per share for the whole of 1913. On the present occasion an interim distribution of 20s. per share, less tax, is to be paid. The war has seriously interfered with the operations of the company, which used to dispose of a large portion of its output in enemy territory. Shipments were considerably reduced last year, and although conditions have improved since, owing to the greater consumption of copper, operations at the mines have, for some part of the year, at any rate, been carried on for only four days a week. Very high freights are charged to this country and America, the cost of transporting ore being considerably increased thereby, and in other directions costs have risen. Consequently profits, unlike those of American copper companies, have been severely restricted. If the final dividend is the same as the interim, the yield on the shares at their present price will be very poor, namely, less than 4 per cent.

The Kyshtim Corporation, which controls the largest copper-producing properties in Russia, has suffered seriously from the effects of the war. The accounts of the operating company, the Kyshtim Mining Works, shows a gross income of £1,059,524, a decrease of £139,173, and the nett profit declined by £109,435 to £367,443. Of this, £18,372, against £23,844, is placed to reserve, £100,000 is appropriated for amortisation of property, against £83,047 taken last

year for additional depreciation, £38,545, against £58,408, is reserved for profits tax, &c., and the balance of £210,526 is absorbed in payment of a dividend of £13 3s. 2d. per £109 5s. 3d. share, as compared with a dividend for 1913 of £19 9s. 6d. per share. Copper production declined by 383 tons to 7,588 tons, and the sale price declined from £94 2s. 7d. per ton to £92 10s. 10d. The high prices obtained for copper in Russia is due to the big import duty, which enables the local companies to obtain much higher prices than they would otherwise do. At the ironworks the profit declined from £42,450 to £10,659. This decrease was due to the shutting down of the Niazepetrovsk works, in consequence of difficulties with the local population in connection with the arrest by the authorities of the men's representatives, elected at one of the country assemblies. Profit from timber declined from £27,013 to £23,557, and that from sulphur pyrites from £6,821 to £4,068. Owing to the reduction in the mining company's dividend, the profits of the Kyshtim Corporation declined from £376,342 to £225,999, and the available balance is £208,499. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 1s. per share, tax free, which compares with a dividend of 5s. per share for the previous year, and £145,787 is carried forward, against £6,002. This large increase in the sum unappropriated is mainly represented by gold and silver residues, the export of which from Russia is prohibited. The realisation of these residues, which have hitherto been refined in London, is the subject of negotiations with the Ministry of Finance, and it is hoped that they will result in an arrangement which will enable the directors to distribute the profits earned, but not yet realised. The export of the residues would do something towards helping the company to recover some of its losses on the adverse exchange.

The high level of prices for many commodities is in a very great measure due to the extraordinary and unprecedented rise which has occurred in freight rates. The advance amounts to hundreds per cent., and the immediate cause is a short supply of tonnage. Shipments of coal are now very difficult to effect, with the result that the position of the collieries of a few months ago has now been reversed, for instead of being unable to supply the coal merchants, the collieries are very anxious that the merchants should take delivery to keep down stocks. The output in some cases is being restricted by the detention of trucks, which are unable to discharge at the ports for long periods. The supply of tonnage available has been further restricted recently by the withdrawal of Greek

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tonnage owing to the uncertainty of the political situation. This year most gas companies have had to raise their prices, and consequently reduce dividends, owing to the increased cost of bringing coal from the mines, and unless the rise in freights is checked a further addition to the householders' burden is threatened. Some of the gas companies have got over their difficulties to some extent by purchasing steamers to carry their coal, and have saved money by so doing.

### Debt, Concord, and Freedom.

One of the subjects that exercise the minds of thoughtful people relates to the effect of public debts upon the well-being of the communities on whom they are imposed. Debt is always noxious, and often destructive to progress and moral health alike to the individual and the community. But debts vary in the quality of their influence, and in the directness of their bearing upon material and moral progress. A most interesting investigation could be made into the effects of a condition of debt upon the humble citizen who ties himself to the usurer, say, in furnishing his house at his start in life, on the shopkeeper who stocks his shop by help of borrowed money, or on the professional man who contracts debts during his period of education, on the nominal owner of broad acres, real estate of any kind, who succeeds to an income representing merely the fluctuating margin between what the property has to provide in the way of interest and what it yields in gross. In all private instances, however, it is difficult to assemble enough "awful examples" to form a trustworthy foundation upon which to generalise. Some men wrestle themselves clear of the debts they had contracted, and are strengthened and elevated in character by the struggle; others, of the land-owning class especially, live from generation to generation beneath burdens of debt they are never apparently in the least incommoded by, and others still would appear to flourish by borrowing like a British railway company. The broadly stated proposition is none the less true that debt is bad "in the lump," bad always and for all concerned. The landlord who lives on the spare moneys remaining after mortgage charges have been satisfied may have enough to provide for his wants, but the people who pay rents for the land or for the mortgaged house property may be made to suffer in many ways, and be wholly without means or chance of redress. Looked at from the point of view of its debt devoured position, the population of a civilised country is seen to be bound more and more by obligations to the lender of capital, money. In past ages most peoples that attained to a high position among mankind may be said to have built up their civilisations upon debts, and in a general way it may be affirmed that their debts devoured them; they and their civilisations disappeared together, by slow decay or in a grand final cataclysm. Are we hurrying towards oblivion in the same old way? Is the great tornado of war now spreading its devastation over Europe destined to be the clarifier and deliverer of its civilisation, or the destroyer thereof?

Here is the question of questions, and it seems that so far no responsible publicist has given it much thought. Have those who hold mortgages of any sort over the property, or the labour, of their fellow citizens ever thought about it? It is a question we must all try to form intelligent opinions upon lest we should be betrayed into taking the wrong road, the road which leads to destruction. The question is indeed one of life and death, and in these islands nothing can save us from irretrievable calamity if we go wrong. A far deeper problem has to be solved than the one often put to us—Will our load of debt be easier to bear because it represents money raised, and mostly spent, at home than if it had been raised and spent abroad? That there is an advantage in domestic borrowing is certain, but it is not such an advantage as will reconcile our working classes to bear the load unless we can contrive so to adjust it as to make it endurable. So

the comfort is small. Doubtless if we had to send abroad, as interest on foreign borrowed money, every year £100,000,000 we should experience a sense of impoverishment sure to increase popular discontent. The cash exported would be clean gone, little or none of it might ever come back to be spent here. When, however, the debt charges are paid to the home creditor the bulk of the money finds its way back again into the hands of the people, and thus causes an activity in industry, a certain diffusion of comfortableness, that would be absent were the money, the product of our labour, all paid away to the foreign creditor. And could it be possible that every individual of the debtor population had a share in the creditor position, so as to insure that a certain portion of the interest should come back to him or her, the harm done by debt might be for a time minimised.

But it could never be removed, and the endeavour of statesmen and economists should therefore be directed to two main purposes, firstly, to exercise the utmost vigilance in shaping fiscal laws in such a way as not only to lighten to the uttermost the weight of the debt load, but to prepare the way for its more or less rapid disappearance. Taxes that add to its onerousness, whether by the costs of their collection or by the power they put into the hands of a section of the nation to increase their weight for private profit ought to be avoided, and, this accomplished, the next most constant preoccupation must be to facilitate by every legitimate agency the distribution of the capital of the debt among all classes of the community, so that what they have to find in taxes might come back to them in interest. Along these lines the nations now so grievously afflicted may be able to escape catastrophe, whereas a return to pre-war usages would probably bring disaster on them at once. Even should the Allies triumph so completely in the end—as we hold they will and must—as to compel the criminal aggressors to take up an obligation to repair damages of a magnitude so great as to ensure mankind against a recurrence of the eruption practically for ever, the repair would be slow, and for many years, perhaps for generations, the development of the delivered peoples would be dangerously restricted. It is because we dread the future in this direction that we have protested so earnestly against the renewed and unseasonable protectionist agitation, which is raging and plotting along just as stupidly, just as regardless of any but selfish interests, as if the "right" of the few to prey on the many and to mock at reason and humanity were to remain as unassailable after the war as it mostly was before. Were the intriguers to prevail there would probably be such an uprising within the land as might sweep all our comfortable classes out of existence more completely than even the aristocrats in France were by the Revolution of 1789.

In this direction our danger would at first probably be the greatest of all, because our working classes are more accustomed to luxuries and more dependent on cheap food than those of any of our Allies. But in France, Italy and Russia the essential danger is just as formidable, and therefore we plead thus early for accord between us, for the evolution of a common policy of liberation, healing to the people. Rich and poor in all countries upon which the calamity of Prussian savagery has fallen are dying together in defence not only of their freedom, but of the most rudimentary rights of the human race. Let us all study, then, how to live together in the brotherhood of mutual help and confidence when the war is ended. Class hatreds, jealousies, covetousness, and antipathies must not assume their old sway when the remnant among us who are saved return to the industries of peace.

"Too early to broach a subject like this!" Oh, no, it is never too early to proclaim a great truth before communities whose prepossessions and apparent interests tend to make them an easy prey to the self-seeking or ignorant busybodies who fill Press and platform with the old malarial cry of hate and covetousness. "Place a tax on this and that, in order to keep out the foreigner, and then you will always have full employment as well as high wages." It is all an abomin-



able falsehood. These emissaries of anarchy are never solicitous for the welfare of the people, but for their own gains, or for some impossible Utopia, although uninstructed sentimentalists are doubtless often sincere enough in their adhesion to false doctrine, because so perfectly unacquainted with everything that concerns the real fountain of prosperity for a nation. The people avid of nostrums for "curing earthquakes," the believer in the falsehood that high prices do not hurt the community that pays them, provided wages "are raised in proportion," or the disseminator of falsehood who has faith in the assertion that "the foreigner" pays, and can be made to pay, our taxes, together with the benevolently-inclined of the vaguely wistful species and the countless multitude of the ignorant and empty-headed, unite to constitute a soil all prepared for the sowers who scatter broadcast the seeds of the poisonous weed. We must be up and doing. The Free Trade organisations should be revived, and placed on a far broader foundation than hitherto, so as to undertake the propagation of the truth among the working and suffering populations of our comrades and brethren in arms. Mere generalisations will not suffice. It must be demonstrated to the Frenchman, the Italian, the Russian and their minor Allies that they can sustain each other by clearing away all barriers of the kind which hitherto have kept them apart as barterers of the products each could best manufacture or rear. Hitherto they have all striven to hinder trade with each other, driven to assume that attitude by the all-consuming demands of the military organisations to which the ever-present truculence of the Prussian condemned them. And the German, with his usual foxy cunning, took advantage of the withes in which he had goaded the nations to bind themselves in order to worm himself in and occupy the position in the world's trade which should have been that of France, of Italy and of much-oppressed and abused Russia.

### Enter Bulgaria.

After Sir Edward Grey's statement at the end of last week that the situation with regard to Bulgaria was extremely serious there was practically no hope that the country would remain long in a position of "armed neutrality." Now the die has been finally cast, though not before King Ferdinand was solemnly warned by the leaders of the Opposition as to the dangers of the policy he had decided upon. A dramatic account of the interview is given by the *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, and the following extracts are worth preserving. After describing the circumstances of the interview and the handing in of memoranda expressing the views of the different parties, the report proceeds:—

The King walked up and down for a moment, nervous and with knitted brows; then, going up to Zanov (leader of the Radical Democrats), and as if to change the conversation, he questioned him about the harvest. Zanov replied:—

"Your Majesty knows that we have not come here to talk of the harvest, but of something more interesting and more serious, namely, of the policy of your Majesty's Government, which is in a fair way to ruin the country. At no cost can we submit to a policy of which Russia cannot approve. If the Crown and Radoslavov persevere in such a policy, we will not be responsible for the consequences. We did not choose to seek out the culprits responsible for the calamity of 1913, because other grave concerns supervened. It was a disaster due to criminal folly. There must be no repetition of it. An attack by Bulgaria on Serbia such as Radoslavov has the intention of making, and for which as everything seems to show he has your Majesty's approval, would be a deliberate crime, and as such would deserve punishment."

The King hesitated an instant, then clasped Zanov's hand, and replied:—

"Good. I thank you, at any rate, for the sincerity of your language."

And, going up to Stambulivski (head of the Agrarian party), he repeated the inquiry about the crops. Stambulivski, as a good farmer, at first allowed himself to be caught by the question, and took advantage of it to ask the King to be so kind as to use his personal influence to induce Radoslavov to drop the embargo on the export of cereals; but he soon gave up the false scent, saying, "However, this is not the moment to talk of these things. I say again to your Majesty that the country will not have a policy of adventure such as cost it so dear in 1913. This policy is, moreover, yours. Before 1913 we believed you a great diplomatist, but we have seen what your diplomacy brought us. You have taken advantage of all the holes in the

Constitution to get the direction of the country into your own hands. Your Ministers count for nothing; you alone are the author of this policy, and you alone will have the responsibility of it."

"The policy I have decided to follow," the King frigidly replied, "is the one which I consider the best and the most advantageous for the country."

"It is a policy which can only lead to disaster," replied the farmer, "which will bring about new catastrophes, and will compromise not only the future of the country, but your own dynasty, and which may cost you your head!"

The King measured with his eyes this countryman, who spoke such weighty words.

"Do not trouble yourself about my head. It is an old one. Rather think of your own," said the King, with the shadow of a scornful smile, as he moved away.

But Stambulivski replied: "My head matters little, sire; I am only thinking of the country's."

There is an air of sincerity about this plain-speaking which inclines us to accept the report as substantially accurate, and we have no doubt that it reflects the opinions of a large proportion of the Bulgarian people. But the Tsarlet Ferdinand was too deeply committed by the baits held out by the Kaiser to draw back, and on Monday evening Russia presented an ultimatum (with which France and Britain have associated themselves) requiring the dismissal of German and Austrian officers. And all the answer received is an insolent message to the effect that there are no German or Austrian officers, and therefore nobody to dismiss! Accordingly Anglo-French troops have been landed at Salonika, and are being hurried north to help to relieve the pressure on brave little Serbia, which is now seriously threatened on two long and rather vulnerable fronts. Of course, the Austro-German menace from the north has been accurately timed to synchronise with the Bulgarian betrayal, but the besotted Kaiser's dupes have made so many miscalculations that we cannot believe they are going to score even a temporary success on this occasion. All the same, the attitude of Greece is somewhat puzzling and disconcerting. That fine, strong man, M. Venizelos, has felt compelled once again to resign



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and his place is taken by a scratch lot of ex-Premiers who never displayed the slightest trace of ability or statesmanship so far as we can recollect. But the Kaiser's brother-in-law, King Constantine, must fight for the family interests even if it costs him his head, as it very easily may, for we very much mistake the temper of the Greek people if they are content to sit quietly and see their gallant comrades in arms, the Serbs, crushed by their former allies even if the popinjay figurehead of the State wills it so. The actual position, however, is so obscure and complicated that it may be better in the general interests not to express too decided opinions until a little more daylight is let into the situation.

Meantime the slaughter of the Huns goes forward as well almost as we could possibly hope. These fine Russian fellows, under the most able leadership, are everywhere turning on the brutish foe and punishing him severely in spite of all his mechanical advantages. It is of the happiest augury that the slave-driven German hordes do not appear to have learnt anything from experience, and the wretched creatures are still painfully dragging their heavy guns into positions where they will not be of the slightest use, and from which they will not be removed until they are taken as trophies to Petrograd and Moscow. All along the line the Russians appear to have secured the initiative, and are soundly flogging the enemy, especially in the Bukhovina, which may make the Austro-German rush into Serbia a distinctly dangerous enterprise. Even in Gallipoli a little progress is reported, although the difficulties of attack in such a confined space are almost incredible, and the gallant Italians are steadily boring their way through the defences which Nature has provided for the haughty and cowardly Hapsburgers. In France and Flanders everything goes well. There is a pause on the British front, but it does not mean slackness or inactivity, because everyone who knows the conditions admits that our section of the line is about the hardest of all the nuts to crack. At this particular job our splendid troops do not in some disgruntled quarters get all the credit they deserve, but their bulldog tenacity allows the ever-vigilant French to take full advantage of their opportunities on other sections of the front, and they have achieved a most notable success by the capture of Tahure Hill, which is a position of the greatest importance as commanding some of the principal lines of German communication. It is a notable achievement, and we can await future events with the most perfect confidence. The price in good lives of our own kith and our Allies is heavy, but the results will be worth it in freeing the world from the devilish menace of militarism.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### RAILWAYS.

Central Uruguay of Montevideo.—After bringing in last year's accounts, £54,132, and providing for the payment of all charges, including the dividend on the five-and-a-half per cent. preference shares, there remains a balance of nett revenue account of £57,922, which the board recommend be carried forward. For the preceding year 2½ per cent. was paid on the ordinary stock.

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.—The balance of nett revenue for the year to June 30 amounted to £20,481 (against £23,369), out of which the board proposes to pay a balance dividend of 4s. per share, less tax, making 8s. per share for whole year, equal to 4 per cent., less tax, carrying forward £2,814. For the preceding year the distribution was the same, with £4,578 forward.

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.—The balance of nett revenue for the year to June 30 amounted to £10,089, against £19,398, out of which the board proposes to pay a balance dividend of 2s. 3d. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, making 5s. 3d. per share for whole year, equal to 2½ per cent., less tax, carrying forward £1,543. For the preceding year the distribution was 3½ per cent., with £3,237 forward.

Grand Trunk Company of Canada.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 of 1½ per cent. on the 4 per cent. guaranteed, payable Nov. 9. A year ago the full dividend (2 per cent. actual) was paid.

Great Western of Brazil.—On account of the low rate of exchange and abnormal commercial depression in Brazil, the results of the first six months' working do not admit of the payment of an interim dividend in respect of the current year's working, on the preferred or ordinary.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-South American Bank.—Final of 4s. per share, less tax, payable 27th inst., making 8 per cent. for year, placing £9,500 to the staff pension and guarantee fund, applying £75,000 to writing down investments, with £133,888 forward, against 10 per cent. for preceding year.

Alor Pongsu Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax at 2s. 8d. payable Sept. 26, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

Bank of Scotland.—For half-year ended Aug. 31 at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 20 per cent.

Benger's Food.—Interim on the ordinary of 1s. per share, free tax, payable Nov. 1, same as before.

Bombay Gas.—Interim of 3 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

British Bank of Northern Commerce.—Interim for six months ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free tax, same as a year ago, payable 16th inst.

Butters Salvador Mines.—25c. per share, same as last year.

California Exploration.—Interim at the rate of 6d. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 11. This is the company's first dividend.

Cheras Rubber.—Interim of 2½ per cent. actual, less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 14.

Chersonese (F.M.S.) Estates.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, payable Nov. 12, same as a year ago.

Commercial Union Assurance.—Interim of 10s. per share, less tax, on account of 1915, payable Nov. 18, same as a year ago.

Consolidated Malay Rubber.—Interim of 4d. (16 2-3 per cent.) per share, less tax, payable Oct. 15, against 12½ per cent., a year ago.

Cuba Submarine Telegraph.—Interim for six months ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to tax, on the preference, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst., same as a year ago.

D. and W. Murray.—6 per cent. for final six months on the ordinary, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £10,000 to the Debenture redemption fund, with £42,072 forward, against 9 per cent. for 1913-14.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 2s. per share, less tax, at 3s. 2d., payable 30th inst., making 4 per cent. for half-year ended Sept. 30.

Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Interim on the deferred at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Gula-Kalumpang Rubber.—Interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31 at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 1, against 9d. a year ago.

Heawood Tin and Rubber.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax.

Higgoda Rubber Estate.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, payable Oct. 8. This is the company's first dividend.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, payable Oct. 29, against 3 per cent. a year ago.

International Linotype.—Interim of 2½ per cent. to Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

La Rose Consolidated Mines.—Quarterly of 1 per cent., payable Oct. 20, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

London Trust.—Interim for half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred on account of year ending March 31, same as a year ago.

Panawatte Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, at 2s. 8d., in respect of current year, payable Oct. 14, against 3 per cent. a year ago.

Rio Tinto Company.—Interim of 20s. a share. No interim distribution was made last year.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light and Power.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Second Scottish Northern Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, less tax, for half-year to Oct. 1, same as last year.

Siak (Sumatra) Rubber.—Interim of 9d. per share, being at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for half-year, less tax, payable Oct. 20. No interim payment was made last year, 5 per cent. being paid for the whole year.

United Sumatra Rubber.—Interim of 2d. per share, payable Oct. 21, in respect of current year, against 1½d. a year ago.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, on account of 1914-15, payable Oct. 15. This compares with a similar dividend paid on account of the period ended Nov. 13, 1914.

Yatiantota Ceylon Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax of 2s. 8d., in respect of current year, payable Oct. 20, against 5 per cent., less tax, a year ago.

The directors of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. have appointed Mr. William Robert Macready as an assistant secretary at the head office. In order to take up this appointment Mr. Macready has resigned his position as an assistant manager in the home fire department of the Guardian Assurance Co.

City of Santos Improvements Co.—A circular has been issued by the directors stating that the accounts for the six months ended June 30 last have been received from Santos. Although the currency results obtained are not altogether unsatisfactory, the directors consider it inadvisable to declare an interim dividend on the ordinary share capital. Their decision is largely influenced by the low rate of exchange prevailing since the commencement of the company's financial year, and the uncertainty regarding the course of exchange during the ensuing months.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down.	Oct. 1	3,369	— 325	147,647	+ 12,010
Grand Canal.	" 1	1,108	— 79	15,251	— 629
Great Northern	" 1	28,800	+ 2,900	914,945	+ 30,895
Gt. Southern and Western.	" 1	38,482	+ 1,492	1,295,744	+ 103,022
Midland Great Western	" 1	13,274	— 2,576	499,600	+ 13,525

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	Aug. 28	1,02,000	+ 17,788	27,20,612	+ 3,600
Barsi Light	Sept. 11	13,600	— 5,000	5,09,300	— 43,300
Bengal & N.W.	Aug. 28	2,56,750	— 501	77,32,310	— 11,31,538
Bengal Nagpur	Sept. 11	6,51,000	— 1,11,000	1,76,96,000	—
Bombay, Baroda	" 30b	10,16,000	+ 4,53,000	3,08,28,000	+ 3,23,000
Burma	" 11	3,08,945	+ 112,583	83,17,666	+ 13,18,516
Delhi Umballa	Sept. 30a	1,06,079	+ 15,109	16,16,133	+ 64,306
East Indian	Oct. 2	19,33,000	+ 1,95,000	5,52,000	+ 54,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	Sept. 30a	20,28,600	+ 1,91,300	4,03,48,117	+ 18,49,594
Lucknow-Bareilly	Aug. 28	35,511	+ 7,026	8,32,408	— 5,704
Madras and S.					
Mahratta	Sept. 11	7,75,000	+ 1,48,653	2,09,30,432	+ 11,16,320
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 11	1,46,326	+ 54,842	27,26,394	— 36,992
(Metre)	" 11	54,222	+ 8,168	16,55,936	— 4,36,568
Robilkund and					
Kumaon	Aug. 28	29,254	+ 400	7,64,675	— 4,495
South Indian	Sept. 4	5,40,873	+ 51,147	1,25,84,340	— 1,97,296
Southern Punjab	May 4	4,63,632	+ 1,31,685	8,89,349	+ 1,10,949

b 5 days.

a 12 days.

† April 1.

‡ Month.

|| October 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira	July *	32,774	— 15,131	—	—
Canadian Northern	Sept. 30a	\$832,200	+ \$67,700	\$4,413,600	— \$68,300
Canadian Pacific	" 30a	\$3,371,000	+ \$76,000	\$26,692,000	— \$446,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 30a	232,206	+ 6,013	6,047,585	— 529,217
Gr. Trk. Western	" 30a	42,928	+ 5,389	1,120,891	+ 20,557
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 30a	16,017	+ 3,345	406,238	+ 25,901
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 30a	31,254	+ 1,104	181,720	+ 67,371
Mashonaland	July *	48,992	+ 21,116	233,427	+ 163,095
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	Aug. *	5,268	+ 4,279	5,268	+ 4,279
New Cape Central	Sept. 4	1,517	+ 270	64,252	+ 471
Rhodesia	July *	83,636	+ 13,491	7,443,798	+ 165,945
W. Pass & Yukon	Sept. 21	861,427	+ 20,628	11,283,477	— \$57,388

\* Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. a 9 days.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 21	917,000	+ 78,000	10,108,000	+ 958,000
Chicago G.W.	" 21	321,000	+ 56,000	3,288,000	+ 152,000
Colorado & South'n	" 14	297,000	+ 8,000	2,854,000	+ 13,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 30	751,500	+ 342,600	6,623,400	+ 83,000
Louisv. & Nashv'e	" 14	1,141,000	+ 56,000	12,342,000	+ 318,000
Min. S.P. (Soo)	" 14	689,000	+ 6,700	—	—
Missouri Kansas	" 30	809,232	+ 49,350	7,623,024	+ 485,750
Missouri Pacific	" 21	1,183,000	+ 71,000	13,465,000	+ 765,000
Southern	" 21	1,257,000	+ 24,000	14,209,000	+ 90,000

|| 9 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchafson T. & S. Fé	Aug.	3,601,000	+ 206,000	2	6,950,000	+ 648,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	89,000	+ 15,000	2	327,000	+ 94,000
Baltimore & Ohio	"	3,395,000	+ 628,000	2	6,471,000	+ 1,432,000
Canadian Northern	"	238,800	+ 5,900	2	523,900	+ 131,300
Canadian Pacific	"	3,442,000	+ 79,000	2	6,243,000	+ 899,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	713,000	+ 319,000	2	1,971,000	+ 642,000
Chicago & N.W.	"	1,782,000	+ 438,000	2	3,401,000	+ 562,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	July	2,314,000	+ 89,000	2	576,000	+ 60,000
Chicago G.W.	Aug.	334,000	+ 89,000	2	532,222	+ 778,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	Aug.	2,510,000	+ 350,000	2	903,000	+ 299,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	Aug.	903,000	+ 24,000	2	602,000	+ 55,000
Colorado & Southern	July *	420,000	+ 37,546	1	420,000	+ 37,546
Cuba	"	137,812	+ 46,604	1	137,812	+ 46,604
Do.	"	833,000	+ 107,000	7	4,384,000	+ 600,000
Delaware & Hud.	Aug.	840,600	+ 258,603	2	1,477,000	+ 338,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	2,269,000	+ 769,000	2	4,223,000	+ 1,405,000
Erie	"	£248,700	+ £13,000	8	£1,507,550	+ £5,950
Gr. Tr. Main Line	"	£39,700	+ £14,300	8	£84,800	+ £63,050
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£14,300	+ £10,700	8	£6,700	+ £45,850
Detroit G. H. & M.	July	2,735,000	+ 345,000	1	2,735,000	+ 345,000
Gt. Northern	Aug.	1,123,000	+ 137,000	2	1,925,000	+ 316,000
Illinois Central	"	330,000	+ 14,000	2	697,000	+ 4,000
Kansas City Southn.	"	1,230,000	+ 55,000	2	2,397,000	+ 57,000
Lehigh Valley	July	1,369,264	+ 114,211	1	1,369,264	+ 114,211
Louisville & Nashv.	"	423,000	+ 44,000	1	423,000	+ 44,000
Min. S.P. (Soo)	"	604,619	+ 152,198	1	604,619	+ 152,198
Miss. K. & Texas	"	1,161,000	+ 540,000	1	1,161,000	+ 540,000
Missouri Pacific	"	5,273,000	+ 997,000	8	27,980,000	+ 8,822,000
New York Cent. & H.	Aug.	2,175,000	+ 613,000	1	2,175,000	+ 613,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	July	338,000	+ 14,000	2	730,000	+ 60,000
New York Ont. & W.	Aug.	1,688,000	+ 594,000	1	1,688,000	+ 594,000
Norfolk & Western	"	2,408,000	+ 636,000	2	3,826,000	+ 408,100
Northern Pacific	"	10,858,000	+ 1,266,000	8	49,405,000	+ 5,253,000
Pennsylvania East	July	562,783	+ 7,945	1	562,783	+ 7,945
Reading	"	1,070,000	+ 4,000	1	1,070,000	+ 4,000
St. Louis & San F.	Aug.	339,000	+ 285,000	2	723,000	+ 74,000
Seaboard Air Line	"	1,611,000	+ 1,242,000	2	3,159,000	+ 438,000
Southern	"	4,597,000	+ 53,000	2	9,190,000	+ 2,553,000
Southern Pacific	"	3,403,000	+ 62,000	2	6,252,000	+ 120,000
Union Pacific	"	910,000	+ 62,000	2	1,414,000	+ 174,000
Wabash	"					

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		In. or dec. on last year.
		Amount	£			Amount	£	
Alcoy and Gandia	Oct. 2	Ps. 11,000	+ 3,000	1	1	Ps. 483,200	— Ps. 31,250	
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 3	25,145	+ 7,319	1	1	939,045	— 349,565	
Arauco	Aug. 2	6,750	+ 375	1	1	55,375	— 9,974	
Argentine N.E.	Oct. 2	7,705	+ 3,705	1	1	91,790	+ 26,145	
Bilbao R. and Canta	Sept. *	5,368	+ 256	9	9	44,453	+ 1,826	
Bolivar	Aug. *	7,250	+ 1,374	2	2	14,250	+ 1,879	
Brazil	July *	M3,272,000	+ M409,778	7	7	M22,115,000	— M548,354	
Brazil Gt. Southern	"	M18,29,800	— M 2,900	7	7	M238,850	— M18,600	
B. Ayres & Pacific	Oct. 2	80,000	+ 24,000	1	1	1,078,000	+ 219,000	
Do. Gt. South'n	" 3	92,000	+ 24,000	1	1	1,105,908	+ 175,967	
Do. Western	" 3	45,000	+ 11,000	1	1	579,000	+ 88,000	
Central Argentine	" 2	118,400	+ 17,800	1	1	1,514,800	+ 192,100	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 2	11,901	+ 3,543	1	1	143,026	+ 27,858	
Do. East'n Ex.	" 2	4,004	+ 1,554	1	1	45,621	+ 12,355	
Do. North'n Ex.	" 2	1,752	+ 512	1	1	23,846	+ 5,189	
Do. West'n Ex.	" 2	1,704	+ 269	1	1	20,469	+ 4,768	
Colombian National	Aug. *	12,700	+ 2,000	1	1	82,342	+ 492	
Cordoba Central	Oct. 2	34,150	+ 4,125	1	1	463,950	— 53,890	
Costa Rica	Aug. 28	5,340	— 1,303	1	1	39,812	— 25,727	
Cuban Central	Oct. 2	8,311	+ 2,330	1	1	103,312	+ 12,940	
Dorada Extension	Sept. *	8,400	+ 1,400	1	1	71,300	+ 5,300	
Egyptian Delta	Sept. 10a	4,309	+ 286	1	1	65,187	+ 23,468	
Entre Rios	Oct. 2	9,600	+ 1,700	1	1	121,600	+ 17,700	
French Sante Fé	Aug. 2	79,552	+ 13,210	1	1	598,312	+ 77,665	
Gt. South. of Spain	Oct. 25	Ps. 75,159	+ Ps19,833	1	1	Ps2,291,353	— Ps295,775	
Gt. West. of Brazil	Oct. 2	7,600	+ 800	1	1	371,500	+ 100,100	
Havana Central	" 2	5,573	+ 748	1	1	71,738	+ 6,356	
Inter. of C. Amer.	Aug. c	22,808	+ 14,824	8	8	168,492	+ 30,594	
La Guaira and Car.	Sept. *	6,250	+ 250	1	1	61,000	+ 22,250	
Leopoldina	Oct. 2	36,590	+ 12,313	1	1	1,141,681	+ 42,907	
Manila (Northern)	" 2	3,431	+ 124	1	1	207,179	+ 38,179	
Do. (Southern)	" 2	3,685	+ 357	1	1	148,747	+ 16,353	
Midland Uruguay	Aug. *	12,553	+ 5,099	2	2	22,766	+ 5,610	
Mogiana	July *	M2,857,000	+ M251,003	8	8	M1237,400	+ M276,812	
N.W. of Uruguay	Sept. *	\$22,000	+ \$7,416	3	3	\$68,500	+ \$16,357	
Nitrate	" 30b	16,615	+ 2,736	1	1	247,797	+ 23,627	
Paraguay Central	Oct. 2	\$502,000	+ \$262,000	1	1	\$5,908,000	+ \$205,000	
Paulista	July *	M 3,100	+ 173,947	7	7	M1355,000	— M146,961	
Peruvian Corp.	Sept. *	\$755,280	+ \$154,784	8	8	\$2,999,157	+ \$56,218	
Puerto Cab. & Vlen.	Aug. *	3,266	+ 649	1	1	29,424	+ 943	
Salvador	Oct. 2	\$18,250	+ \$3,750	1	1	\$273,750	+ \$18,064	
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	Sept. 26	37,781	+ 11,031	1	1	476,140	+ 140,199	
Sorocabana	July *	M1,319,000	+ M109,000	7	7	M9,042,000	+ M 100,000	
Taita	Aug. *	18,218	+ 1,253	2	2	26,378	+ 15,135	
United of Havana	Oct. 3	25,089	+ 5,715	1	1	321,537	+ 63,318	
United of Yucatan	Feb. 6	\$64,400	+ \$6,200	6	6	\$403,900	+ \$54,300	
Uruguay Northern	Aug. *	1,745	+ 446	2	2	3,532	+ 678	
N.Y. of Havana	Oct. 3	4,411	+ 205	1	1	67,011	+ 6,680	
Zafra and Huelva	Aug. *	9,613	— 542	7	7	62,817	— 45,898	

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days. § Apl. 1.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	—	£	£
Bath Electric ..						
Bristol ..	Oct. 1	9,702	+ 1,069	†	375,800	+ 33,798
British Elec. Fed.						
Dublin United ..	Oct. 1	6,265	+ 114	†	240,663	+ 8,957
Gearless Motor Bus						
Hastings and Dist..	Sept. 30	1,032	— 51	*	36,479	— 54
Isle of Thanet ..	" 30a	257	— 102	*	22,756	— 11,031
Lancashire United..	" 29	1,788	+ 202	†	68,737	+ 3,963
London Cnty. Cncl.	" 22	46,960	+ 4,984	§	1,095,822	— 4,285
London General ..		—	—	—	—	—
London United ..		—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Elec.		—	—	—	—	—
Nat. Steam Car ..		—	—	—	—	—
Provincial ..	Oct. 2	2,172	— 30	*	723	+ 131
South Metropolitan						
Sunderland District	Sept. 29	575	+ 46	48	27,363	— 649
Tramways (M.E.T.)						
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	Oct. 3	1,579	+ 107	40	63,751	+ 5,329



## SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

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FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

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Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

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General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

In the beginning of the week the Money market did not appear to be any too well supplied with funds, and with a fair demand for accommodation the charge for loans was steady at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., whether for the day or week. Floating balances, however, were increased by the disbursement of about £7,000,000 for the quarterly dividends on Government stocks, followed by the repayment of £15,000,000 old-style Treasury bills on Wednesday and of £600,000 Norwegian Treasury bills yesterday. While large amounts of the new-style Treasuries are now maturing, a fair business in Treasury bills over the counter was done at the Bank, but the new purchases were not equal to the amount paid off, and on balance the transactions left the market with a good deal of money in hand. In consequence of these disbursements, money became very abundant, and during the last day or two most of the business in overnight loans was arranged at 4 per cent., while in a few cases borrowers were able to get part of their requirements at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The charge for seven-day advances remained at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but most of the business was done at the lower figure, and a good deal of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. money from the clearing banks was paid off. Supplies will be further increased to-morrow by the maturing of another £15,000,000 Treasury bills, and a like amount will also be paid off on the 16th inst., while it is assumed the £1,000,000 of New South Wales bills maturing on the 15th will also be paid off. On Tuesday next, however, provision will have to be made for the penultimate instalment of 10 per cent. on the War Loan, which, it is estimated, will require about £30,000,000.

With only two instalments of the War Loan still to be met, the present is the last month in which the Government can hope to increase its balances without the adoption of fresh expedients, and the market is anxious to know what measures will be adopted for financing the war. It is recognised that no further loan is likely to be issued before January, but between now and then it is estimated that the expenditure will leave a gap to be filled of about £250,000,000. Various suggestions are being put forward, but the general impression seems to be that the Government will raise the rates for Treasury bills, and rely upon sales of those for the bulk of its requirements.

In spite of the easier tendency of money, the dis-

count market endeavoured to keep its rates for bills firm, partly because of the continued outflow of gold to the United States and Egypt, and partly because of the expectations of the supply of bills as the result of the Russian arrangement. The quotation for three months' paper was called firm at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the greater part of the week, but in the end the weight of money as usual proved too strong to be resisted. Expectations of the help likely to be derived from the Russian bills were also modified considerably, and yesterday brokers had to admit that the actual working rate was no better than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. December Treasury bills have been offered somewhat freely at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. but buyers were not very anxious to take them at this figure, and very few changed hands. India bills were quoted at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but business was difficult to do at the lower quotation. The new French Treasury bills were dealt in at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., and there have also been some transactions in Russian Treasuries at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Tenders for the £1,500,000 six months' Liverpool Corporation amounted to £5,097,000, and applications at £97 10s. 6d. received about 3 per cent. The average rate was £4 18s. 6d. per cent., and the bills have since changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Among foreign exchanges the New York cable transfer rate relapsed to 4.70 $\frac{1}{2}$ , owing, it was said in some quarters, to a temporary cessation of the selling of American securities, and in others to attempts to remit funds for investment in the Allies' loan, but it has hardened a little to 4.71. The Paris cheque, after fluctuating between 27.35 and 27.27, closed at 27.34, but the Petrograd exchange, which dropped to 136 on the announcement of the arrangement to provide increased Russian credits here, rose again to 139 $\frac{1}{2}$  on the Balkan developments.

Government disbursements during the week ended on Wednesday included the repayment of Treasury bills, and the payment of the quarterly dividends, and with the usual war costs the Public Deposits showed a decrease of £34,841,000. Of this £13,048,000 went in reduction of "Other" Securities, but Other Deposits rose by £21,613,000, an addition to the market's resources which was sufficient to account for the greater ease in money. Against a loss of £1,008,000 in gold for abroad £249,000 came in from the country, and the stocks of coin and bullion were therefore only £759,000 lower at £61,250,000. The note circulation, however, increased by £77,000, making a decrease of £836,000 in the reserve, but with the reduction in liabilities the proportion improved by 1.3 per cent. to 26 per cent. Payment of the Bank's dividend for the past half-year is reflected by a decrease of £656,000 in the "Rest."

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended October 6 £4,298,632 in £1 notes, £1,384,014 10s. in 10s. notes, and £300,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £1,976,561 in £1, £641,523 10s. in 10s. notes, and £150,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,214,562 10s., leaving a total of £75,236,887 outstanding, made up of £54,850,793 in £1 notes, £18,226,094 in 10s. notes, and £2,160,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £445,852 8s. 9d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £20,400,000 in Government securities, and £26,289,239 8s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £204,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £289,500 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

There has again been a steady demand for silver for coinage purposes on both home and Continental account this week. Supplies have apparently been rather larger, but not more than sufficient to meet the requirements, and the price after dropping to 23 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz., has recovered to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. on a few buying orders from China. Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid, in their weekly circular, state that the market has a good undertone, but that in the



absence of any competition from India or elsewhere the present level would seem high enough.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 8,45,000 in bills, Rs. 2,28,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 51,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 1,84,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 36,68,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 11,48,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 20 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 10,000 in bills and Rs. 10,10,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 5th inst. the total sales were Rs. 5,37,85,297, realising £3,584,594, compared with Rs. 5,61,54,861 for £3,747,072 to October 7 last year.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 6, 1915.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. .. .	£ 79,516,735	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	61,066,735
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 79,516,735		£ 79,516,735

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 31,286,061
Res .. .. .	3,121,050	Other Securities .. ..	119,266,493
P. bilit Deposits (including		Notes .. .. .	46,640,215
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	183,058
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	81,375,191		
Other Deposits .. ..	98,301,697		
Seven Day and other Bills	24,889		
	£ 197,375,827		£ 197,375,827

Dated Oct. 7, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Oct. 7.		Sept. 29, 1915.	Oct. 6, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,177,266	Rest .. .. .	3,777,147	3,121,050	—	656,097
17,852,333	Pub. Deposits ..	116,216,050	81,375,191	—	34,841,465
146,016,768	Other do. ..	76,688,867	98,301,697	21,612,830	—
14,088	7 Day Bills ..	24,502	24,889	387	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
27,971,087	Gov. Securities.	31,286,742	31,286,061	680	—
113,594,148	Other do. ..	132,314,524	119,266,493	13,048,031	—
46,378,212	Total Reserve ..	47,658,906	46,823,273	835,633	—
				35,497,562	35,497,562
				Increase.	Decrease.
34,828,700	Note Circulation	£ 32,799,985	£ 32,876,520	76,535	—
56,756,912	Coin and Bullion	62,008,891	61,249,763	—	759,098
24 1/2 p.c.	Proportion ..	24 7/8 p.c.	26 p.c.	1 3/8 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,008,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—U.S.A. .. ..
£ 1,100,000	Tuesday— .. ..
	Egypt (set aside) ..
	Wednesday—U.S.A. ..
	Thursday—Bars .. ..
	" Spain .. ..
	" Portugal .. ..
	Friday—Bars .. ..
Nett Efflux .. .. .	" Continent .. ..
£ 1,573,000	£ 200,000
£ 2,673,000	£ 2,673,000

#### LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,204,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	939,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. 1 ..	275,985,000	155,707,000	120,278,000	—
" 8 ..	255,092,000	167,196,000	87,896,000	—
" 15 ..	254,607,000	180,216,000	74,391,000	—
" 22 ..	239,471,000	184,844,000	54,627,000	—
" 29 ..	250,838,000	207,994,000	42,844,000	—
Oct. 6 ..	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
Total ..	10,212,666,000	11,948,712,000	—	1,736,046,000

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 17, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915.	Sept. 3, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 44,880,400	£ 42,426,000	£ 41,873,800
Gold Redemption Fund ..	239,400	237,470	232,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	12,608,000	13,738,000	11,576,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,200,200	4,047,000	3,854,800
Total reserves .. ..	60,928,000	60,448,400	59,537,000
10-day bills and loans .. ..	949,200	946,800	977,800
30-day bills and loans .. ..	2,607,200	2,417,000	2,283,600
60-day bills and loans .. ..	3,490,200	3,306,400	3,352,000
90-day bills and loans .. ..	1,458,600	1,730,400	1,698,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	227,000	251,000	279,000
Total .. .. .	87,732,200	86,51,600	8,591,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. .. .	1,809,400	1,770,400	1,768,600
Municipal Warrants .. ..	4,888,800	4,742,000	4,802,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. .. .	2,496,200	2,675,000	1,552,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	1,706,600	1,628,400	2,588,200
All other assets .. ..	676,400	768,200	815,000
Total assets .. .. .	81,237,600	80,684,000	77,654,800
Paid-up capital .. .. .	10,949,800	10,954,400	10,952,400
Reserve Deposits .. ..	3,000,000		
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	63,390,600	62,610,600	62,463,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,312,400	3,505,400	3,534,000
All other liabilities .. ..	584,800	613,600	704,200
Total liabilities .. ..	81,237,600	80,684,000	77,654,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. .. .	84.9 %	83.6 %	83.3 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. .. .	89.6 %	89.6 %	89.3 %

### NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Oct. 3, 1914
Loans .. .. .	£ 555,638,000	£ 546,676,000	£ 539,768,000	£ 440,426,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	102,134,000	103,672,000	105,761,000	105,761,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	28,560,000	28,560,000	27,088,000	27,088,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,086,000	5,904,000	5,862,000	5,862,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	567,406,000	557,854,000	549,926,000	549,926,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	24,534,000	26,698,000	27,608,000	27,608,000
Circulation .. .. .	7,298,000	7,328,000	7,348,000	7,348,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	38,580,000	41,752,000	43,400,000	35,953,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

### NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 2, 1915.	Sept. 25, 1915.	Sept. 18, 1915.	Oct. 3, 1914.
Loans .. .. .	£ 116,142,000	£ 116,678,000	£ 117,274,000	£ 113,900,000
Specie .. .. .	9,912,000	9,942,000	9,978,000	8,260,000
Deposits .. .. .	121,218,000	121,376,000	121,292,000	112,720,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,800,000	1,784,000	1,726,000	2,720,000

### BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 16, 1915
Gold in hand .. .. .	£ 184,053,600	£ 182,005,680	£ 180,002,960	£ 177,502,360
Silver in hand .. ..	14,544,960	14,565,840	14,646,240	14,584,840
Bills discounted .. ..	10,697,250	11,149,040	9,982,960	9,848,080
Advances .. .. .	23,598,960	23,427,000	23,494,680	23,513,960
Note circulation .. ..	546,563,400	538,323,160	532,383,846	530,681,000
Public deposits .. ..	2,771,080	2,568,280	4,725,120	3,034,800
Private deposits .. ..	105,080,600	107,839,600	103,504,720	102,051,960
Foreign Bills .. .. .	71,920	66,160	52,400	66,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 33 1/2 per cent., against 36 1/2 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £276,000,000; increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £38,291,640, decrease £816,520, and at the branches to £39,933,880, decrease £236,080.

### IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,843,950	£ 122,870,100	£ 122,860,400	£ 86,872,250
Treasury Notes .. ..	44,256,350	9,194,150	10,287,950	16,828,750
Bills discounted .. ..	375,528,500	266,343,350	257,662,100	237,788,500
Advances .. .. .	656,650	615,900	689,600	1,529,000
Note circulation .. ..	307,881,500	277,433,050	278,533,700	224,544,650
Deposits .. .. .	220,812,750	112,461,700	100,465,850	117,535,900

Clearing House returns during Sept. £270,499,050 against £210,075,490 in August.

### BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Oct. 3, 1914
Gold .. .. .	£ 29,977,890	£ 29,674,682	£ 29,638,163	£ 21,971,368
Silver .. .. .	29,522,671	29,602,218	29,528,299	27,409,015
Foreign Bills .. ..	4,476,111	4,671,232	4,675,071	7,203,962
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,320,121	26,233,956	26,186,338	34,465,827
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,071,290	29,198,766	29,309,164	27,925,774
Notes in Circulation .. ..	81,623,241	80,914,091	80,863,718	79,707,271
Current Accounts, Deposits	25,337,339	25,403,233	25,330,781	23,180,621
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,943,067	1,082,864	1,143,621	1,964,843
Government Securities ..	2,116,937	3,079,802	3,147,703	5,135,936

### BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 25, 1915.	Sept. 18, 1915.	Sept. 11, 1915.	Sept. 26, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£ 6,300,000	£ 6,300,000	£ 6,299,000	£ 5,746,000
Balance abroad .. ..				
Foreign Bills .. ..	5,713,000	5,834,000	5,627,000	2,840,000
Swedish and Foreign				
Govt. Securities .. ..	2,626,000	2,651,000	2,673,000	1,201,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,048,000	4,882,000	4,905,000	8,193,000
Notes in circulation ..	15,651,000	15,590,000	15,709,000	15,354,000
Deposits at notice .. ..	3,575,000	3,666,000	3,455,000	2,980,000



## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 21, 1915.	Sept. 14, 1915.	Sept. 5, 1915.	Sept. 21, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 5,845,900	£ 10,916,400	£ 6,854,700	£ 10,933,300
Cash in reserve ..	158,842,600	158,884,300	158,579,200	161,255,500
Gold in reserve abroad ..	3,870,200	5,220,800	5,223,000	21,657,000
Circulation note issue ..	452,000,000	432,000,000	417,000,000	270,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	30,125,000	21,229,100	21,021,700	22,309,400

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 12,187,580	£ 12,129,020	£ 12,112,198	£ 9,442,132
Bills .. ..	5,953,756	5,013,160	4,979,713	10,480,096
Note circulation ..	17,430,724	16,290,304	16,224,085	17,793,301
Current and deposit accounts ..	2,887,660	3,005,568	3,077,313	3,142,402

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 22, 1915.	Sept. 15, 1915.	Sept. 29, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 3,465,000	£ 3,359,000	£ 3,446,000	£ 2,402,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,705,000	3,790,000	3,753,000	1,492,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	783,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,045,000	3,907,000	3,961,000	6,630,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,220,000	7,865,000	8,322,000	7,454,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,254,000	1,470,000	1,486,000	1,061,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Oct. 3, 1914
Gold .. ..	£ 32,532,460	£ 32,102,183	£ 32,071,602	£ 13,567,078
Silver .. ..	153,220	189,422	173,295	173,727
Bills discounted, &c. ..	12,985,030	12,831,347	12,640,678	26,544,003
Note circulation ..	43,511,275	43,504,704	43,326,466	37,761,187
Deposits .. ..	1,173,879	2,440,453	2,341,070	2,147,975

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 5, 1915.		Oct. 7, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.72	11.77*	11.67	11.72*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.52	11.57	11.47	11.52
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	29.80	29.90*	29.90	30
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	29.40	29.50	29.50	29.60
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½	34½	35½
Do. do. ..	Three months' bills ..	34½	35½*	*	*
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.65	27.70*	27.75	27.80*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	27.25	27.30	27.30	27.38
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	136	138	137½	139½
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	18.20	18.50*	18.20	18.50*
Do. .. ..	Three months' bills ..	17.85	18.20	17.85	18.10
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	46½	46½*	46½	46½*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.70	24.80	24.70	24.80
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.30	25.40*	25.30	25.40*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.90	25	24.90	25

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. ..	chqs.	27.23	27.30	Antwerp .. ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. ..	sight	29.40	29.55
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.53	11.44½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 days	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 days	48½d.	48½d.
Vienna .. ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	138½	138½	Bombay .. ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.72½	4.70½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/8d.	1/8d.
Lisbon .. ..	sight	35½d.	35½d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
Madrid .. ..	sight	24.75	24.70	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1d.	2/1d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	4½
Six months ..	4½	4½
Nine months ..	4½	4½
Twelve months ..	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	4½-4½	4½
Three months ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
Four months ..	4½-4½	4½
Six months ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
Three months fine inland bills ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months ..	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
for call loans ..	4½-4½	4

The Commercial Bank of London has transferred its offices to Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, E.C.

A branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has been opened at Bundaberg and Maryborough, two cities on the Queensland coast.

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Throgmorton Street is a dreary place to live in at present. This week it has had various shocks of a political kind, and has become confused as to the outlook, especially with regard to the Balkan situation. The entry of Bulgaria into the world struggle was regarded as possibly a factor that might ultimately prove favourable to the cause of the Allies, but the resignation of M. Venizelos from the premiership of Greece has introduced a disturbing element into the most careful diplomatic calculations. Greece, unfortunately, has already on one previous occasion let us down rather badly, and it is impossible to say what may be the effects of the present defection in the immediate future. All this has naturally an unsettling effect on Stock Exchange sentiment, and in other directions there has been little of an encouraging character as offset. The success of the Anglo-French loan in New York has, of course, given a certain amount of stimulus to American securities, and Wall Street has been engaged in one of its really first-class booms with dealings aggregating over 8,000,000 shares for six days' trading. But very little of this comes our way, and the Yankee market in Shorter's Court has precious little to do before it turns homeward at three o'clock, just about the time the New York Exchange is having breakfast. One or two sections of the more speculative type, like rubber, motor and armament, shares, get a certain amount of business from the daring investor, but the big markets, like Colonial and Home Railways, are very poorly patronised. There is still a fairly active business in War Loan and other Government stocks, but unfortunately for the bulk of Stock Exchange members these orders mostly go through very few hands, and do not help materially to increase the general trade of the "House." The only satisfaction the old sticks who are not engaged on war work have is that so many of their fellow members are now earning their living in various directions under the Government, either as soldiers, shell-makers, or, at the worst, paymasters.

Stock markets have been largely under the influence of the developments in the Balkans, and except in one or two special sections the tendency has been dull with business very much restricted. War Loan stock again improved, helped, it was said, by the investment of Chancery funds, but after touching 97½ ex. and 98 cum. rights, the price relapsed to 97½ and 97½. The old 3½ per cent. War Loan fell to 92½, and Colonial short-dated issues were also inclined to give way. Stock Exchange shares fell about 10 points on the announcement that no interim dividend would be paid. In Foreign Governments, Japanese loans have again been prominent, with a good demand, and there has also been some inquiry for Chinese bonds, while Argentine and Brazilian issues were well maintained. Russian things were steady, but Greek 1889 fell on the recent political developments.

The Home Railway market has been more or less idle, and although Lancs and Yorks, Midland deferred, and Great Eastern all improved in the beginning of the week, the greater part of the gains were wiped out later. Canadian Pacific shares were depressed and touched 166½, but rallied smartly to 170, partly on the traffic return for the last nine days of September, which showed the first increase for over a twelve-month, and partly on Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's speech at the meeting on Thursday. Grand Trunk stocks rose by substantial amounts on the interim dividend, which was much better than had been expected, but in the case of the ordinary and third preference the whole of the gains were not held. American Railroad shares declined at first on profit-taking, Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, and Baltimore losing from 1 to 1½, but considerable activity then developed in Wall Street, and prices here rose rapidly in sympathy. United States Steel common improved to 85½ on talk of the recent deficit of \$22,000,000 having given place to a surplus of \$10,000,000, but the price has fluctuated rather widely since, and after touching 83, closed only ½ above the lowest. International Mercantile Marine have been amongst the favourite counters, and after some fairly lively ups and downs the common finished at 7 and the preference at 38½. The most sensational-looking movement in Foreign Railways has been the further jump to 174 in San Paulo ordinary. Argentine Railways improved on the good traffic returns, but the rise brought out sellers, and a good part of the earlier gain was knocked off.

Miscellaneous markets have been, on the whole, inactive, and inclined to be dull. A moderate amount of business was recorded in Bank shares, but the changes in price were not of much importance. Shipping securities were quiet for the most part, with a few transactions in Royal Mail, P. and O. deferred, and Cunard. Hudson's Bay were offered on the



quarterly statement of land sales, and fell to 57½, but the decline brought in buyers, and they recovered to 75½, closing firm. Forestal Land have been in good request, and rose to 37s. 6d. A demand sprang up for Canadian Car and Foundry issues on a report from New York that the company had made further large contracts for munitions with the Russian Government, but a reaction followed on the weakness of "war" stocks in New York. Catering shares were steady, on the whole, and Meat shares were firm. Brazilian Traction fluctuated within narrow limits and finished with a fractional

to 43½. Shells, Urals and North Caucasian, however, hardened. Kern River were inquired for on cable advices that the No. 9 well of the St. Helen's Petroleum Co. was producing 1,000 barrels a day.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—During the week a fair amount of business transpired in this market, while values showed no material alteration. With regard to home refined, Tate's No. 1 cubes sold at 50s.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 33s. Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Tate's pieces range from 24s. to 30s., according to make. Cane sorts steady, with a moderate inquiry, no auctions being held. Demerara crystallised sold, 29s. to 30s., and Trinidad, 29s. 3d. to 31s. Of foreign grades, American granulated, on spot, sold at 32s. 6d., and white Java, in similar position, at 30s. to 30s. 6d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week, 5,600 tons, against nil in 1914. Centrals at work 1, against nil.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies in auction experienced a slow demand, but rates were without material change. East India, Mysore, bold, 73s. 6d. Costa Rica, good to fine bold, 76s. to 78s.; peas, 57s. to 84s. 6d. Colombian, fine ordinary, 54s. Vera Paz, fine bold, 93s. Uganda, good bold, 58s. Futures ruled inactive.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies in auction experienced a quiet demand, at about late rates for British West India kinds. Foreign dull and Guayaquil 2s. per cwt. lower. Ceylon, ordinary to fine, sold, 73s. to 85s. Trinidad, mid to fine, 84s. 6d. to 86s. Grenada common, 73s. Dominica, ordinary to fair, 71s. 6d. to 73s. Jamaica, fine to very fine, 77s. to 80s. 6d. British West African, 72s. Guayaquil, Caraquez, 81s. to 83s.; Costa Rica, 75s.; Cameroons, common to fine, 69s. to 77s. 6d.

**TEA.**—Indian auctions met a good demand at full rates for grades up to 11d. per lb., but over this price bidding was less animated, though no material change occurred in prices. Ceylon sales met with fair support for common descriptions, but medium and fine sorts were somewhat irregular. Java offerings experienced a fair demand, but prices were rather easier.

**SPICE.**—Pepper opened firmly, but became quieter, owing to prohibition of export. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sold, 6d.; Tellicherry at 6½d.; Lampong quoted 6d.; fair white Singapore, spot, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 10½d. To arrive: black Singapore, September-November shipment, sellers, 5½d.; Lampong ditto, sold, 5½d. to 5½d.; white Singapore ditto, 8½d.; Muntok, September-October, 9½d. to 9½d.; Penang, September-November, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves steady. Fair Zanzibar on spot, sellers, 6½d.

**RICE.**—Quiet, but values fully steady. No. 1 garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 9d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.

**JUTE.**—In quiet request, and rates easier. Native first marks, September-October, sold, £24 5s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila quiet, and prices tended easier. New graded fair, September-October and October-November, sellers, £38 10s.; medium ditto, quoted, £35 10s.; coarse ditto sold, £29 10s.; and coarse brown quoted, £27 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand inactive. G.F., October-December shipment quoted, £33; H.P.F., ditto, £32; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Market for spot parcels ruled firm. Fair T.N. orange sold, 69s.; and A.C. garnet free at 66s. Futures firmly held. T.N., October done, 69s. to 69s. 6d.; and December at 71s. to 71s. 6d.

**GAMBIER** firm but slow. Good marks, October-November shipment held for 35s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**QUININE** dearer, with usual continental sold at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.

**INDIA-RUBBER** firmer, with a good demand. Plantation crepe, on spot and October delivery sold, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d. and 2s. 5½d.; October-December, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d.; January-March, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5d., and 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4½d. Smoked sheet, on spot, sold, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d.; October delivery at 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; October-December, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; January-March, 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot, done 2s. 4½d.; October-November, 2s. 4½d.; November-December, 2s. 4½d. Soft fine, spot and October-November, quoted 2s. 4½d. Ball, spot, sold, 1s. 11½d. Scrappy, ditto, buyers, 1s. rod. per lb.

**WOOL.**—The sixth series of Colonial wool sales, which commenced on the 7th ultimo, was brought to a close last week. Competition was keen for merinos, which sold at steady to occasionally dearer prices, especially for long sound free grease, but medium lots eased off to the extent of 5 per cent., while inferior faulty and short sorts showed a decline of 10 per cent. The best grades of scoureds were in strong demand, and occasionally realised more money, but inferior and low descriptions depreciated 5 to 10 per cent. Cape scoured and greasy were 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. easier. The next series will commence on the 26th inst. with a nett available total of some 138,500 bales.

**TALLOW.**—Market steady. At public sale, 1,746 casks were brought forward, and 1,681 sold, prices being on average 1s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 39s. 6d.; fair to good, 38s. to 39s. 3d.; dark to dull, 33s. 6d. to 36s.; hard, 38s. Beef: fine, 38s. 6d.; fair to good, 36s. to 37s. 3d.; dark to dull, 33s. to 35s.; sweet, 38s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter unchanged for tallow. Stuff, 9d. per cwt. up. Town tallow, 35s. 6d.; melted stuff, 25s. per cwt. Rough fat, 7d. per 8 lb.

**COPRA.**—Market very firm, and a sustained demand existed. To London: Ceylon, September-October, buyers, £25; Malabar, ditto, £26; F.M.S., Singapore, buyers, £24 3s. 9d.; South Sea Islands, September-October, £23. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, September - October, quoted, £24 2s. 6d.; Manila, buyers, £23 2s. 6d.; October-December, £23 3s. 9d.

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	97	97
— War Loan 3½%.....	92½	92½	— New Zealand 4½% ..	95	95
69½ India 3½% (250 pd.)	23	23	— Queensland 4½% ..	92	92
80½ Canada 4½% 1910-60	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	97½	97½
92 — 4½% 1920-5	97½	98	— Victoria 4½% 1920-5	97½	97½
92 — N.S.W. 4½% ..	95	95			
66 Belgian 3% .....	66½	66½	French Rentes ....	66½	66½
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	61½	— Japan 4½% (1st) ....	89	89½
— " New Funding ..	69	69	— " (2nd) ..	87½	87½
— Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	— Russia 4% ..	73	73½
— " 1913 .....	82	82	— " 4½% ..	75½	75½
— Egypt Unified 4% ..	85	85	— " 5% ..	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	54½	54	London and S.-W. dfd. .	23½	24
Caledonian defd. ....	8½	8½	— Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	79	78	Metropolitan .....	23	23½
Gt. Central pf. ....	13½	13	— Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	96
— dfd. ....	6½	6½	Met. District .....	13½	13½
Gt. Eastern .....	33	33	Midland dfd. ....	58	57½
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	39½	38½	Nth. British dfd. ....	15	15
Gt. Western .....	94	93½	Nth.-Eastern .....	101½	100½
Lances and Yorks. ....	69	70	Nth.-Western .....	102	100½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	23½	23½
Canadian Pacific .....	169½	170	Chesapeake .....	53	56½
Do. 6% Notes .....	107½	108½	Erie .....	34½	34½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% deba.	94½	94½	Milwaukee .....	90½	92
Grand Trunk ord. ....	10½	10½	N. Y. Central .....	101½	104
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24½	24	Southern .....	20	19½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	97	98½	Southern Pacific .....	99½	99½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " ..	97½	97½	Union Pacific .....	140½	140½
Atchison .....	109	110½	U. S. Steel .....	82½	83½
Baltimore .....	92½	93½			
Antofagasta dfd. ....	126	125	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	82	83½
Do. 6% Notes ..	101½	101½	Do. 5% Notes ..	100½	102½
Brazil Common .....	6	6	Do. 6% " ..	104	103½
B. A. & Pacific .....	45½	46	Leopoldina .....	34½	34
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	77½	80	Mexican ord. ....	16½	17½
B. A. Western .....	83½	84	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	163	174
			United of Havana .....	72	73
Bank of Australasia .....	107½	107½	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	7½	7½	London County & West ..	14½	14½
Do. "B" .....	7½	10	London Joint Stock .....	19½	19½
Capital & Counties .....	20	20	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	22	22
Chartered of India .....	52½	52½	Do. (£12 pd) ..	26½	26½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	72½	72½	Parr's .....	27	28
Lloyds .....	22½	22½	Standard of S.A. ....	10x	10x½
London & Provincial .....	14½	14½	Union & Smiths .....	23	23
London & S.W. ....	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestal Land .....	36½	37½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	34½x	35½	Furness, Withy .....	31½	32½
Associated Cement .....	3	3	Hudson's Bay .....	5½x	5½
Birmingham Small Arms	59½	59½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	22½
Borax dfd. ....	24½	24½	Do. dfd. "A" ..	36½	35½
Bovril .....	19½	19½	Kynochs .....	29½	29½
Brazil Traction .....	49½	49½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	63½	63½	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27½	27½	Marconi .....	18½	18½
Brunner, Mond .....	3½	3½	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	23½	23½
Camell-Laird .....	41½x	51½x	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner .....	61½	61½	National Steam Car. ....	11½	11½
Coats .....	4½	4½	Nobel Dynamite .....	15½	15½
Cunard .....	55½	59½	Pears, A. & F. ....	18	18½
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	28½	P. & O. dfd. ....	265	265
Dorman, Long .....	21½	21½	Royal Mail .....	80	80
Eastmans .....	7½	7½	South Durham Steel ..	27½	27½
English Sewing Cotton ..	33½	32½	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	71½	71½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24½	24½	Vickers .....	33½	33½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	4½	4½	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	18	17½
Baku (10s) .....	24½	24½	North Caucasian .....	26½x	26½
Burmah .....	3½	3½	Romanian Cons. ....	13½	12½
Lobitos .....	27½	27½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	4½	4½
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3½	3½	Shell .....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline .....	3½	3½	Spies (10/-) .....	14½	13½
Mexican Eagle .....	18	18	Ural Caspian .....	18	18½
Anglo-Malay .....	8½x	8½x	Linggi .....	13½x	13½x
Batu Caves .....	11½x	11½x	London Asiatic .....	5½x	5½x
Bukit Mertajam .....	2½	2½	Malacca .....	4	3½
Bukit Sembawang .....	2½	2½	Malayalam .....	20½	20½
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Mr. Rima .....	4	4
Gula Kalumpang .....	18	18	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	10½	9½
Highlands .....	28	28	United Serdang .....	9½	9½
Johore Rubber Lands ..	14½	14½	Vallambrosa .....	15½	12½x
Abbottiakoon (10/-) .....	8½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	9½	10½
Brakan .....	38	38	East Rand .....	18½	18½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	44½	43½	Gt. Boulder (2½/-) ..	14½x	14½x
Cam & Motor .....	13½	14½	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) ..	6½	6½	Modder "B" ..	5½	5½
Chartered .....	9½	9½	Do. Deep .....	5	4½
City Deep .....	38½	38½	New Miner (2½/-) ..	15½	15½
Cons. Gold Fields .....	15½	15½	Rio Mines (5/-) ..	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	18	18	Rio Tinto (£5) ..	54	54
Crown Mines (10/-) ..	38	38	Van Ryn Deep .....	28	28

gain. Textiles were neglected. Mappin and Webb preference dropped ¼ or so on the announcement that no interim dividend would be paid.

Dealings in Rubber shares have been on a very moderate scale, but prices generally were firm on the strength of the market for the commodity, and the steady stream of good crop reports. London Asiatic and Kamuning were both helped by their dividends, and some demand was experienced for Anglo-Java, Bukit Mertajam, Bukit Sembawang and Bukit Selangor. Rubber Trust remained dull under the influence of the report until near the end of the week, when a little support was forthcoming, and they closed above the worst. Oil shares have been quiet, and Royal Dutch, after improving to 44, fell back



**OILS.**—Linseed firm. Spot, pipes (landed), £27; barrels £27 15s.; Hull (naked), spot, £24 5s.. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £37 10s. to £39; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £35 to £36. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), September-October, £32s 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £29 to £29 5s.; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £31 15s.; sweet (barrels), £36 to £37. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, September-October, £23 10s., c.f. and i. Turpentine opened easier, but improved. American spirits, on spot, 35s. 1½d.; Spanish, spot, 31s. 10½d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market firm. Calcutta, spot, 55s.; affloat, 55s. 6d.; September-October, 56s. 3d.; October-November, 56s. 6d. La Plata, October-November, 53s. 6d. Rape

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 10 0	2 10 0	Australian	8 2 6	8 2 6
Ditto, No. 2	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	9 1 8	9 1 8
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'sbr'd	5 1 1	5 1 1
Lyle's granulated	32 3—32 9	32 3—32 9	Greasy Merino	5 1 1	5 1 1
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	5 1 1	5 1 1
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	11 2 4	11 2 4
German Cubef.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	9 1 8	9 1 8
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	9 1 8	9 1 8
prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	8 2 6	8 2 6
Crystallised, West India	24 9—27 6	27 9—31 0	<b>Indianrubber</b> p. lb.		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 7½ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Crepes	0 2 4	0 2 6
Indian Pekoe	9 1 2	9 1 2	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Broken	9 1 2	9 1 2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Orange	9 1 2	9 1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	10 1 4	10 1 4	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	9 1 0	8 1 0	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	9 1 0	9 1 0	Steamers, best	18 0—19 0	18 0—18 6
Broken	9 1 0	9 1 0	Seconds	16 0—17 0	16 0—17 0
Orange	10 1 4	10 1 4	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	10 1 4	10 1 4	English Pig.	25 10 0	25 0 0
Pekoe Souchong	9 1 0	8 1 0	Foreign soft	25 5 0	£24 8—£24 8
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1½d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	£16 10 0	£16
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0—86 0	82 0—87 0	<b>Rin</b> —per ton	£150—£150	£149—£150
Grenada	75 0—82 0	76 0—84 0	Do, bars	151—151	150 1—151
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Standard cash	£150 0 0	£149 10 0
Ceylon Plantation	72 0—90 0	72 0—90 0	Rin Plates, per box	17 0—17 3	17 0—17 3
Guayaquil Arriba	38 0—90 0	37 0—89 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.	£87—£88	£87—£88
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2½ per cwt.			Best Selected	£85—£86	£86—£87
East India	32 0—94 0	62 0—94 0	Sheets	£98	£100
Jamaica	47 0—120 6	47 0—120 6	Standard	£73 0 0	£72 5 0
Costa Rica	55 0—82 0	55 0—82 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
<b>Provisions</b>			Native firsts for sh'pmt.Oct.-Nov.	£25 10 0	£24 10 0
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			<b>Oils</b>		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton.	£268—£278	£278—£282
Irish Creameries	170—183	178—186	Rape, ref. English,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	casks	£37 1—£38	£37 1—£39
Russian finest	138—142	136—142	Brown English,	£35—£36	£35—£36
Normandy baskets	120—160	114—164	naked	£28	£29
Danish finest	198—202	206—209	Cott'n Seed, crude	£31—£37	£31—£37
Brittany rolls	15 6—17 6	15 6—18 0	Ditto, refined		
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Irish	100 0—105 0	100 0—105 0	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
Continental	96 0—107 0	95 0—107 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Canadian	82 0—95 0	82 0—95 0	Calcutta—per 4½ lbs., Oct.-Nov.	2 15 6	2 16 9
American	74 0—87 0	77 0—90 0	Rape, Guzerat Sept.-Oct.	3 2 0	3 2 0
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	118—128	118—128	Cleveland Cash	3 4 10	3 4 10
Canadian	12 0—87 0	16 0—89 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —per duty, unmanufactured		
American	52 0—86 0	53 0—82 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 5 1—6	0 5 1—6
Canadian	76 0—77 0	76 0—77 0	Virginaleat.	0 6 0—10	0 6 0—10
Gouda	32 0—96 0	32 0—96 0	Kentucky leaf	0 4 1—6	0 4 1—6
English Cheddar	76 0—77 0	76 0—77 0	Catania	0 6 2—10	0 6 2—10
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	0 6 2—10	0 6 2—10
New Zealand	76 0—77 0	76 0—77 0	Manila	0 6 2—10	0 6 2—10
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon— open charter, new crop, per cwt.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Danish and		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Memel Fir, pe- load	130—150	130—150
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	230—600	230—600
Dutch	18 6 22 0	18 0—21 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	12 0—13 6	12 0—13 0	Town house-hol- official	43/	44/
Danish	18 0—21 0	18 0—20 6	American, 1st pa- tents	43/ upds.	44 upds.

seed: Guzerat, September-October (pure), 62s.; Toria (3 per cent.), September-October, 53s. 6d. Cottonseed firm. London: Egyptian, loading, £10 12s. 6d.; October, £10 8s. 9d.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—The tone of this market has been even more pronounced since last Monday. Influences of continued small supplies on spot and rising freights have further reflected on the course of prices all round respecting the principal staples. The amount of business in progress has not been beyond moderate, with sellers exercising reserve and trade from time to time checked. Attendance limited. Wheat: English, whites and reds, delivered up, now range at 47s. to 50s. per qr. 504 lbs., according to quality. Foreign: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, due in about a week, 57s. 3d. Hard winters, No. 2 in similar position, 1s. 6d. Plate, 56s. to 57s., landed, according to quality. Flour:

American first spring patents, 44s. 6d. upwards; and Canadian export patents, 42s. to 43s., both landed terms. Grinding barley: La Plata, 35s. 6d., ex ship, and 36s. 6d., quay terms. Japanese, ex ship, to arrive shortly, 36s. 6d. Oats: Plate, 28s. 6d., ex ship; and about 29s. to 30s. landed, as to quality. American white clipped No. 2 (new), 27s. 6d., ex ship; 28s. 6d., landed. Maize: La Plata (sound), 32s. 3d. to 32s. 6d., ex ship; 33s. 3d. to 33s. 6d., ex quay. White flat South African, 34s. 6d. to 35s., quay terms.

**METALS.**—Copper: The warrant market manifested a steady but quiet tone last Monday, when, after a moderate business, standard, cash delivery, closed at £72 17s. 6d., and three months £74. Frequent realisations characterised movements until the middle of the week, leading to a smart decline, while values of these dates left off at £71 and £72 respectively. A cessation of selling on Thursday, and better support imparted a distinct rally, cash reaching £72, and three months £73. Electros, £87 10s. to £88 10s. Tin, a flat market, and an easier tendency continued during the early part of the week, cash standard being registered down to £148 5s.; November prompts to £149 10s.; and three months £149 15s. Influenced by the possibility of an impending export tax on Eastern shipments, sellers exercised considerable reserve during the middle of the week, and a sharp advance followed, cash touching £151 10s., and three months £152 15s. Moderate selling pressure at Thursday's session and less response to offers caused a setback, cash delivery being finally fixed at £149 10s., and three months £151 15s. Lead firm. Soft foreign, October to January, sellers, £24 12s. 6d. to £22 17s. 6d. Spelter, near, dearer. G.O.B., October, officially quoted at £73, October, and £65, November. Iron easier.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The upward movement in raw cotton rates has continued, and spinners and manufacturers have been forced to put up their quotations in yarn and cloth. The further rise in values has been due to unfavourable reports relating to the prospects for the American crop this season. According to recent advices it looks as though the yield in the States will be rather less than 11,000,000 bales, whilst the growth in Egypt will also be comparatively small. Manchester traders for some time have rather mistrusted the higher prices, but there is now more belief in current rates being maintained. Operations in piece goods for export have been irregular. Some very fair lots have been put through in light fabrics for Calcutta, but bids in shirtings for India continue altogether too low for business to be done. The monsoon season has been fairly healthy, and this is the time of the year when it is usual for our customers abroad to replenish supplies, but it remains to be seen whether they will be willing to purchase freely at the prices ruling to-day. Very little news has come through from China, and the fact that stocks in Shanghai are distinctly smaller than at the beginning of the year does not seem to result in a larger turnover. A considerable amount of interest has been taken in the developments in the Near East, and traders with that part of the world are anxiously waiting for further news. Printing cloths have been purchased rather sparingly. Some Blackburn manufacturers have forced sales and obtained a little relief. Most advices from the home trade are fairly encouraging. American and Egyptian yarns have been dearer in quotation, but there has not been any particular activity, and most users have purchased from hand to mouth. Coarse counts continue to do better than fine numbers. Production is a good deal affected by the shortage of labour, and owing to the smaller supplies of yarn available the margin of profit in certain quarters is being well maintained. A fair undercurrent of demand has been experienced in bundles for India and cops for the Continent.

## FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—In fair general demand, and quotations for white descriptions unaltered. Cane auctions steady with fair competition, especially for syrups. Crystallised Demerara sold 29s. to 29s. 3d., with fine to choice 30s. 9d. to 31s. Trinidad 29s. 3d. Demerara syrups 21s. 9d. to 24s. 3d., and up to 25s. 6d. for fine yellow. Mauritius 20s. 9d. to 20s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—A small quantity brought to auction met a quiet demand at recent values. Futures steady, but still slow. December quoted 37s. 3d., March 37s.

**RICE.**—Bran.—Business in Rangoon, October-December, at 130s. ex ship terms Liverpool.

**JUTE.**—Steadier. Native first marks, October-November, to Dundee sellers £24 10s., and business in Daisee No. 2 ditto at £23 12s. 6d. to £23 10s.

**HEMP.**—Steadier. Coarse, October-December, sold £29 10s.

**RUBBER.**—Market steady. Plantation crepe spot and also October delivery sold 2s. 5½d., October-December at 2s. 5½d., and January-June 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet spot and October sold 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para spot and forward 2s. 5d. sellers. Ball, October-November, 2s. sellers.

**QUININE.**—Market dearer, and business on spot at 2s. 8d.

**OILS.**—Linseed spot pipes (landed) £27 10s., barrels £28 5s. Hull spot £25 5s. Turpentine, American spot 35s. 6d. Linseed, London-Calcutta, spot 55s. 6d., September-October 56s. 6d. October-November 56s. 6d. La Plata, October-November, 53s. 6d.

**METALS.**—Copper.—A steady tone existed in the standard market, but business proceeded quietly, sellers being somewhat reserved. Cash settled down 5s. firmer, and three months unchanged since previous day's close. Standard cash sold £72 to £72 5s., and three months at £72 15s. to £73, closing £72 5s. and £73 respectively. About 350 tons sold. Settlement price £72 5s. Electros unaltered at £87 10s. to £88 10s. Tough £87 10s. to £88 10s. Best selected £86 10s. to £87 10s. Strong sheets £100. Tin, after being a shade easier, became steadier, and closed about unchanged since Thursday's final, while a moderate business transpired. Standard cash sold at £149 10s.,



and three months at £150 10s., closing £149 10s. cash and £150 15s. three months. About 200 tons sold. Settlement price £149 10s. Lead steady but quiet, no business being reported. English £25, and foreign officially quoted at £24 7s. 6d. to £22 17s. 6d., as to position. Spelter easier. G.O.B. officially quoted at £72 10s. to £64, according to position. Antimony nominal. Tin plates I.C. cokes quoted 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d. basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron dull. Cleveland cash 64s. 3½d., one month 64s. 8d., and three months 65s. 6d. Quicksilver £16.

### Last Month's Foreign Trade.

Apart from the ever-widening gap in the visible trade balance, the figures of our foreign trade for the past month are, on the whole, extremely encouraging. Imports, it is true, show the enormous expansion of just over 56 per cent., which is the most unsatisfactory feature in the returns, but it is gratifying to find that exports and re-exports show an increase together of close on £8,000,000, the former being 21 per cent. up and the latter 43½ per cent. higher. The com-

#### IMPORTS.

	September.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 61,355,725	£ 45,006,607	£ 70,292,919	+ 25,286,312
Gold .....	4 780,940	790,417	356,363	- 404,054
Silver .....	1,212,123	1,448,628	699,658	- 748,970
Total .. ..	67,348,788	47,245,652	71,378,940	+ 24,133,288

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	42,424,864	26,674,101	32,308,432	+ 5,634,331
For. and Col. M'dse..	6,853,613	5,274,041	7,564,327	+ 2,290,286
Gold .. ..	7,912,582	48,769	1,670,948	+ 1,622,179
Silver .. ..	651,492	435,142	286,721	- 148,421
Total .. ..	57,841,951	32,432,053	41,830,428	+ 9,398,575

#### IMPORTS.

Nine Months ended September.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	557,766,699	522,474,345	643,888,258	+ 121,413,913
Gold .. ..	44,630,886	48,421,752	7,320,667	- 41,101,145
Silver .. ..	11,342,206	9,157,915	7,178,943	- 1,978,972
Total .. ..	613,739,791	580,054,012	658,387,808	+ 78,333,796

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	390,755,609	350,748,363	283,091,686	- 67,656,677
For. and Col. M'dse..	82,370,432	76,796,206	75,619,886	- 1,176,320
Gold .. ..	32,196,043	29,374,025	8,350,939	- 21,023,086
Silver .. ..	9,721,029	9,275,600	5,713,420	- 3,561,520
Total .. ..	515,043,113	466,193,594	372,775,991	- 93,417,603

#### VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

September.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	67,348,788	47,245,652	71,378,940	+ 24,133,288
Exports.. ..	57,841,951	32,432,053	41,830,428	+ 9,398,575
Excess value of im- ports over exports	9,506,837	14,813,599	29,548,512	+ 14,734,913

Nine Months ended September.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	613,739,791	580,054,012	658,387,808	+ 78,333,796
Exports.. ..	515,043,113	466,193,594	372,775,991	- 93,417,603
Excess value of im- ports over exports	98,696,678	113,860,418	285,611,817	+ 171,751,399

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

parison, of course, is with the second month of the war, when trade was exceptionally disturbed and had not settled into even moderately normal conditions; but the contrast with even 1913 is not, on the whole, unfavourable. As to imports for the past month, a good deal of the increase is due to higher prices rather than to quantities. Food, drink, and tobacco have increased by just over £10,000,000, raw materials by £5,500,000, and articles mainly manufactured by £9,500,000. With regard to foodstuffs, fresh beef shows an increase of 196 per cent. in quantity and 260 per cent. in value. Cheese, another fairly heavy item, is up 17½ per cent. in quantity and 25½ per cent. in value. Wheat, on the other hand, shows a loss of

48½ per cent. in quantity, but only 29 per cent. in value. Cotton, however, has come in cheaper, 42 per cent. more costing us an increase of only 29 per cent. Leather shows the astonishing increase of 340 per cent. in quantity and 412 per cent. in value. Raw sugar, however, is nearly 70 per cent. up in bulk and 58 per cent. in value, while preserved meat has risen over 100 per cent. in quantity and 155 per cent. in price. Wood is another case where prices have advanced enormously, our purchase being 63 per cent. larger, but costing us 148 per cent. more. With regard to exports, the principal increases are in coal, £996,000; wool, £184,000; iron and steel manufactures, £780,000; cotton, £1,260,000; wool, £970,000; and chemicals, £508,000, the total increase in manufactured articles for the month being £3,340,000. It is also encouraging to find that our re-export business is recovering so well in spite of the menace of the remnant of German submarines.

The figures for the nine months, which, of course, compare with seven months of peace last year, are on the whole as good as we could reasonably expect, although the total adverse balance is now the rather appalling sum of about £285,000,000. Imports of food and drink show an expansion of over £80,000,000, which we suppose must be borne with fortitude, but there is more satisfaction in noting an increase of £34,000,000 in our purchases of raw materials which, of course, are necessary for our manufactures and general trade. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured are only about £6,000,000 higher, which, in the circumstances, may be regarded as extremely moderate. On the other side of the balance-sheet exports of food and drink are £2,200,000 lower, and raw materials, principally coal, owing to the restrictions imposed by the Government, are £8,000,000 down, and of that we need not complain. We find, however, that articles mainly manufactured, on which our principal foreign trade depends, have dropped no less than £60,370,000. To this total machinery contributes a decrease of £11,500,000, and cotton a decrease of £21,250,000. Of course, new ships are so much wanted at home that there is little opportunity of selling them abroad, and the business in these has dropped from £5,400,000 to £1,340,000. One of the few items which shows an increase is chemicals, &c., of which we have been able to send out £1,500,000 more than in the corresponding period, so that in this line, at all events, we appear to have been successful in capturing a small portion of the German trade. As time goes on we shall be able to adjust the visible trade balance, but we must worry through as best we can for the time being.

### American Business Notes.

The *Daily Telegraph* financial correspondent in New York got what is known as a journalistic "scoop" this week in the shape of an interview with Sir Edward Holden, member of the Anglo-French Financial Commission which induced American bankers and other financial interests to lend us £100,000,000 without security, except that afforded by the credit of the borrowers, by far the biggest foreign loan operation that the United States has ever undertaken or been in a position to undertake. Until the war put the principal Allied nations in economic bondage to America, that country, thanks to a short-sighted fiscal policy long continued and even now, after President Wilson's lowering of some of the barriers, still far too protective to give real elbow room to the export trade, has always been a debtor nation, and to alter the for once favourable balance to the tune of £100,000,000 at one swoop needed no small amount of courage. The German-American opposition in fact, aided and abetted by mean-minded pacifists of the Henry Ford type—quite willing and ready to sell us motor-cars and accessories for cash, but descending to gross abuse just because a credit operation was called for to pull up the exchange—might have succeeded in giving us a fall had it not been recognised throughout the land that America's industrial and farming interests were-



quite as deeply concerned in the loan as ourselves. Nearly every Yankee financial publication we have picked up during recent months, including the periodical pamphlets broadcasted by the leading American banks, have laid great and ever-increasing stress on the relative stagnation of domestic trade. The demands of the Allied Powers for death-dealing implements and the greater consumption of staple products because of the necessity of feeding well our huge and growing armies are solely responsible for the prosperity which the States are now enjoying. Allow the exchange to fall too heavily and the cost of what we are buying thereby to become prohibitive, and we might be compelled to call a halt, or at least to seek aid in directions where the exchange position was less seriously adverse. With our custom diminished, America also would begin to feel the pinch of war.

"What would happen," asks the *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, "if we now denied to Great Britain and France the privilege of further trade with us by declining to assist in the marketing of notes or bonds for the rehabilitation of the foreign exchanges? The answer is very simple. Exports to Germany, Austria, and Turkey are already cut off. Those to Great Britain and France would in that event also be reduced to dwindling proportions. The result would be that our entire export trade would be in danger of utter demoralisation. And with an embargo thus placed on our exports industrial depression of an intense type, it would seem, could hardly be averted at home. Certain domestic industries that are not receiving any benefit from the European war orders that have stimulated the iron and steel industry are even now complaining of bad times because the war has cut off so much of their export business. In the contingency supposed their hapless state would have to be shared by all other industries."

It may be asked, then, Why were we called upon to pay a rate of interest for the accommodation we sought which, including the underwriting commission of a couple of millions sterling, approximated closely to 6 per cent.? Sir Edward Holden, in the interview referred to above, supplies at least a partial answer, although it may not wholly convince us. American people, said the chairman of the London City and Midland Bank, are accustomed to get larger returns on their money than English, and to ensure the success of the big experiment it was necessary for the Commission to adjust themselves to the conditions ruling on the other side. Their great object was to prevent the loan going to a discount, and unquestionably great importance must be attached to this question of market price if, as Sir Edward suggests, there is a possibility of our having to ask for more as soon as January or February next. We trust it may not be so, but the Commission had to look ahead and to leave the soil fertile in case we have to make further demands upon it.

The underwriting lists—not the actual subscriptions lists, as imagined by many—were closed on Tuesday last, and some surprise seems to have been caused by the fact that the excess over the amount required was no more than five to ten million dollars. So much surprise, indeed, that an explanatory statement was issued, setting forth that all applications that came in after the closing of the books were rejected, as well as all that came from oversea, unless the subscribers indicated that they had funds available in New York. It was stated further that numerous important corporations which at first were desirous of investing largely, decided to use only part of their available funds this time in the belief that another loan will be necessary within a few months. Sir Edward Holden's views are thus shared by American financiers, but next time perhaps the terms may be a little easier, especially if the great push in the West can be vigorously followed up, and the victory of the Allies seems not too distant.

Information readily given by reputable exchange houses and the big banks in the City left no sort of doubt that some unpatriotic Britishers—or were they disguised enemies?—sought to secure remittances to America in order to obtain the tempting terms at which the loan is to be offered, but all sternly set their faces

against such behaviour, and the Treasury sent out a vigorously-worded notification, showing the real purpose of the loan, and how its objects would be defeated if investors here subscribed to or purchased any part of the new loan. Nor would the interest be free of income-tax where Britishers in this country were concerned, and since the current rate of exchange, although a long way above the lowest touched, still involves a fairly considerable loss in sending money across the Atlantic, we imagine that the amount of capital "exchanged" has been a mere bagatelle. In all probability the lists for the public subscription of the loan will be opened next week—that is, if ratification of the terms by the borrowing Governments is not delayed. The matter will have to come before Parliament here, but there should be no serious opposition.

The United States saw the last of Dr. Dumba on Tuesday, when that discredited diplomat sailed for home armed with a safe conduct from the British and French Governments. He was first dined by his fellow-conspirators, Count Bernstorff and Captain von Papen, who ought shortly to be following him back to the Germanic capitals, where doubtless the plotting and intriguing which these gentry were left to carry out were first set going. It must have been a melancholy feast, though, for the greater the raciality the more the humiliation when found out, and the two left behind will probably find their foothold on American soil become steadily more insecure unless their Governments think well to instruct them to behave with as near approach to decency as their nationality will permit. There are, indeed, some signs that Germany is loth to risk a complete rupture with the United States, and there is evidence, too, of a long climb down on the question of the submarine murder in the latest Note of Count Bernstorff to the Washington Administration, said Note dealing more particularly with the *Arabic* outrage. The submarine commander who committed the crime is disavowed and thrown over, and may not even get his fair share of iron crosses, but as yet Germany has not withdrawn her original condoning of the *Lusitania* and *Hesperian* villainies, and until she does and her behaviour demonstrates that the soft cooing of the Ambassador is not fresh insult in disguise, we shall be reluctant to believe that the Tirpitz gang has been completely submerged.

Wall Street is still running the industrial war boom for all it is worth, and studiously ignores everything which might put restraint on its enthusiasm. During the week ended Saturday last over 8,000,000 shares changed hands, and every full day this week the turnover has exceeded the million mark, and on most occasions came near to 1½ millions. The market has been moving in mercurial fashion, and the pace has been kept up by the reiteration of rumours which have done fine service hitherto of big combinations or consolidations of iron and steel works outside the Carnegie Trust. Doubtless they are more or less well founded, and it seems to be settled that the Bethlehem Steel Corporation will absorb the Pennsylvania Steel Co., although on what terms has not yet transpired. Another fusion is said to embrace the Mid Vale Steel Co., the Worth Bros. Co. of Philadelphia, the Coatsville Rolling Mills, and the Remington Arms of Delaware. The English investor, however, is not concerned in any of these transactions, and if the chance of nice speculative profits is apparently being denied him now, owing to the restrictions which prevent any sort of speculative activity in this country, he will have the satisfaction later on of being equally free of the inevitable tumble. The Yankees themselves freely admit that in many instances there is no sort of justification for present prices, but the banks seem powerless to check the gambling at present.

The figures of the New York Associated Banks disclosed some diminution of strength, but the position looks strong enough, and the credit shifting which the loan to the Allies will involve is not likely to cause much disturbance, especially as payment will probably be spread over a period of two or three months. The average statement showed some increase in the loans item, and the aggregate and excess reserves were



pulled down, the last-named to the extent of £3,172,000, but in the week-end statement the actual reserve was a little larger, and the excess less by no more than £340,000.

Railroad reports of the more important class covering operations in the year ended June 30 last now begin to rain in upon us, and this week several have to be mentioned.

#### READING CO.

There is first this company, which is the financial master of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. It did tolerably well last year in spite of the decrease of \$2,578,000 in the railway company's gross earnings. The management, however, contrived to save in expenses, so that the loss in nett revenue accruing from the railway was only \$893,000. Nothing seems to have been starved, for even on maintenance the saving was a mere \$655,000 or so. The outgo for taxes, however, was slightly smaller, and the free surplus, after paying all fixed charges and setting aside \$1,162,000, as compared with \$2,025,000 the previous year, for "investment in physical property" was \$5,367,159, or a mere \$35,000 below that of the preceding year. The Coal and Iron Co., as usual, earned nothing to speak of beyond its fixed charges, and the surplus was a mere \$61,000, earnings being \$30,087,000 and expenses \$30,026,000. This is the smallest surplus shown for years, but adding in the other income of the over-riding Reading Co. there was altogether \$24,412,000 available for distribution on its stock, which was nearly \$80,000 more than in the preceding year, and after paying the dividend on the two preference stocks and again giving the common stock 8 per cent., there was \$331,000 left against \$44,000 at the end of June, 1914. Any attempt to analyse or discuss these figures would be, at present, quite an effort wasted.

#### CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILWAY.

Next we have this fine, vigorous Western company, which also suffered by adverse influences last year, including the Panama Canal, to which a considerable loss of income seems to be attributed, with what warrant we know not. But altogether the revenue declined by \$2,179,000, and of that loss freight alone accounted for \$1,362,000. Also the usual complaint is put forward about the cruel effects of forcibly reduced freight rates, which were not fully compensated for last year by an increase in the freight-earning "train-load," whose average was only ten tons up at 390 tons. Much of the loss on revenue, however, was saved one way or another. Working expenses, for instance, were \$918,000 down, gross revenue being \$91,435,000 compared with \$93,614,000 and expenses \$61,972,000 as against \$62,890,000. Taxes, however, were \$640,000 higher, and the nett revenue of \$24,717,000 shows a reduction of \$1,900,000. The dividend on the ordinary stock was accordingly reduced by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and even then there was a deficiency of \$1,399,000 to carry forward as against a surplus of \$1,525,000 at the end of the preceding year. It would have seemed cruel, but we think it would have been more prudent, to have omitted the ordinary dividend altogether for the past year, particularly as the income of the current year is not likely to be sensibly improved in spite of the splendid war business now being done by American steel and munitions-making companies.

#### DENVER AND RIO GRANDE RAILROAD CO.

Some time, perhaps, this company will astonish the stockholders by entering the dividend list, and those who have watched its fortunes for many years would rejoice to see this happy consummation of their hopes. But the 12 months ended June 30 did not make progress in the right direction. Total operating revenue at \$21,823,236 showed a decrease of \$1,770,400, or 7.5 per cent., freight being \$1,147,000 less and passenger receipts \$628,000 less. The decline was mainly due to general business depression and to the diversion of a certain amount of Transcontinental traffic through

the Panama Canal, but nearly one-third of the loss is attributed to smaller ore and bullion shipments owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the copper industry. Freight tonnage altogether declined just over 10 per cent., but the average haul was longer, and the tons-one-mile dropped only 5.5 per cent., while the revenue per ton per mile fell 3 per cent. Revenue from passenger traffic was down 12.4 per cent., most of the loss being in local travel, and the number of passengers fell 15.5 per cent. It was found possible to save \$2,170,900, or 13.2 per cent., in operating expenses, but we have our doubts about economising to the extent of \$865,000, or 25 per cent., on maintenance of way and structures, and of \$326,000, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., on maintenance of equipment, but that generally happens in bad times, even with companies better able to stand it than the Denver. Adding miscellaneous receipts the total nett income amounted to \$7,752,800, an increase of \$366,300, but interest and other charges required \$348,000 more, and the balance comes out at \$1,418,730, or \$18,350 more than last year. Appropriations for renewals and equipment funds are \$140,000 higher at \$484,000, leaving \$934,640, or \$121,000 less, to be transferred to the credit of profit and loss, raising the accumulated surplus to \$8,970,000. Some day the directors will decide to distribute a bit of this among the holders of the \$50,000,000 preferred stock and then things will become lively, but there are 2,570 miles of line to bring up to first-rate condition, and "the day" may be a long way off.

#### NEW YORK, ONTARIO AND WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

There is a terribly pessimistic note about the report which reminds us forcibly of the wails of some of our brewer friends in the days before the war rendered them speechless. Nett income, we are told, was only \$612,500—the smallest since 1898, except for the year of the coal strike, 1912—and the directors proceed to point out that while the total revenue for 1915 was \$5,012,000 more than in 1898, the nett income was only \$210,000 greater than it was 17 years ago. All in the best manner the stockholders are told that, "in other words, the cost of maintenance and operation of your property, and taxes and interest on money borrowed for necessary additions and improvements, have so increased that from a volume of business more than twice that done in 1898 very little additional income could be produced for the owners." This was surely penned for the benefit of his all-mightiness Lord Northcliffe, and yet we do not observe any distinctively pro-German names among the directors and officers. But we must get along. "Every class of business in which your company is engaged, except the milk business, showed a decrease during the year, the total being \$324,624." But then "every effort was made to curtail expenses, with the result that there was a decrease of \$367,650, accomplished without impairing in any way the physical condition of the property," so you see how well we are doing our best. Alas! however, we had to pay for 12 steel coaches and other equipment amounting to \$612,820, or "almost exactly the surplus earnings of your property for the fiscal year." Was there ever such bad luck that things should wear out and require to be renewed? And so we proceed until we find that the dividend on the preferred stock absorbs \$210 a year, as to which the directors have no complaint to make, and the surplus transferred to profit and loss is \$612,300, or \$51,200 less than a year ago. The total paper balance is now just over six million dollars (or 10 per cent. on the capital), and if the company were domiciled here we should try to get Sir Henry Dalziel or Sir Chiozza Money to inquire why the stockholders should not have a bit of it.

#### CHICAGO AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

In the case of this company the serious decline of \$3,781,000 in the gross earnings were compensated for only to the extent of about \$150,000, saved in expenses, which were \$3,930,000. That is, earnings came to \$80,780,000 and expenses to \$56,372,000.



All the saving in working expenses, however, was more than wiped out by the increase of \$264,000 in the taxes. Before these were deducted the net revenue was \$24,408,000, but taxes took away \$4,517,000 of this, and after the preference and ordinary stocks had received—the preference 8 and the ordinary 7 per cent.—only \$810,000, or \$396,000 less than the year before, was left to carry forward.

#### NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

We have already given the preliminary figures of this important Southern road, and need add little more now, because there is nothing special in the full exhibit, except that a decrease of \$1,663,000 in the earnings, bringing them down \$42,987,000, was more than balanced by the decrease of \$2,304,000 in expenses, which reduced them to \$27,832,000. Allowing for the transposition of \$415,000 to the credit side of the expenditure account "for investment," the nett revenue of \$15,155,000 is \$640,000 better than that of a year ago. Taxes, however, took \$258,000 more at \$1,878,000, but by reducing the credit to betterment fund by \$560,000 to \$1,534,000, the board is able to continue the 6 per cent. dividend on the company's ordinary stock and leave \$1,819,000 to be carried forward, or \$677,000 more than last year. This seems to be a remarkably satisfactory display in the circumstances, but the Norfolk and Western has been long managed with such skill and economy as to be, one may say, in a position almost impregnable.

#### Insurance News.

The question has now arisen as to whether those persons with incomes between £130 and £160 per annum should not be exempt in future from paying their contributions under the National Insurance Act in view of the lowering of the income limit to £130. It has been suggested that these persons should be offered the option of relinquishing their benefits and ceasing to pay premiums, thus relieving the National Insurance funds of a burden of liability by the operation of the lapsing principle.

The *Post Magazine* announces that by an arrangement with the Consolidated Assurance Co., which, it will be remembered, recently purchased the undertaking, business and assets of the Catholic and General Insurance Association, the Hibernian Fire and General Insurance Co. has acquired the Irish business of the association. Although worked from London, the Catholic and General was registered at Dublin, and had an Irish local board.

According to the special correspondent of the *Near East* at Athens, the losses sustained by insurance companies, local and foreign, in the second big conflagration which took place in Constantinople recently amounted to about £100,000. Most of the leading British companies had small losses, but the total amount they are likely to be called upon to pay is less than £25,000, the Commercial Union heading the list with £7,000.

A Canadian Consular report just issued gives some interesting particulars relating to the operations of fire insurance companies doing business in the Dominion. It appears that fire insurance risks in Canada at the end of 1914 amounted to £689,720,000—an increase of £59,200,000—while the gross premiums came to £7,180,000—an increase of £160,000. Of these premiums £3,297,500, or nearly 50 per cent., went to British companies. The nett loss to all companies was £3,071,000, as compared with £2,920,000 in the previous year. The gross amount of policies, new and renewed, last year was £619,900,000—an increase of £34,900,000. Of this total British offices secured £279,600,000, with nett premiums of £2,740,000.

It is announced that the Queensland Government has introduced legislation having for its object the creation of a State monopoly of workmen's compensation risks. The news has come as a great surprise to insurance companies, and they fear that the Government may be contemplating further steps affecting other classes of insurance.

#### Critical Index to New Investments.

##### ALUMINIUM CORPORATION, LTD.

The directors have decided to issue at par to the preference and ordinary shareholders £64,900 6 per cent. mortgage debenture stock, part of the £100,000 recently created, to provide funds for carrying out the additional works necessary to increase the water power by bringing into use the company's water rights in the Duly Valley and for discharging liabilities already incurred. These new works include the completion of a cutting and tunnel 1,433 yards long through the hills dividing the Duly Valley watershed from the Eigan watershed and the construction of a further dam in the Eigan Valley. It is pointed out that it is only by effecting a substantial increase in water power and the consequent regular working of the generating plant that the production of metal can be raised to a level sufficient to provide any return by way of dividend to the preference stockholders. Of the new issue, the chairman has taken £25,000 in satisfaction of the company's indebtedness to him for a similar amount, £10,000 has been issued as security for bankers' advances, and £100 has been subscribed by stockholders. A curious point about the issue is the statement that the company will accept new War Loan 4½ per cent. stock at par, old War Loan 3½ per cent. stock at 93, or Consols at 65 in payment of any part of the new stock. If the money is so urgently needed it is difficult to see how the acceptance of these stocks in payment will benefit the company.

#### The Week in Mines.

The past week has been a much quieter period in the Mining markets than the preceding one, and the tone has been reactionary owing chiefly to the Balkan crisis. There has been a sharp relapse in New Modderfontein shares after the recent advance, owing to profit-taking, and little fresh support was forthcoming as, now that the proposal to split the shares has taken a definite form and the report has been issued, speculative buyers have felt that there is nothing more to go for at present. In other departments copper shares have met with a fair amount of support.

##### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market Modderfonteins have been subjected to persistent profit-taking, and the shares have fallen from 15½ to 15¼. Modder Deeps have reacted to 4½, "B's" to 5½, and Government Areas to 26s. 3d. Gedulds after being supported on the statement as to increasing the plant reacted to 32s. 3d., and Brakpans after being strong at 35-32 bid relapsed to 33-32. Knight Centrals advanced sharply to 12s. 3d. on further encouraging advices regarding developments south of the dyke, but afterwards relapsed to 11s. Village Main Reefs have been dull at 20s. on the news of the accident, and Village Deeps and Van Ryn Deeps have been easier. Rand Mines have reacted to 4½, and East Rands are no better than 13-32. Diamond shares have been exceptionally firm, with a good inquiry for De Beers deferred, which have risen from 9¾ to 10-18. The preferences are up to 12, and Premier deferreds have risen ½ to 4. Chartereds have been dealt in at 9s. 9d., but Shamvas are steady at 1¾. Among West African shares, Nigerian Tin Corporations have been sold down to 3s. 1½d. Ashanti Goldfields have been dealt in around 16s. 9d.

##### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have met with a fair amount of support, notably the American and Australian descriptions, though the metal market has been inclined to dullness in spite of a further decrease in the visible supply in Europe. New Anacondas have risen to 15½ on rumours of the acquisition of fresh properties, and Utahs have touched 14½, reacting to 14½. Rio Tinto, after rising to 54½, relapsed to 54 on the dividend announcement. Hampden Cloncurrys have been strong at 29s., a rise



of 3s., and Mount Lyells have risen to 22s. 9d. The Russian group has been a better market, with Kyshtims in demand at  $1\frac{1}{8}$  on the report. In the Westralian market Kalgurli have been sold down to 17s. 9d. on the poor position at the mine. Waihi Grand Junctions rose to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  on a statement that the mill will be restarted on Monday. In the tin group Mawchi and Southern Shan shares have been bought, and Siamese Syndicates have been firmer at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Ipoh Tin Dredgings, 17s. 6d. paid, came into demand, and rose 2s. to 10s. Among Indian shares Mysore have marked below 4, but Champion Reefs have been firm at 11s. The Broken Hill group has been quiet, but fairly steady, except Proprietarys, which have fallen to 43s. 6d., though the debentures have been harder at  $100\frac{1}{2}$ . Norths and British have been firmer at 38s. 6d and 19s. 9d. respectively.

### MINING NEWS.

**NOURSE MINES.**—Operations in the year ended June 30 resulted in a profit of £158,043, or £34,183 less than in the previous year, although 62,000 tons more were crushed. The total revenue was £789,481, equal to 26s. 3d. per ton crushed, which compares with £764,608, equal to 28s. 4d. per ton. The yield was thus 2s. 1d. per ton lower, following upon a decrease of 1s. 10d. per ton in the previous year. Costs were reduced 3d. per ton to 21s., and the working profit was thus 5s. 3d. a ton, against 7s. 1d. per ton in the preceding year. The nett profit declined from £160,879 to £151,626, and the dividend is reduced from  $18\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but the carry forward is raised from £96,509 to £112,895. Reserves of ore have increased by 478,700 tons to 2,952,400 tons, valued at 23s. 11d. per ton, but the grade is 0.7 dwt. per ton lower.

**GEDULD.**—The directors now announce that they have decided immediately to increase the capacity of the reduction plant from 24,000 tons to 40,000 tons monthly. The increase will be so made as to permit of a still further addition at a minimum of expenditure, and development will be continued at full speed with this end in view. It is expected that the increased plant will be in operation before the end of next year. The expenditure involved will not interfere with the payment of dividends as the necessary funds are in hand.

**SIAMESE TIN SYNDICATE.**—The result of operations in the year ended March 31 was a nett profit of £21,629, after writing off £6,096 for depreciation. Adding £13,160 brought forward, the total available is £34,789. It is proposed to apply £26,215 in writing off the formation and increase of capital expenses, leaving £8,574 to be carried forward. This is certainly a sound and prudent course to follow, for the financial position will be greatly strengthened by eliminating the unrealisable assets. In the past year the yardage treated amounted to 1,062,100, as compared with 472,805, and the output increased from 255 tons to 603 tons. The average price realised, however, declined from £129 15s. 3d. to £94 12s. 3d. per ton, but costs declined from 7.83d. to 4.80d. per cubic yard. In the first five and a-half months of the current year operations have been on the scale of approximately one and a-half million yards and 875 tons per annum, and in view of these satisfactory results the directors will pay an interim dividend of 10 per cent. on October 14. In future the accounts will be made up to December 31, so that the next report will cover a period of nine months only.

**GERI RIVER TIN MINES.**—The accounts for the year ended March 31 show a loss of £1,300, raising the accumulated deficit to £10,500. Operations at the mines are still suspended, because the board does not think it advisable to resume work under present conditions.

**BUENA TIERRA.**—The profits of this Mexican mine for the year to August 31, subject to deductions for permanent improvements and extraneous expenditure, amount to \$53,240 (U.S.). On or about September 16 the Secretary of State at Washington ordered all American subjects to leave Chihuahua. In consequence, on September 18 the Chihuahua smelter suspended operations, and shipments from the Buena Tierra mine have been discontinued.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

The large holdings of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., in tea and rubber plantation undertakings always make the company's report an interesting one. Many difficulties were naturally experienced in the year ended June 30, owing to the abnormal conditions, and the result of the year's working must be regarded as decidedly satisfactory. Nett profits, after providing for depreciation and all charges, including £4,720 contributed to the staff provident fund, amounted to £148,949, or an increase of £18,033, and with £35,530, or £11,652 more, brought forward, and £3,353 from interest on investments of the preference reserve fund, the available total was £29,685 larger at £187,833. Of this £17,500 is transferred to the pre-

ference reserve, together with £4,893 for depreciation of the investments of that fund, and £22,500, as against only £4,500 last year, is set aside for income-tax reserve. Then £5,595 is written off expenses of new issue compared with £3,000 put to the property reserve and £1,500 to staff special reserve last time, and after again paying 10 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, the dividend on the 1s. management shares is increased from 4s. to 5s. per share, leaving £42,345, or £6,814 more, to be carried forward. In June last the sanction of the Treasury having been obtained to the issue of £100,000 of the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. cumulative preference shares created at the last annual general meeting, these were offered to the shareholders at par, and at the date of the balance-sheet £49,692 had been received on calls, together with £37,206 for payments in advance. One of the most satisfactory points in the report is the way in which the depreciation on the investments has been reduced. The present book value is £515,899, or an increase on the year of £41,322, but the depreciation is now only £22,573 as compared with £58,286 in the last balance-sheet, and it may be noted that against this the preference and general reserves now amount to £277,500. In addition to its large holdings of securities, the company is the owner of a considerable amount of freehold and leasehold property, the total of which is £9,506 up at £316,029, but there is a reduction of £5,521 to £28,348 in plant and machinery. Stocks have risen by £111,747 to £338,567, loans receivable come to £52,751 more at £185,630, and bills receivable to £60,980 more at £70,323, while there is a new item on both sides of the balance-sheet of £255,673 for acceptances on behalf of clients. Liabilities to sundry depositors have risen by £126,448 to £155,911, sundry creditors are £37,948 up at £106,624, and bank overdrafts have been increased by £15,554 to £15,899, but bills payable come to £20,802 less at £161,543.

For some months past negotiations have been proceeding between the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates and the Linggi Plantations for the amalgamation of the two properties, and an agreement has now been made, subject to the approval of the shareholders of both companies, which if carried out will bring the Linggi into the ranks of the largest producers. Under this agreement the Linggi Co. will take over the whole of the liabilities and assets, and will bear the expenses of liquidation of the Port Dickson Co., giving as consideration one ordinary share for every 10 Port Dickson shares held, together with a sum equal to the two interim dividends, aggregating 71-5d. per share, which would have been paid on the new shares in respect of 1915 had they been issued prior to the declaration of the first interim dividend on June 29. The authorised capital of the Port Dickson Co. is £200,000, and £174,070 has been paid, while the total planted area is 2,984 acres, of which about 1,000 are now being tapped. According to the report just issued, £164,048 had been spent on the estate to March 31, exclusive of £10,800 on buildings and machinery, and it is estimated that to bring the whole planted area to the producing stage £40,828 would be required between now and 1919-20, towards which the company has undivided profits of £12,571. An independent valuation made in March last, however, puts the present value of the estates and buildings at £122,970, exclusive of liquid assets amounting to £10,500. The Linggi Co. has £120,000 paid up out of an authorised capital of £125,000, but the present purchase will require about £20,000, and it is proposed to increase the authorised capital by the creation of 750,000 additional ordinary shares of 2s. each. Its planted area is 7,391 acres, of which 4,500 acres are producing rubber, and in addition an adjoining property with 600 planted acres has recently been bought, so that if the present proposals are accepted, the total area under rubber will amount to 11,975 acres, of which 5,500 acres are being tapped. By the amalgamation the cost of the Linggi Co. per planted acre, which was already very moderate, will be brought down to the low figure of about £11 14s., so that the agreement would seem to be advantageous to both parties. At



present quotations the value of the one Linggi and of the 10 Port Dickson shares just about balance, but the Port Dickson shareholders get the advantage of receiving a security which is already dividend-paying instead of having to wait for some years for a return, as they would have had to do under existing conditions. The estimates of the output and costs from the combined properties range from 2,353,000 lbs. at 8.28d. f.o.b. in 1916 to 4,374,000 lbs. at 6.48d. in 1920.

Thanks to the substantial rise in the value of tea, the Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon is able to make a very satisfactory display for the year ended June 30. Its crop of tea was actually 43,598 lbs. smaller at 787,429 lbs., and the cost was .93d. heavier at 7.72d., but these were more than offset by a rise of 2.08d. to 10.72d. in the gross price. The rubber crop was 40,074 lbs. larger at 178,349 lbs., and while the gross price dropped 3.88d. to 2s. 2.07d., the f.o.b. cost was reduced by 1.17d. to 8.95d. Gross profits were £3,679 larger at £19,753, and after providing for London office charges the nett balance, including £3,109 brought forward, was £10,745 up at £21,873. A year ago the arrears of preference dividend amounting to 18 per cent. were cleared off, and the directors are now in a position to pay a substantial dividend of 17½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, after which £2,508, or £508 more, is put to reserve for rubber cultivation to balance the expenditure for the year and £3,000 is transferred to general reserve as against £2,520 written off coast advances last time, leaving £4,015, or £1,006 more, to be carried forward. The directors propose that the 8,000 preference and 7,000 ordinary shares of £10 each shall be sub-divided into £1 shares.

**PORT DICKSON-LUKUT (F.M.S.) RUBBER ESTATES.**—The crop for the year ended March 31 did not quite come up to the estimate, but was 28,779 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 212,815 lbs. At the same time, a reduction of .23d. to 2s. 1.77d. in the gross price was more than offset by a decrease of .56d. to 1s. 7.08d. in the "all in" cost, and nett profits were £1,475 up at £6,071. To this was added 3,486 more at £6,499 brought in, and the total of £12,571 was carried forward to meet capital requirements.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### BEIRA RAILWAY CO., LTD.

Owing to the falling off in the imports of mining machinery for Rhodesia and of construction material for railway extensions, the gross revenue for the year ended September 30, 1914, was £136,775 down at £498,578. There was a small increase of 6,101 tons in the general goods traffic carried, but the revenue from this source fell off by £100,276, and a decrease of 22,293 tons in construction material was accompanied by a drop of £48,565 to £35,414 in receipts, while a gain of 21,328 tons in the mineral traffic only yielded £15,084 more. On the other hand, expenses were reduced by £25,858 to £199,239, the percentage to receipts being 4.5 per cent. higher at 39.9 per cent., and the nett revenue was consequently £111,017 down at £299,339. Of this total the Beira and Beira Junction Railways' proportion was £156,951, or £59,980 less, and after providing for fixed charges, including interest on the 6 per cent. income debenture stock, the nett surplus carried forward was only £7,420. A year ago there was a balance of £52,723, which was applied towards reducing the debit balance before that item was finally wiped out in the adjustment of the capital account. For the 10 months to July 31, 1915, traffics were affected by the general reduction in business caused by the war, and the gross income showed a decrease of £164,145 at £293,870, while the nett revenue was £111,452 lower at £154,884.

### HURST, NELSON AND CO.

This well-known firm of engineers and builders of rolling-stock had a very successful year's trading, the gross profits for the 12 months ended July 17 amounting to £61,819, or £725 more than for the previous year. The amount required for income-tax, depreciation, &c., was £949 more at £10,239, but as £16,811 against £2,257 was brought in the available balance was £14,320 higher at £68,300. After providing one year's dividend on the preference shares, the directors add £13,604 to the special reserve fund for security of dividend on the preference capital. At the time of the formation of the company it was stated that a special reserve fund of £36,000, equal to three years' dividends on the preference shares, would be created and maintained as security for full payment of these dividends. By the addition of the above-mentioned sum of £13,604 the full amount of £36,000 has now been made up. The general reserve receives £15,000 or £5,000 more, raising the total to £25,000, and a dividend of 10 per cent. tax free, against 5 per cent., is paid on the ordinary capital, the balance

carried forward being £1,115 less at £15,697. The erection of new and more modern workshops, replacing those destroyed by fire at Motherwell last year, has been completed, and the ground, works, machinery, and fixed plant, &c., now stand in the balance-sheet at £122,719 or £14,273 more. Work in progress, stock, &c., is £31,452 higher at £162,664, and the stock of wagons £15,285 higher at £139,463, sundry debtors having increased by £7,302 to £72,076, and the cash and bills in hand by £5,028 to £23,498.

### COLONIAL CONSIGNMENT AND DISTRIBUTING CO., LTD.

Including £2,457, or £430 more, brought forward, nett earnings for the year ended June 30 showed a substantial increase of £8,238 at £52,035, but the directors say that the influence of the abnormal conditions under which the trade is being carried on is now beginning to take effect. After providing for debenture interest and writing off £10,269 for depreciation, the available surplus was £8,963 larger at £38,090, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 6 per cent. to 8, tax free. This fixes the amount to be transferred to the staff benevolent fund at £2,278, or £608 more than a year ago, and out of the balance £10,000 as against £7,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving £855 more at £3,312 to be carried forward. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £64,750 up at £100,759, but bills payable have been reduced by £170,402 to £27,413. On the other hand, advances against shipments are £206,625 down at £12,665, and stocks, which appeared in the previous balance-sheet at £13,143, have disappeared, together with an item of £5,025 for bills receivable. Cash, however, is £111,702 up at £140,309, debtors owe £4,484 more at £49,473, and investments have been increased by £20,821 to £157,886.

### ROBINSON AND CLEAVER, LTD.

Business in the year ended July 31 was apparently again hampered by the delay in building the new London premises, and profits showed a further shrinkage of £5,288 at £25,098. Fortunately, however, the balance brought forward was £4,402 larger at £13,352, and after providing for administration charges, debenture interest and depreciation, the divisible surplus was only £1,340 smaller at £21,406. Out of this the preference dividend is met, and £12,449, or £903 less, is carried forward. During the year £34,739 was spent on the new building, which the directors say will very shortly be ready for occupation, and, after allowing for depreciation, the property account is £31,161 up at £640,378. Stocks have risen by £11,100 to £156,035, but debtors owe £2,644 less at £40,188, and cash is £13,762 down at £18,769. On the other hand, trade creditors are only £4,998 higher at £54,703, but the company has had to obtain a loan from its bankers on rebuilding account of £22,135.

### INDIAN COLLIERIES SYNDICATE, LTD.

Notwithstanding that for a long time exports of coal were suspended owing to the difficulty of obtaining tonnage and that the working of the colliery was affected by a severe epidemic of small-pox, this company is able to show an increase of £4,583 to £20,290 in its nett revenue for the year ended June 30. Expenses were only a trifle higher, and with £1,220 more at £10,471 brought in, the divisible total is £5,303 up at £20,466. After transferring £2,385, or £1,205 less, to the debenture redemption fund, the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 6 per cent., as against nothing a year ago and 10 per cent. for 1912-13, and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,783 to £12,254. During the year £1,997 was spent on colliery development and £3,782 nett on buildings, plant, &c., making the total cost £197,471, against a share capital of £90,000, a debenture debt of £64,110, and a reserve of £20,921. Coal bills outstanding come to £1,742 more at £11,787, but this increase is offset by a reduction of an almost similar amount to £2,748 in stocks, and cash is a trifle down at £2,103, while sundry creditors have risen by £2,502 to £8,248.

### NAUTILUS STEAM SHIPPING CO., LTD.

This company has been able to maintain its regular line between the United Kingdom and the ports of Chile, Peru and Ecuador, but with fewer sailings owing to the requisition by the Government of four of its steamers. Ample compensation for this restriction, however, seems to have been found in higher freights, and the nett profits for the year ended June 30 were £17,415 better at £74,153. To this is added £14,414 brought forward, giving a total of £88,567, or £30,955 more, available, but the dividend and bonus are only increased by 2½ per cent. to 12½ per cent., and advantage is taken of the exceptional prosperity to put away substantial amounts. In addition to repeating the £5,000 transferred to reserve, the depreciation allowance and the amount written off capital expenditure are both increased by £5,000 to £15,000, and a further £10,000 is put to reserve, leaving £21,108, or £6,284 more, to be carried forward. A new vessel was added to the fleet, which now consists of 13 steamers aggregating 51,310 gross registered tons and having a book value of £302,172, or an increase of £28,906 compared with a year ago. Voyages in progress appear in the balance-sheet as a liability for £21,432 as against an asset of £13,327 last year, but debtors owe £12,702 more at £26,351, and cash has risen by £25,560 to £32,975. With the present additions the reserve fund will stand at £35,000, and against this the company has invested £30,000 in the 4½ per cent. War Loan.

The Tough-Oakes Gold Mines has removed to Balfour House, 119, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.

The Eastern Bank, of 4, Crosby Square, E.C., has opened a branch at Basra, in the Persian Gulf, and has been appointed bankers to the Government of India at that port.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the London-American Maritime Trading Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, the Earl of Wemyss, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. H. A. Perks) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: I am sorry to say that two of our ships during the past year have fallen victims to the enemy. The *Rio Iguaçu* was legitimately sunk by the German cruiser *Karlshruhe*, and the *Rio Parana* was afterwards sunk by a torpedo in the Channel. I am glad to say that in both cases there was no loss of life. Of course, the loss was covered by insurance, but much valuable earning time was wasted during the period these two ships were being replaced. We all know that shipping freights vary very much, and that there are great ups and downs in the prosperity of shipping companies. Our company, as regards six of its nine vessels, is under a time charter with the Rio de Janeiro Light and Power Co. Under this charter they are sure, no matter how low freights may be, of having continual and remunerative employment, whatever the price of freight may be, but the system has its disadvantages. We cannot have it both ways; and while freights are high we cannot reap the full advantage of those high freights. Apart from this we have had considerable bad luck, because two of our unchartered ships met with accidents. One of them was laid up for five months, and the other for four months at a time when they might have been reaping a golden harvest. Now, I have begun by striking a rather gloomy note, but I think those of you who, having the balance-sheet, are in the privileged position of being able to look at the end of the book know that the ending is satisfactory, and that the estimates in the prospectus, which many people at the time thought were ultra-conservative, have been more than justified by the results we have obtained. The trading results show a profit of £130,588 os 7d. The directors propose to deal with this sum in the following way:—£4,123 14s. 5d. goes for various expenses, and £21,697 goes towards paying the interest on and the redemption of debentures. On this latter item I should like to say one word. Many companies of this nature are handicapped and their earning possibilities choked by the weight of debentures round their necks. We have raised £200,000 of 5½ per cent. debentures, towards the liquidation of which we agreed in the prospectus to pay £29,000 annually. As these bonds are drawn or purchased, the interest payable, of course, diminishes, and the money for redemption increases, and at this rate in 8½ years the preference and ordinary shareholders will enter into the unencumbered enjoyment of their property, and the debentures will be entirely paid off. Underwriting and other formation expenses are written off by £5,500, and £20,000 is put to a general reserve, making reserves of £45,000 altogether, leaving a balance of £54,267 3s 10d. The directors propose, with your approval, to deal with that amount in this way—the payment of the fixed dividend of 7 per cent. on the cumulative shares will absorb £6,721 4s. 4d., leaving £47,545 19s. 6d. available for further distribution. We propose, with your approval, to carry forward £2,545 19s. 6d., leaving a balance of £45,000—exactly the same amount as we are putting to reserves—which we propose to divide in the following way:—A supplementary dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent.—under the prospectus the preference shares are entitled to a first call of 10 per cent. on the divisible profits of the company—which will absorb £4,500, and a dividend of 27 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which will amount to £40,500. I think you will agree with me that this is a fair arrangement, and it is also a satisfactory one. There are one or two items which I think shareholders and others might possibly ask questions about—I do not say criticise. I think that possibly if I were a shareholder, and I saw that we had put £25,000 down for contingencies, I might, without being captious, say, What does this mean? What do the directors expect? Why do they put so much down for contingencies? I quite agree that, particularly in financial language, the word "contingencies" is rather ambiguous. Contingencies may mean possibilities which are so probable that they amount to certainties. On the other hand, they may indicate possibilities which are so unlikely that they can be neglected. I am glad to say that I think we can safely put our contingencies in the latter category, because since the accounts were made up not only have no new contingencies arisen, not only have no new claims arisen, but the position of your company is far better at the present moment than it was at the time the balance-sheet was made up. I will now ask you to refer to the balance-sheet again. You will there see that we subscribed £40,000 to the War Loan. In the balance-sheet £6,000 is put down as paid, but since it was made up we have paid the whole of the balance. You will see, on the other side a loan against security of £10,000; and the whole of that has been paid off. As regards bills payable in respect of the purchase of and secured on steamers not included in the debenture trust, £37,250, the whole of that amount, I am glad to say, has been paid off, and the two steamers which were security for this loan have been included in the debenture trust. Now, there is one other criticism or question which I think might be raised. People see that we started with nine ships, and that at the present moment we have nine ships, but those ships are not the same with which we started. Some have been sunk, some have been injured, some have been sold, and others have been bought. All this time the price of ships has been rapidly in-

creasing, and people may well ask whether, considering these changes in our fleet, and considering the increased price we should probably have to pay, we do not show a reduced dead-weight tonnage and whether our ships do not cost us more than the figure which appears in the balance-sheet. I am glad to tell you this, gentlemen—that whereas at the time of the prospectus our steamers aggregated 62,676 tons dead-weight, on July 31, with the same number of steamers, the dead-weight tonnage was increased to 71,510—practically 9,000 tons more than we started with, and it is also a fact that, although the price of ships has increased enormously, yet at the date of the balance-sheet, comparing the cost of our fleet with the original cost in 1914, it practically comes out at the same price per ton dead-weight. Since that date we have made a most satisfactory sale of our oldest steamer, and that at a price which will reduce the book value of the remaining ships, reckoned per ton dead-weight, very considerably. I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that this is a very satisfactory result indeed. Our commencement has been prosperous. Our outlook in the future is promising. I think that the outlook for shipping generally must be prosperous. Tonnage has decreased, is decreasing, and during the war must go on decreasing, and even if the war ends more quickly than any of us can hope at the present moment, there will be an aftermath left which will take a lot of clearing away, and there will be a great deal for shipping to do. We do not know what burdens may be put upon the shipping industry. Whatever those burdens may be, the shipping industry is prepared to shoulder them willingly and ungrudgingly as long as those burdens are fair and evenly distributed. I do not for a moment think that any Government in this country would deal unfairly by the shipping industry.

Mr. William Petersen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The supplementary dividend on the preference shares and the dividend on the ordinary shares will be posted to the shareholders on the night of the 18th inst., and the transfer books of the company will be closed from the 13th to the 21st inst.

## Answers to Correspondents.

\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

T. F. R.—You might; we would suggest 90 per cent.

M. L.—It is a small concern, but we believe carefully managed. Unless you know something of this company's trade we could not advise buying the shares as there is practically no market in them.

D. C. C.—The terms are not very generous, perhaps, but we doubt if they will be improved. Your company has very little free capital left, so perhaps it is better to agree.

Nemo.—Under present conditions the more prudent course, in our opinion, would be to reduce the loan. Markets, gilt-edged especially, cannot show any substantial recovery for some time.

"Wykamist."—(1) It is a promising concern in the long run, but there is not much likelihood of any advance in the near future. (2) Yes, especially those that are paying an equal or less return. (3) Eastern Extension Telegraph 4 per cent. debenture stock, Investment Trust 4 per cent. debenture stock.

## Letters to the Editor.

## BRITISH COMPANIES WITH GERMAN AGENTS.

DEAR SIR,—I have seen on page 378 of your current number what you say about this matter, and I feel bound to point out to you, and to ask you to give publicity to, this very simple fact, that there is no difficulty at all about getting rid of German agents, and those companies who allege that as an excuse are, to say the least of it, lacking not only in patriotism, but in frankness. No doubt there might be loss to the company which got rid of its German agents, but surely at a time like this such a consideration ought not to weigh with any British concern, even if it were, as I believe it is not, legal for them to continue to have German agents. In any case, it is quite evident that these German agents make money out of British companies, and that they use that money to back their own country up.

Yours faithfully,

F. NORIE-MILLER, General Manager.

General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Perth.



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## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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## Passing Events.

Revenue for the first nine days of October amounted to £6,167,109, of which £1,796,000 came from Customs, £719,000 from Excise, and £1,431,000 from income-tax, while estate duties yielded £742,000. In addition £6,000,000 was received on the War Loan, £500,000 under the Telegraph (Money) Act, and £120,000 for repayment of bullion advances. Expenditure amounted to £36,023,429, this figure including £31,242,693 on supply and £4,014,451 for interest on permanent debt. Other outgoings included the repayment of £11,248,000 on Treasury bills issued for Ways and Means advances, and the nett reduction of £6,812,000 in other Treasury bills outstanding. As £30,000,000 of bills issued by tender were paid off, this means that £23,126,000 of fresh bills were taken by the market in replacement. As the total outgoings amounted to £54,383,429, the Exchequer balances at the banks were reduced by £41,596,320, leaving them at £22,590,387.

Sir Edward Grey's promised statement on the war situation in the Balkans was as lucid as his speeches always are, but it cannot be said that it has taken us very much further in penetrating the darkness which covers that unhappy region. It is, however, perfectly plain that most, if not all, the charges of incompetency, or worse, that have been levelled against the Foreign Office by the Harmsworth gang and their imitators completely fall to the ground. It was not possible for Great Britain to try to outdo the Germans in a bid for the support of the various countries which are honoured with figureheads of Teutonic origin, and it is also evident that Great Britain's rôle in trying to settle the differences and diverse ambitions of the various States was a genuine attempt to keep the area of the war from spreading more than was necessary. As to the dragging in of Bulgaria on the side of the Central Powers, and the fresh thrust at gallant Serbia from three sides, the explanation evidently is that it is the outcome of German disasters elsewhere. The Hohenzollerns' record has been failure in France, failure in Russia, failure on sea, failure in the air, failure against Italy, failure in Egypt, failure even in the Dardanelles, where there has been no victory. So now a last desperate plunge through the Balkans is to

be tried, and that also, we feel confident, will be a failure. Unfortunately the desertion, almost, of the Greeks makes the military situation a somewhat difficult one to handle, and there is not the least doubt that to a large extent this situation has come as an unpleasant surprise to the Allies, who might reasonably have counted on Greece fulfilling her obligations to Serbia. But with winter at hand, and the mountainous and difficult country in which operations must take place, we have the greatest confidence that the brave Serbs will be able to hold their own until reinforcements reach them, and as the way through Serbia also provides easy access to Austria-Hungary, it may be no bad thing in the long run for the Allies' plans. The capture of Belgrade has no significance at all. As the last disastrous efforts of the Austrians proved, it is the interior of Serbia that will try the skill, temper, and endurance of the invader, and we shall lick him sure enough with the perseverance and courage which are mostly on our side.

Elsewhere things move entirely to our satisfaction. On the West the Huns received a terrific drubbing in their last desperate attacks, mainly against the British front at Loos, where the French estimate that between 7,000 and 8,000 dead were piled up in front of the lines of trenches. These extensive and futile attacks of the enemy show the extremely dangerous position he acknowledges himself to be in, and although impatient people regard our progress as slow, it is just as effective to kill the foe in one square mile as in another. Russia, too, is doing extremely well almost along the whole length of the battle-front from Dvinsk to Galicia. Our brave Allies have turned on the invaders, and at numerous points have driven them back with enormous losses. Of course, on such an extended front local success to the other side can always be paraded in order to try and keep up the spirits of Berlin, but all the evidence points to the fact that the initiative has now passed into Russia's hands. The Italians doggedly persevere in their arduous task of piercing Austria's immensely formidable natural fortresses, and in Gallipoli we are pounding away with a good heart and substantial success. The Germans are not exhausted yet, but at the present rate of progress it cannot be so long before at some point there must be a sensational collapse.



It is always disagreeable and undignified when one Minister attacks the working of another department, and the excessively plain speaking of Lord Selborne about the deficiencies of the Press censorship has created an uneasy feeling. Certainly the censorship has shown itself inept in many directions, but it must be remembered that the institution is entirely a new one in this country. A scratch team had to be obtained at short notice, and considering the mass of work that has to be dealt with, it is not possible that every decision can be co-ordinated with others. In reply to Lord Selborne's attack, Sir John Simon has written a letter pointing out that many of the rules under which the censorship works are made by the War Office and Admiralty, and all the Bureau has to do is to interpret these rules in the best manner it can. Consequently the department cannot be blamed for many of the inconsistencies that have appeared from time to time. All the same, there is a growing feeling that if the Censor is not able to stop a vile class of article which is becoming more blatant every day in a certain class of newspaper, the Government, as such, ought to take measures to put an end to the scandal.

Both business houses and private individuals will welcome the concession of the Postmaster-General in removing the proposed abolition of the halfpenny postage. The amount of revenue that would have been obtained from an increase to the penny minimum would have been extremely problematical, and it would undoubtedly have caused great irritation and inconvenience to many large firms. It is perfectly right, however, that the halfpenny scale for registered newspapers up to a limit of 5 lbs. should be modified, and, indeed, the reform has been repeatedly urged for years past. Under the new scale newspapers weighing up to 6 ozs. will go for a halfpenny, but there will be an additional halfpenny charge for each additional 6 ozs. With regard to the proposed increase in Press telegram rates, the Postmaster-General has also consented to modify the original proposals, and we think the new scale will be perfectly fair to all parties concerned.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy had not exactly an easy task in presiding at the meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway last week, but he committed himself with an adroitness which leaves nothing to be desired. The shrinkage in gross receipts for the year amounted to the enormous sum of \$31,000,000, or more than the total earnings as recently as 1901, but nevertheless the regular dividend could be paid, owing to the liberal expenditure on betterments in recent years and the consequent possibility of reducing expenses. It was stated that the physical condition of the property has never been better than it is at the present time, and the additional facilities provided for the conduct of the business made it possible to handle the traffic more expeditiously and economically. As an illustration, it may be mentioned that while the number of tons of freight traffic hauled one mile showed an increase of 82 per cent. over 1905, it required only 17 per cent. additional train miles to perform the service. With regard to the future, the prospects appear to be encouraging. There is every promise of a bounteous harvest, and it is conservatively estimated that the money yield *per capita* in the four provinces west of Lake Superior will be more than double the amount received by the eight States directly south of them for their field crops in 1914. This substantial addition to the purchasing power of the agricultural community will inevitably tend to increase the prosperity of the whole country, and the railways will benefit correspondingly. Indeed, recent traffics would seem to indicate that this influence is already at work. Land sales also are looking up, 77,000 acres having been disposed of in the past three months, as compared with 41,000 acres a year ago, which, of course, included the first two months of the war, when business was almost completely demoralised. It is hoped that, in anticipation of the close of the war, an organisation will be per-

fectured for unity of action by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the important business interests of the country, looking not only to the largest possible immigration of agriculturists, but also to the more energetic development of the immense natural resources which Canada contains. That is a laudable ambition, but we hope it will not be pursued with the "hot-air" recklessness which very nearly brought about an economic crisis before the war provided a more immediate excuse for some of the troubles from which the country has since been suffering.

According to the preliminary official estimate of the production in Canada of the principal grain crops, this year's harvest is likely to prove by far the largest on record. The yield of wheat is put at 308,840,000 bushels from 12,986,400 acres, representing an average of over 23½ bushels per acre, which is considerably above the results usually obtained. This total is 147,560,000 bushels, or 91 per cent. greater than last year's poor yield of 161,280,000 bushels, and it exceeds by 33 per cent. the previous "banner" year (1913), and by 58 per cent. the annual average from 1910 to 1914. A notable feature of the past growing season has been the steady maintenance from month to month of high figures indicating condition, over 90 per cent. of full crop being recorded every month from May 31 to August 31, and this would account for the anticipated high average yield per acre. Other crops appear to have done quite as well as wheat. Oats are put at 488,000,000 bushels from 11,365,000 acres, representing an average yield of nearly 43 bushels per acre, both figures being far in excess of any previous Canadian records. Barley is estimated to yield 51,655,000 bushels from 1,509,350 acres, or an average of 34½ bushels per acre, and flaxseed is placed at 12,200,000 bushels from 1,010,000 acres. It is interesting to note that the bulk of the increases must be credited to the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Their wheat production is estimated at 275,772,000 bushels, against 140,958,000 bushels last year; oats are placed at 301,051,000 bushels, against 150,843,000; barley at 33,303,000 bushels, against 19,535,000; and flaxseed at 12,118,000 bushels, against 7,083,000 bushels. Of course, the moving of these heavy crops has presented a difficult problem, especially with so many men withdrawn for the war, but fortunately there are increased transport facilities and arrangements have been made that 12 additional steamers shall call at Canadian ports to assist in the shipment of produce. With Russian supplies still cut off we shall want it all, and a good deal more.

The world-wide upheaval caused by the war caught Argentina at an unfortunate time, as the country was just struggling to emerge from troubles of its own. Poor crops and overspeculation had brought about a financial crisis, and severe floods immediately following added to the difficulties which had to be surmounted. These influences are reflected in the results of the railways so far declared. Perhaps the Buenos Ayres Western has come off best, as it had a traffic increase of about £20,000; but flood damage must have been expensive, seeing that in order to maintain the 5 per cent. dividend (reduced from 7 per cent. last year), it has to withdraw £160,000 from the reserves. About £78,000 less was brought in, and the carry forward is £9,000 higher at £56,000. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern report is now available, and we deal with it fully elsewhere. Central Argentine reported a loss of £275,000 in traffics, but it maintains the dividend at 5 per cent., thanks doubtless to the fact that a year ago it added £213,000 to the balance carried forward, raising the total to the handsome sum of £440,000. Fortunately, in the current year traffics are once more on the up grade, and substantial increases are announced by the principal lines, but they have been rather lavish in capital expenditure, and fixed charges will absorb most of the nett gains likely to be realised. However, prices are low, and the prospects are by no means discouraging.



While Argentina generally had an exceedingly poor year, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co. seems to have been exceptionally unfortunate. In addition to being affected by the general trade depression, it suffered very severely from floods over a large section of its territory, and in consequence traffics were seriously reduced. Gross receipts at £4,941,627 show a decline of £522,960, or 9½ per cent., as compared with the year ended June, 1914, which is very close to the published receipts. Working expenses, however, could only be cut down £213,355, or 6.6 per cent., to £2,986,738, with the result that nett receipts are £309,600 lower at £1,954,889. An interim dividend of 2 per cent. was paid as against 3 per cent., and the final dividend is at the same rate, making 4 per cent., against 5 per cent., for the whole year, and even so the carry forward is reduced no less than £258,100 to £57,952. Working expenses come out at 60.44 per cent. of gross receipts as compared with 58.56 in the corresponding period, and in the circumstances a larger increase in the ratio might have been expected, but it may be mentioned that while in the previous year £138,000 was debited for extraordinary flood expenditure, this year, although the cost amounted to £165,450, this sum has been apportioned between casualty and reserve funds, the former of which has been entirely absorbed. Passenger traffic receipts showed a decrease of £257,570, or 14.26 per cent., and the goods receipts were £263,357, or 10.81 per cent., lower. This is all the more disappointing as there was a better yield in the harvests of wheat, barley and oats, but this unsatisfactory position is mainly attributable to restricted credit and to the uncertainty of commercial operations in the Argentine Republic for which the European war is chiefly responsible. The climatic conditions, as already mentioned, have been even worse than in the previous year. Serious floods occurred over practically the whole system in the Province of Buenos Ayres, the railway being cut in no less than 154 places, in addition to which the bursting of a lake in the upper regions of the Andes caused floods of exceptional severity, submerging portions of the Neuquen line to a depth of 12 feet above rail level. The total losses from this cause are estimated at over £200,000, of which £165,450 was incurred in the year under review. During the year 65 miles of new extensions have been opened, bringing the total mileage up to 3,792, and it is satisfactory to learn that the prospects for the current year are now much brighter, as is reflected in the recent weekly traffic statements. Of the company's staff, no fewer than 127 in Argentina and 11 in London have applied for and been granted special leave to join his Majesty's forces. Several have fallen in their country's cause and their names are included in a roll of honour attached to the report.

The adverse conditions which prevailed in the districts served by the Central Uruguay Railway Co. of Monte Video in 1913-14 were greatly accentuated in the year ended June 30 last by the commercial and financial disorganisation caused by the European war and by the heavy rains and floods which were experienced during the first six months. Gross receipts of the main line fell off by £75,699 to £575,298, or a reduction of 11.63 per cent., and although rigid economy was exercised in all the spending departments, working expenses were only £28,563, or 7.45 per cent. down, at £354,805. Nett profits consequently showed a reduction of £47,136 at £220,493, the decrease following one of £64,748, but as £24,220 more at £54,132 was brought forward, the available revenue, including interest on the Western Extension debenture stock, was £23,351 smaller at £306,591. Interest charges were rather heavier, owing to the conversion of the 6 per cent. debenture stock into a larger amount of 5 per cent. stock, and the charge for income-tax absorbed £12,406 more, while an extra £7,111 had to be set aside to meet advances to the Western Extension Co. under the working agreement, against which £2,039 less was required for the rent of the North-Eastern. After providing for the preference dividend, the surplus was £46,209 down at £57,923, and the

directors are unable to repeat even the dividend of 2½ per cent. which was paid for the first half of 1913-14. During the year the conversion of the permanent 6 per cent. debenture stock into 5 per cent. debenture stock at the rate of £120 of the new in exchange for £100 of the old was carried out, and the capital account shows that £1,271,132 of the 5 per cent. stock has been issued, while the 6 per cent. stock still outstanding has been reduced to £46,476. Against this £211,808 was added to the cost of the property for difference due to the conversion, and with other expenditure the total outlay was £246,146 up at £4,089,400. Unprecedented prices have been realised for the products of the pastoral industry, which is the principal source of wealth of the country, while the sowing of the new crops has been effected under favourable conditions, and the outlook for the current year would, therefore, seem to be decidedly better.

The Central Uruguay Northern Extension Railway is more interested in conditions in Southern Brazil, as the greater part of its trade is derived from the manufacturers of jerked beef, who have suffered from the falling off in the demand and the high prices paid by the freezing establishments. The line is worked by the Central Uruguay Co., but the separate figures are given, and show a decrease of £29,279 to £92,293 in the gross earnings, and of £16,545 to £42,845 in the nett. A larger balance was brought forward, and £16,271 more at £34,631 was received from Government guarantee, so that the nett surplus was £3,233 up at £82,054. Income-tax, however, required an extra £4,373, and, including arrears, £1,500 had to be provided for the Uruguayan Government estate duty imposed in 1910, for which it has now been decided that the company is liable. A dividend of 4 per cent. however, is again paid, leaving £2,814, or £1,764 less, to be carried forward. Much the same story is told by the Central Uruguay Eastern Extension, which is also worked by the Central Uruguay Co. Gross earnings dropped £37,597 to £193,712, and nett profits were £25,845 down at £92,865, but the available surplus, including £3,237 brought forward and £37,748, or £20,678 more, from Government guarantee, was only £3,767 down at £133,850. In this case also, however, greater provision had to be made for taxes, and the dividend is reduced from 3½ per cent. to 2½, while the balance carried forward is £1,695 down at £1,543.

All things considered, the Anglo-South American Bank did exceedingly well in the year ended June 30 last. With its Continental business to a large extent cut off, some reduction in nett profits was inevitable, but the decline of £9,770 to £269,285 is much less than might have been expected. A year ago the carry forward was increased by £61,160 to £110,164, and the available balance of £379,450 is £51,390 higher. The

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interim dividend absorbed £81,562, or £42,270 less, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 4s. per share, making 8 per cent., against 10 per cent. for the year. Owing to the fall in the value of securities it is necessary to appropriate £75,000 in writing down investments, and after adding £9,500 to the staff pension fund, there remains £133,888, or £23,720 more, to be carried forward. Last year, it should be mentioned, £160,000 was taken from reserve to maintain the dividend and increase the unappropriated balance, but in view of the obscure outlook, the directors are prudent in reducing the dividend on this occasion. They also forego the extra remuneration to which they are entitled under the articles of association. The balance-sheet discloses a strong position. Naturally, drafts on London and foreign bankers show a large reduction, being only £97,617, or £1,667,600 less, and acceptances on account of customers are £1,330,000 less at £1,461,756, but current and deposit accounts are £170,000 higher at £7,956,290. Cash has increased £555,940 to £2,291,940, and investments, after deducting £235,000 for depreciation, are £207,300 higher at £1,843,970. Bills receivable, however, are £1,595,750 lower at £3,956,000, and advances have dropped £672,000 to £7,131,275. Altogether the balance-sheet totals at £16,993,840 or £2,836,000 less than last year, which gives some idea of the contraction of business and makes the nett result of the year's operations all the more creditable to the management.

Another very disappointing report is issued by Leach's Argentine Estates for the 12 months ended March 31. A year ago there was a decrease of £11,484 in the profit, which the directors attributed to the financial crisis in Argentina having made it difficult for the company to dispose of its products, but matters were even worse in the 12 months under review. The output of sugar was 8,340 lbs. up at 26,461 tons, and was the largest produced in any year since the formation of the company, while the average cost of production was lower, but in spite of this, the nett profit showed a further shrinkage of £24,276 at £110,198. Local sales were small, absorbing only about one-third of the crop, and except for a small quantity exported to Uruguay, the whole surplus was shipped to England and France. The early shipments, the directors say, yielded a fair margin of profit, but when the Governments took control of the European markets, prices were lowered, and this, coupled with higher freights, reduced the average selling price to such an extent that no profit was realised on the total quantity exported. Out of the balance of £110,198 available, £26,291, or £8,145 more, is written off for depreciation, while debenture interest, administration charges required an extra £8,188 at £54,635, and interest on loans and general interest took £28,800, or £14,250 more. Nothing is written off preliminary expenses compared with £11,542, nor is anything put to reserve as against £22,790, and although the half of the preference dividend paid last year is not repeated, the nett surplus is £43,317 down to a mere trifle of £472, which has been transferred to the contingencies fund. The shares taken by the vendors in part payment for the San Lorenzo and Campo Colorado included 250,000 10s. ordinary shares at a premium of 10s. per share, and out of the amount thus realised £120,977 has been applied in writing off the balances of preliminary expenses and discount and underwriting commissions on debentures, and £4,023 in reduction of legal and other expenses in connection with the transfer and mortgage of the properties. Including these new estates, property account was increased by £538,711 to £1,777,357, and the company issued a further £250,000 in 5½ per cent. first mortgage debentures. Stocks of sugar, alcohol, and coffee and of stores and materials amounted to £299,589, or an increase of £93,581, but debtors owe £70,003 less at £243,582, and cash is £19,920 up at £67,346. On the other hand, £507,439, or £149,508 more, is due to creditors, while bills payable have been reduced by £66,810 to £177,952. The directors say that the

general position has greatly improved since the date of the balance-sheet. Sales in Argentina have been good, and they have every reason to anticipate that the present year's output will give a satisfactory profit, while an improvement has also taken place in the financial position owing to the liquidation of the stocks in hand and to the subscription by the vendors for £50,000 5½ per cent. first mortgage debentures at 95 and 150,000 preference and 50,000 ordinary shares at par, less 5 per cent. commission. For these reasons the directors consider that they are justified in distributing at once on account of the profits of the current year an interim dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares, which will bring the fixed cumulative dividend up to March 31 last.

With the present report, Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co. attains its jubilee, and, thanks to the exceptional conditions under which it has been working, that event is marked by a very considerable expansion in profits. After providing for repairs and depreciation, &c., there is a gain of £35,242 at £131,886, but the improvement was really better than this figure indicates, as before arriving at it the directors set aside an undisclosed sum for special income-tax reserve. Debenture and other interest took a trifle less at £28,064, and the debit balance of £61,050 brought forward, is now converted into a profit of £42,772. A year ago, however, arrangements were made to obtain advances on the security of £250,000 prior lien debentures for the purpose of modernising the iron and steel works, and part of the agreement was that no dividend would be paid on either the preference or ordinary shares until these debentures are redeemed. Arrears of dividend on the preference shares date back to December 31, 1907, so that they now amount to 37½ per cent., or £75,000, while the ordinary shares have received nothing since the 5 per cent paid in 1906-7. The expansion in the business is indicated by the increase of £1,093,452 to £2,009,617 in the value of work in progress, materials and stores. Of this, £823,256 more at £1,402,382 has been received on account, leaving the item £270,196 up at £607,234, in addition to which book debts are £40,430 higher at £156,202, and cash has risen by £16,868 to £19,060. Against this current liabilities, including the special income-tax reserve, are £139,495 up at £420,557. Property and investment account has been reduced by £65,366 to £879,211. The company has been declared a controlled establishment under the Munitions of War Act as from July 12, and as this involves the transfer of excess profits to the Government from that date, the profits accrued on work in progress to June 30th have been estimated and taken credit for in the accounts now under review.

A year ago the preference shareholders of Dick, Kerr and Co. sanctioned an increase in the debenture debt, and the directors made use of these additional powers to obtain a loan of £100,000 from the bankers on the security of the second debentures to provide additional working capital. Profits for the 12 months ended June 30 showed a small increase of £2,198 at £46,960, which, in view of the abnormal conditions, must be considered satisfactory. To this sum was added £25,525, or £15,201 more, brought forward, and after providing for debenture interest and redemption, the surplus was £17,821 larger at £61,646. The preference dividend is met, but the directors again refrain from paying a dividend on the ordinary shares, and set aside £25,000 of the balance as a reserve against contingencies, leaving £18,346, or £7,179 less, to be carried forward. In addition to the bank loan just mentioned, the liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £93,148 to £280,714, and bills payable are £2,693 up at £13,710. On the other hand, property account has been reduced by £13,905 to £583,226, and stocks and work in progress are £34,128 down at £146,045, but contracts come to £460,365, or £230,437 more, investments have been increased by £12,161 to £136,080, and cash balances are £12,754 higher at £35,810.



The New Zealand Shipping Co. does not seem to have participated to any great extent in the prosperity enjoyed by some of its English competitors. Nett profits for the year ended June 30, after providing for depreciation and fixed charges, were only £3,408 up at £91,932, and with £27,770, or £2,386 more, brought forward, gave a total of £119,702 to be dealt with. Out of this the dividend of 16s. per £10 share is repeated, and the balance carried forward is increased to £33,564. Delivery of the steamers building for this company and the Federal Steam Navigation Co. is still deferred, but it is hoped that several will be completed in time for the coming season. The cost of the fleet has been further reduced by £202,931 to £941,166, but investments, including shares in the Federal Steam Navigation Co., are £264,210 up at £838,938. On the other hand, sundry creditors have risen by £275,611 to £663,742, but bills payable are £198,661 down at £13,725. Sundry debtors owe £458,970, or £5,100 less, and cash and bills receivable come to £136,178, or £23,811 more.

The pressure of public opinion is beginning to have a salutary effect upon the shipping companies. As we pointed out last week, the high level of prices for many commodities is in a very great measure due to the extraordinary and unprecedented rise which has occurred in freight rates, amounting to hundreds per cent. Recently freights for grain from America have been advancing to such heights that shippers have positively refused to engage tonnage for shifting their grain, with the result that a much smaller quantity has been coming here than usual. The United States and Canada have enormous crops to send away, but supplies here are running down, and consequently bread and other cereal foods are steadily rising in price. And this simply because shippers cannot pay the high freights demanded. Now, however, there are signs that the more respectable elements in the shipping world are beginning to appreciate the goal to which the mercantile marine has been drifting, and are going to take steps to put a check to the extravagant rise which has taken place. That to a great extent the rise in freight rates has been unjustified is shown by what has happened in connection with gas coal. Coal used to be brought from the Tyne to London for 3s. a ton; lately the rate has risen to 15s. per ton and even higher. The gas companies could not pay these rates, and the Gas Light and Coke Co. bought its own steamers, and found that the cost of running them, including allowances for war risks, interest and depreciation, was only 3s. 6d. to 4s. 5d. per ton., even though high prices had to be paid for the steamers. The South Metropolitan Gas Co. is now wisely doing the same thing.

New York advices state that a great scheme is on foot in America to enter the dyestuff manufacturing business on a vast scale. Like ourselves, the United States had come to rely largely on Germany for these products, and when German trade was effectually bottled up by the British Fleet the States suffered considerable inconvenience. Here, as everyone knows, the Government has come to the rescue of the industry, and is advancing a large sum to establish the manufacture on an adequate scale to render British users independent of foreign supplies. According to report, Standard Oil interests are the prime movers in the American scheme, and we need not doubt that they have sufficient capital and energy to carry it through. Knowing their methods, we should have preferred to see it in other hands, but that is a matter that concerns America primarily, and it is no business of ours for the present. When, however, the German people decide that they have allowed sufficient of their brothers and sons to be slaughtered, they will find the outer world changed for them in a good many respects.

The London and South-Western Bank.—The business of the Minorities branch has been temporarily transferred to the Rishopsgate office, No. 125, Bishopsgate, E.C. (corner of Houndsditch).

## National Finance.

With only one more instalment of the War Loan to be paid, which will yield some £25,000,000 to £30,000,000, or about one week's war expenditure, the question of further Government borrowing is beginning to be eagerly discussed in financial circles. There seems to be a general impression that the Government will endeavour to avoid issuing another big loan until the spring, or, at any rate, until well after the turn of the year; but the problem of financing from hand to mouth at the rate of five millions per day is no easy one. Possibly short-term Exchequer bonds may be utilised, and it is also suggested that if the rates for new Treasury bills were raised, enough could be sold over the counter to provide temporarily all the sinews of war that may be necessary. No doubt the whole matter is engaging the earnest attention of the responsible officials, and, on the whole, they have acquitted themselves so ably since the outbreak of the war that we may safely leave it in their hands. The difficulties to be surmounted may, however, be dimly appreciated from the fact that for the current year expenditure is estimated at 1,590 millions and revenue at 305 millions, leaving a deficit of 1,285 millions to be raised by borrowing. For 1916-17, at the current rate of expenditure, we should have to provide 1,825 millions, while the revenue on the present basis is estimated at 387 millions, leaving a deficit of 1,438 millions. The mind cannot grasp these stupendous figures, but the task has got to be faced somehow.

Now that the full text of the Finance Bill is available, there are two matters which are likely to provoke a great deal of controversy. To take the less important point first, the obligation placed on bankers to deduct income-tax from interest paid on deposits has aroused rather a bitter feeling in banking circles. It will entail an enormous amount of work at a time when experienced staffs are greatly depleted by the absence of thousands of men who have joined the colours. Moreover, the clause apparently applies only to bankers, and does not include large drapery establishments, stores, friendly societies, and others who make a practice of accepting deposits, and who will now be in a privileged position as compared with regular banks. There is also sure to be friction in cases where depositors are exempt from income-tax or entitled to rebates, and one possible result may be that bank deposits will be seriously reduced, which would not be a favourable development from the point of view of the public interest. We should not be surprised, however, if the whole idea were abandoned.

Of even greater importance are the proposals with regard to the excess profits tax. The problems connected with this innovation are extremely difficult, and we are afraid will result in many cases in substantial injustice. Contrary to what was anticipated when the idea was first mooted, the new tax will cover all companies or firms and private individuals engaged in trade, or acting as agents on commission, whose

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profits since September 1 have exceeded the average of any two of the three preceding years. Such companies as rubber plantations in the East come within the purview of the tax, and those estates which are only just coming into bearing—and there are a large number of them—will seem to be rather unfairly treated. Capital has been sunk in them for four or five years without the proprietors receiving any return, and it is a distinct hardship that the first dividends, which really ought to be reckoned as spread over four or five years, have to be docked to the extent of 50 per cent. Probably there will be modifications in the regulations acceptable to the Government proposed in committee, but in any case we fear that there must be a great deal of ill-feeling created by what, in many cases, must be regarded as the unjust incidence of the tax. Another point about which we are in considerable doubt is the treatment of the so-called "controlled establishments." It was understood that the limitation of profits in these businesses amounted practically to nationalisation, but the suggested rules leave a very different impression. For instance, not only are the proprietors to receive the average of the previous two years of almost unexampled prosperity, but they are to have 20 per cent. in addition, allowances for wear and tear, payment for special services, and interest at the rate of 8 per cent. on any new capital put into the business for Government purposes. It is doubtful whether they are to be subject to the excess profits tax, but, in any case, the terms appear to be extremely generous. However, we have to grope our way in these very difficult times, and we need not indulge in carping criticism until it is seen how these innovations work.

### Germany's Economic Position.

An interesting illustration of the ignorant gullibility of the *Times* was furnished the other day, when it quoted with Helfferich joy a long despatch from the Berlin correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*. This rigmarole, which is vastly amusing to anyone with the smallest knowledge of economic conditions, naturally appeals to the *Comic Cuts* type of intelligence, and in the supreme wisdom of Carmelite House is considered worthy of headings three inches deep, in addition to a few introductory remarks which contain the following gem:—"It is very certain that our Press Bureau would forbid the publication of any such article dealing with our national finances in any newspaper over which it had control." Spare us, oh Lord Northcliffe, or we die of laughter! Apparently the great discovery of the Chicago reporter which excites such admiration in the Harmsworthian breast is that people can grow rich by taking in each other's washing. "Dr. Rathenau's extraordinary paradox," we are told, "has become a verity. Germany is keeping her vast wealth at home. The blockade has resulted in concentrating it in Germany, where it flows from the Government to the industries, thence to the people and back to the Government again. At the end of the war Germany will have hardly a penny of debt to foreign countries. She will be economically unassailable. In the meantime Great Britain has kept her foreign markets open, and this cannot help weakening her. England will emerge from the war with a heavy debt to the outside world. To rule the seas will have proved a costly glory. Supplied with materials to carry on the war indefinitely Germany feels it cannot be defeated. The greatest industrial organisation in the history of the world, though only eight months old, is fulfilling its function without a hitch. It is an extraordinary story this miracle of industry, this inventiveness, this genius of organisation."

All this and more to the same effect leave us rather breathless, but it may be useful to look at the facts. Confidence in the Chicago gentleman's ability to deal with the subject is not increased by one of his opening remarks. "Germany," he says, "is not rich in raw materials. She produces iron, coal, zinc, and petroleum, little else." As a matter of fact she produces no petroleum whatever, and a very large proportion of the raw

material for her zinc industry came from Australia, so our author must have been very badly posted in some particulars by his German friends. And he very conveniently ignores the importance of such foreign products as cotton, rubber, oil, nuts, tea, coffee, cocoa, &c. The frantic demand for copper, wool, and other articles is slurred over with the comforting statement that substitutes were discovered, and that "the substitutes were found in many cases to be better than the originals." This can hardly be a case of self-deception, but it is very obviously an attempt to deceive more ignorant people. But let us see how Germany stood before the war with regard to her foreign trade. In 1912, according to figures quoted from Dr. Helfferich by the *Financial Times*, Germany's imports amounted to £535,000,000, consisting mainly of raw materials and foodstuffs, while her exports, chiefly manufactured goods, amounted to £445,000,000. That makes a grand total of nearly £1,000,000,000, and this must have left a terrible gap however beautifully the nation is organised to the admiration of the Chicago reporter and Lord Northcliffe. Imports of foodstuffs and animals, less re-exports, reached the quite formidable total of £120,000,000, and that has had to be made good by increased production and decreased consumption, although the average German does not take kindly to "doing without." Ends may be made to meet for a time until hoarded stocks are exhausted, but in course of time the effect on the health of the people is bound to be serious. As regards meat supplies, Germany had become increasingly dependent on foreign sources, the number of sheep in the country having decreased over 40 per cent. between 1900 and 1912, an important consideration for clothing as well as food; but horned cattle in the same period increased 5 per cent., not nearly enough to keep pace with the population. What "better substitutes" have been discovered for tea, coffee, and cocoa is discreetly left to the imagination. Before the war Germany imported about £5,000,000 worth of copra, £9,000,000 worth of linseed, and £5,500,000 worth of lard, and no synthetic substitute has yet been discovered for these essential fats. She also imported cotton, wool, jute, and other textile materials to the value of £65,000,000, and, with the exception of a comparatively small quantity of wool, she cannot produce any of these necessary materials herself. Similarly with copper. Her normal consumption was 230,000 tons, and her home production just over 10 per cent. of the total, while it is estimated that the war wastage in cartridges alone amounts to about 120,000 tons a year. No doubt large quantities of copper have filtered through, but the supply cannot be inexhaustible, even when all the pots and pans and door handles have been "mobilised." Nitrate of soda being cut off, artificially produced nitrate of lime may serve the purpose to a certain extent, but it is a costly process unless there is an abundance of cheap water-power, which Germany does not possess. Many other items might be scheduled in similar fashion, and the inevitable conclusion, in spite of the malicious vapourings of the Harmsworth Press, must be that Germany will be bankrupt, economically as well as financially and in "gun fodder," if she succeeds in dragging on the war much longer. But there is not much fear, as the last desperate thrust seems to prove.

### Rubber Results and Prospects.

The rubber industry is one of the very few which has not been directly affected one way or another by the war, and most of the annual reports of companies in the Middle East with which we have dealt in recent issues showed that good progress had been made. It is true that important Continental markets were lost, but planters speedily found compensation for the closing of these outlets in the greatly increased demand for rubber as war material and in the larger consumption of the United States. At the same time, there was no excessive competition to cause wide fluctuations in value, the average price obtained ranging between 2s. 0½d. to 2s. 3d., but in the case of individual under-



takings the comparison with the previous year naturally showed greater variation according to the measure of their success in the earlier period. For instance, Tanjong Malim and Seaport both realised a trifle more, and the reductions in the case of the Bukit Lintang and Selangor United were only .14d. and .50d. respectively, while the Sungkai Chumor and Broome (Selangor) showed decreases of 2.17d. and 2.55d., and Dolok was as much as 6½d. down. As the yield from the older trees increases and fresh areas are brought into the tapping ground, the "all in" cost per lb. is being steadily brought down, and in this respect the Dolok was able to offset the heavy decline in price by a reduction of a like amount to the very reasonable figure of 1s. 1½d. The Selangor United also effected a substantial reduction of 5½d. to 1s. 1d., and the costs of the Sungkai Chumor and Bukit Lintang, although only 2.64d. down, were very satisfactory at 1s. 1.07d. and 1s. 0.36d. The Tanjong Malim, in spite of a reduction of 4.63d., was still comparatively high at 1s. 3.76d., but this cannot be taken as a fair criterion, as the company had to provide for loss of exchange on its balances in Antwerp. The Inch Kenneth, Bernam-Perak, and Kawie (Java) do not follow the usual plan of giving the gross price, but quote the nett, after deductions of certain charges, and on this basis the second showed a reduction of only .28d. to 2s. 0.78d., while the Inch Kenneth was 2.11d. down at 2s. 0.43d. and the Kawie 2.80d. down at 1s. 11.09d. Neither the Bernam-Perak nor the Kawie give any particulars of the cost, but the Inch Kenneth brought down its f.o.b. cost by 4.90d. to 10.60d.

In the matter of dividend distribution the record generally is satisfactory. The Selangor United more than doubled its nett profit at £5,440, which enabled it to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., as against nothing, and to increase the sum carried forward by a substantial figure. Both the Sungkai Chumor and the Bukit Lintang raised their distributions from 30 per cent. to 40, but the Sungkai Chumor set aside £2,000 less, while the Bukit Lintang again put £3,000 to reserve and increased its balance carried forward by over £2,000. Inch Kenneth and the Banteng paid 5 per cent. more at 20 and 12½ per cent. respectively, while the Bukit Ijok and Kawie came into the dividend-paying list with distributions of 10 per cent., and the Kawie, in addition, set aside £9,000 to reserve. A year ago the Bernam-Perak, having spent more than its paid-up capital, and finding it impossible to obtain fresh funds owing to the war, decided to utilise the nett profits for capital purposes, and did not even pay the preference dividend, but with an increase of £2,544 in the profits for last year the directors felt that they could safely bring the preference dividend up to date. They did not, however, give the ordinary shares anything, as they preferred to set aside £7,000 as reserve to meet further expenditure on the property. The Dolok also strengthened its position by writing off £17,428 for dead assets, a policy which will prove of considerable benefit to the shareholders in the long run.

As regards the future, the outlook appears to be very promising. The enormous wastage of rubber which is now going on at the front, and which will have to be made good, must lead to a greatly increased demand, while the American requirements are also likely to show considerable expansion. At the same time, the present price is substantially above that ruling a year ago, and so far as can be seen, the higher level is likely to be maintained, while with the steadily increasing outputs planters naturally expect that they will be able to reduce their costs still further. Many of the companies have already brought their "all-in" costs to such a low level that there does not seem to be very much scope left for further savings if due regard is had to the proper upkeep of the properties, but with the yield increasing by anything from 25 to 50 per cent. the reduction of even a small fraction of 1d. per lb. should mean a substantial addition to the nett profits. On the other hand, the companies will be subject to the "excess profits tax," and unless the proposed method of assessment is modified this will press very heavily

on properties which have just entered the revenue-earning stage. It does not seem quite fair that after four or five years of development work these concerns should be treated in the same way as if they had been paying dividends from the start on the capital sunk in them.

### Insurance News.

In view of the heaviness of the mortality claims, an experience common to all life offices in the countries now at war, the decline in new business, the rise in the income-tax, and the question of depreciated securities, policy-holders are beginning to wonder to what extent bonuses will be affected in the near future, or whether bonuses will be omitted altogether when the next valuations are announced. The experience of some offices has been that mortality among civilians for many months past has been abnormal, owing presumably to the fact that anxiety and straitened means have not been without effect.

According to a message from Berne, the Swiss Federal Council has issued a decree, which will come into force immediately, providing that all foreign life assurance companies which have been authorised to do business in Switzerland must deposit as security a fixed sum of £4,000 sterling, in addition to the so-called mathematical reserves of its Swiss holdings. If these reserves in any one year increase in value, it is stipulated that the surplus be deposited exclusively in Swiss securities, this new regulation applying to the current financial year. Insurance companies will be allowed time to deposit their security at the discretion of the Federal authorities.

Information now comes to hand from Brisbane that the Legislative Council has adopted an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Bill, allowing private companies to compete with the Government in the matter of insurance against liability for such compensation. The original Bill, it will be remembered, as introduced, provided for a State monopoly of such insurance. Now, at any rate, should the amendment be adopted, those insurance companies who have spent considerable sums in establishment expenses will be able to compete for the business with the Government.

The experience of underwriters doing fire insurance business in Canada and the United States continues to be of a favourable character, the losses during September amounting to £2,965,000, or only slightly heavier than for the previous month and for the corresponding period last year. Consequently for the nine months of the current year the losses are still over 10 millions sterling below the level of the corresponding period at £25,259,000; for the first nine months of 1914 the total was £35,338,000.

European Oilfields.—Production week 10th inst., 85,300 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 40 copecks per pood.

Cuban Telephone Co.—The following committee has been formed for the protection of the interests of the holders of preferred stock in the above company:—Messrs. E. Mackay Edgar, of Sperling and Co. (chairman), Victor V. Branford (London representative of the Cuban Telephone Co.), A. M. Drysdale (of Donnison, Seal and Drysdale), L. H. Tuthill Storey (of Dain, Son and Storey), and Horace Back (of Surtees, Phillpotts and Co.).

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## The Week in Mines.

Business in mining shares this week has been quieter, and, with a few prominent exceptions, the tone has been inclined to dullness. Diamond descriptions, however, have been steadily supported, notably De Beers, which company, it is rumoured, has secured important war contracts, which will enable it to regain in explosives what it loses in diamonds. Copper shares have also been a strong market on encouraging advices from America, where the bullish feeling seems to be stronger than ever.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market the tendency has generally been dull for gold shares. Modders, after recovering to 15½, relapsed to 15; Modder B's have fallen 3-32 to 5 13-32, but Modder Deeps hardened the turn to £5 on the latest development report, showing that in the September quarter 1,130 ft. of pay ore were opened up, assaying the excellent value of 14.3 dwts over 44 ins., as against only 865 ft., assaying 13.6 dwts. over 49.4 ins. in the June quarter. Knight Centrals, after relapsing to 10s. 3d., recovered to 10s. 9d. on Cape buying, which was taken to foreshadow news of further developments on the main reef struck at the 17th level more than a month ago. Crown Mines have been weak at 3½, and Gold Fields at 1½, Rand Mines at 4 3-32, and Gedulds at 3½s. are lower. City Deeps have been supported at 3 7-32, East Rands at 1½, Meyer and Charltons at 5½, and Van Ryns at 2½. Johannesburgs have been dealt in up to about 14s. Among diamond shares, De Beers' descriptions have been steadily gathering strength on rumours that the company has secured war contracts. As is well known, the company owns the Cape Explosives Works in Cape Colony. The deferreds have risen to 10½, and the preferences to 12½. Jagersfontains improved to 3, and Premiers to 4. In the Rhodesian department, Globe and Phoenix fell heavily to 23s. 9d. on the passing of the dividend, referred to in another column, and Chartereds sagged to 9s. 6d. Amalgamated Props, however, have been bought up to over 1s. 3d., and Falcons and Giants are better. The West African market has remained in a stagnant condition.

### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been strong in tone on American buying. Anacondas jumped from 15½ to 16½, and Utahs from 14½ to 15½, but Rio Tintos, which follow Paris rather than New York, have weakened to 53½. Hampdens have further improved to 29s. 6d., but Mount Elliotts have been easier at 2½. In the Russian section, Kyshtims have been in demand up to 1½, but Burma Corporations have been dealt in down to 29s. Among Westralians, Sons of Gwalia eased to 15s. 6d., but Golden Horseshoes have improved to 2 on the latest news from the mine, and Great Boulders have been in demand up to 15s. Mexican Mines have risen slightly on reports that the Carranza Government will be recognised by the United States. Indian shares have moved irregularly. Champions at 10s. 9d. and Balaghats at 4s. were finally a little firmer, but North Anantapur lost 1½ at 1½, and the preferences 1½ at 1½, after the issue of the report. Malayan Tin Dredgings have risen 1½ to 1½. The Broken Hill group has been quiet, but Amalgamated Zincs at 25s. 3d. and Sulphides at 17s. 3d. have hardened slightly.

## MINING NEWS.

**GLOBE AND PHOENIX.**—This company, which owns one of the richest mines in Rhodesia, and has proved by far the most successful company operating in that region, announces that there will be no dividend this month. Last year interim dividends of 30 per cent. each were paid in July and October, but this year only one dividend, 20 per cent., in July, has been distributed so far. The explanation of the absence of a dividend now is that the directors have thought it advisable to deposit with the company's bankers £84,000 in cash to await the result of the litigation over the John Bull claims. This litigation is the outcome of a long-standing dispute as to the proper interpretation to be placed on a contract made between the company and the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia con-

cerning the acquisition by the former of the John Bull claims, on which the new vertical shaft has been sunk. At the meeting held in April last the chairman intimated that £6,000 per month was being set aside out of profits to the litigation account—a sum equivalent to nearly 2s. per share, or 40 per cent. in dividend.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD PRODUCTION.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £3,299,423, which is really larger than in August, when allowance is made for the fact that that month had one working day more. The total for the year shows an increase of £2,185,967. If the present rate of production is maintained the year's output will be the highest on record. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January ..	£ 2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,768,470	3,037,058
February...	2,445,088	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March.....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514
April.....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651
May.....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,173,998	3,059,340	3,243,347
June.....	2,655,602	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,598	3,208,224
July.....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,763,917	3,111,398	3,272,258
August....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,395	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975
September	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	3,299,423
October ..	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	—
November	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	—
December	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	28,603,856

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The native labour figures are again very satisfactory; they show an increase of 7,767 "boys"; the coal mines lost 200, and the gold mines thus secured 7,967 more natives:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
September, 1914.....	169,619	9,389	—	179,008
October.....	170,438	9,212	—	179,650
November.....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December.....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915.....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February.....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March.....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April.....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May.....	183,961	8,857	—	192,818
June.....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July.....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August.....	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September.....	204,833	9,743	—	214,576

The number of natives on the gold mines is the largest since April, 1913, when the number was 205,424. One month previous to that the high-water mark of 207,733 was reached.

**CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.**—Last year's official expectations of improved results have been fulfilled. The report for the 12 months ended June 30 shows that the revenue from gold increased by £63,098 to £442,649, the tonnage milled being 53,759 tons larger at 294,766 tons. The yield per ton declined 1s. 5d. to 30s. per ton, but the profit was only 4d. per ton lower at 9s. 5d., costs having been appreciably reduced. Profits totalled £138,265, an increase of £21,656. The payable ore reserves exhibit a marked increase, owing to improved developments; the tonnage has risen from 693,460 tons, valued at 7.34 dwts. over 48.6 ins., to 855,600 tons, valued at 7.53 dwts. over 43.5 ins. The dividend has been raised from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent., and £69,874 is carried forward, as against £65,423 brought in.

**MAIN REEF WEST.**—In the year ended June 30 269,520 tons were milled for a profit of £50,876, as compared with 212,972 tons for a profit of £56,641. The yield again decreased substantially, the figure being 23s. 7.8d., a fall of 4s. 9.7d. per ton, but costs also declined by 3s. 3.2d., with the result that the profit was only 1s. 6.5d. down at 3s. 9.3d. per ton. Reserves of ore have declined by 110,160 tons to 416,280 tons, valued at 5.87 dwts. over 51 inches, a rise in value of 0.17 dwt. The sum of £23,414 was brought in, and after providing for debenture interest and other outgoings, £24,711 is carried forward.

**NORTH ANANTAPUR.**—This comparatively new Indian mining company continues to make satisfactory progress. In the 12 months ended June 30 the production amounted to £62,945, as against £46,888. The profit was £24,643, as compared with £11,933, and dividends of 3s. per share on the preference and 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, both less tax, have been paid this month, and £1,262 is carried forward. For the whole year the preference shares have received 5s. per share, or 25 per cent., as compared with 22½ per cent. for 1913-14, when also the ordinary shares received 6d. per share. Reserves of ore have increased by 2,000 tons to 54,000 tons.

The Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd., announces that the branch at Boree Creek was closed on the 4th inst., and the branch at Comboyne will be closed on 14th inst. Both these branches are in New South Wales.

**Kaministiquia Power.**—Nett earnings for August, \$22,782.76, showing a surplus over interest charges of \$15,093.65. Total net earnings from Nov. 1, 1914, to \$244,888.89, and the surplus over the bond interest for the same period amounted to \$165,985.70.



**IRISH RAILWAYS.**

		£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 8	3,071	534	150,718
Grand Canal ..	" 8	1,124	276	16,375
Great Northern ..	" 8	22,735	115	937,680
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 8	36,255	1,372	1,331,999
Midland Great Western ..	" 8	14,126	725	513,726

† From July 1. \* From Jan. 1.

**INDIAN RAILWAYS.**

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Sept. 11	1,12,000	201	29,46,612	7,911
Barsi Light ..	" 18	12,900	5,300	5,22,200	38,000
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 18	2,39,450	1,22,104	79,72,260	12,53,642
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 18	6,93,000	17,000	1,83,89,000	18,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Oct. 9	11,72,000	1,88,000	15,41,000	2,76,000
Burma ..	Sept. 11	3,33,044	58,884	86,42,900	12,67,445
Delhi Umballa ..	Oct. 9a	91,630	14,900	91,630	14,900
East Indian ..	" 9	21,39,000	2,13,000	26,91,000	2,67,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 9a	18,25,900	2,60,800	18,25,900	2,60,800
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Sept. 4	24,385	1,308	8,56,993	4,396
Madras and S. ..	" 18	7,75,000	1,48,545	2,18,12,639	13,72,072
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 11	1,46,326	54,842	27,26,394	36,902
Robilkund and ..	" 11	54,222	5,168	16,55,936	4,36,568
Kumaon ..	" 4	26,537	2,705	7,91,212	1,790
South Indian ..	" 18	5,41,209	65,449	1,36,80,541	81,951
Southern Punjab ..	May 8	4,63,632	1,31,685	8,89,349	1,10,94

a 9 days. † April 1. § Month. † October 1.

**COLONIAL RAILWAYS.**

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Aug. 7a	33,224	4,472	5,261,100	539,200
Canadian Northern ..	" 7a	8,847,500	812,910	29,607,000	3,820,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 7	2,915,458	8,083	6,208,043	533,300
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 7	160,458	2,096	1,157,117	25,653
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 7	36,226	1,362	419,107	27,263
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 7	12,869	1,362	220,740	49,993
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	" 7	39,020	17,388	282,897	165,025
Mashonaland ..	Aug. 7	49,470	1,930	11,068	7,361
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Sept. 7	5,800	3,082	67,094	137
New Cape Central ..	" 18	1,548	262	521,774	177,239
Rhodesia ..	July 7	27,976	11,294	1,283,477	57,388
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Sept. 21	561,427	20,628		

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. a 9 days.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Sept. 30	1,209,000	161,000	11,387,000	1,188,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 30	300,000	2,000	3,594,000	144,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	293,000	5,500	3,147,000	7,500
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 30	751,500	342,600	6,623,100	83,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 21	1,139,000	32,000	13,481,000	286,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	" 21	764,000	14,000		
Missouri Kansas ..	" 30	809,232	43,350	7,623,024	485,750
Missouri Pacific ..	" 21	1,183,000	71,000	13,465,000	765,000
Southern ..	" 30	1,727,000	22,000	15,936,000	68,000

§ 9 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

**MONTHLY STATEMENTS.**

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		
Atchafson T. & S. Fé ..	Aug.	3,601,000	+ 206,000	2	6,950,000	+ 648,000		
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	89,000	15,000	2	327,000	94,000		
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,395,000	+ 628,000	2	6,471,000	+ 1,432,000		
Canadian Northern ..	"	238,800	5,900	2	523,900	151,300		
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,442,000	+ 79,000	2	6,243,000	899,000		
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	713,000	+ 319,000	2	1,971,000	+ 642,000		
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,391,000	266,000	2	4,070,000	562,000		
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	2,675,000	506,000	2	4,635,000	965,000		
Chicago G.W. ..	"	331,000	92,000	2	573,000	63,000		
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	2,510,000	+ 350,000	2	5,322,000	+ 778,000		
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,273,000	335,000	2	1,931,000	678,000		
Colorado & Southern ..	"	386,000	+ 20,000	2	654,000	53,000		
Cuba ..	"	416,634	+ 73,147	2	836,724	+ 110,692		
Do. ..	"	125,386	+ 64,134	2	263,198	+ 110,739		
Delaware & Hud. ..	July	833,000	+ 107,000	7	4,364,000	+ 600,000		
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug.	840,600	+ 258,603	2	1,477,000	+ 338,000		
Erie ..	"	2,269,000	+ 769,000	8	10,559,000	+ 2,026,000		
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	2,248,700	+ 13,000	8	15,507,550	+ 5,050		
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	2,397,000	+ 14,000	8	18,480,000	+ 63,050		
Detroit G.H. & M. ..	"	14,300	+ 10,700	8	6,700	+ 45,850		
Gt. Northern ..	"	2,623,000	600,000	2	4,989,000	1,130,000		
Illinois Central ..	"	1,123,000	+ 137,000	2	1,665,000	312,000		
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	332,000	+ 14,000	2	697,000	+ 4,000		
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,230,000	55,000	2	2,397,000	+ 57,000		
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,326,000	+ 341,000	2	2,506,000	+ 445,000		
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	833,000	+ 191,000	2	1,582,000	+ 211,000		
Miss. & Texas ..	"	791,000	15,000	2	1,262,000	173,000		
Missouri Pacific ..	July	1,161,000	540,000	1	1,161,000	540,000		
New York Cent. & H. ..	Aug.	5,273,000	+ 897,000	8	27,980,000	+ 8,872,000		
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,114,000	+ 482,000	2	4,309,000	+ 1,115,000		
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	318,000	+ 14,000	2	730,000	+ 60,000		
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,534,000	+ 489,000	2	3,222,000	+ 1,083,000		
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,770,000	+ 598,000	2	4,565,000	+ 236,000		
Pennsylvania East ..	"							
and West Lines ..	"	10,858,000	+ 1,245,000	8	49,405,000	+ 5,253,000		
Reading ..	"	567,338	+ 9,853	2	1,134,787	+ 16,491		
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,137,000	+ 4,000	2	2,124,000	+ 16,000		
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	339,000	24,000	2	723,000	74,000		
Southern ..	"	1,611,000	+ 285,000	2	3,159,000	+ 438,000		
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,597,000	+ 1,242,000	2	9,190,000	+ 2,553,000		
Union Pacific ..	"	3,403,000	53,000	2	6,252,000	+ 120,000		
Wabash ..	"	910,000	+ 62,000	2	1,414,000	+ 174,000		

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

**FOREIGN RAILWAYS.**

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 9	Ps. 10,000	+ 1,500	Ps. 493,200	— Ps. 29,750	
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 10	25,825	+ 3,015	964,870	— 346,550	
Arauco ..	Aug.	6,750	+ 375	55,375	— 9,974	
Argentine N.E. ..	Oct. 9	6,248	+ 2,223	98,038	+ 28,368	
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Sept.	5,368	+ 256	44,453	+ 1,826	
Bolivar ..	"	7,750	+ 3,202	82,000	+ 5,081	
Brazil ..	July	M3,272,000	+ M409,778	M22,115,000	— M548,354	
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	"	M18,29,800	— M 2,900	M238,850	— M18,600	
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Oct. 9	83,000	+ 20,000	1,161,000	+ 39,000	
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 10	91,000	+ 20,000	1,196,908	+ 195,967	
Do. Western ..	" 10	47,000	+ 11,000	626,000	+ 99,000	
Central Argentine ..	" 10	117,500	+ 12,500	1,632,300	+ 204,600	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 9	11,080	+ 2,192	154,106	+ 30,050	
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 9	3,934	+ 1,521	49,555	+ 13,876	
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 9	1,527	+ 196	25,373	+ 5,385	
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 9	1,192	+ 496	22,381	+ 5,264	
Colombian National ..	Aug.	12,700	+ 2,000	82,342	+ 492	
Cordoba Central ..	Oct. 9	24,850	— 14,685	488,800	— 68,575	
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 28	5,340	— 1,303	39,812	— 25,727	
Cuban Central ..	Oct. 9	7,967	+ 2,416	111,279	+ 15,356	
Dorada Extension ..	Sept.	8,400	+ 1,400	71,300	+ 5,300	
Egyptian Delta ..	" 20a	4,610	+ 850	69,797	+ 22,618	
Entre Rios ..	Oct. 9	9,400	+ 1,400	131,000	+ 19,100	
Gr. Sante Fé ..	Aug.	79,552	+ 13,210	598,312	+ 77,665	
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 2	Ps. 74,792	+ Ps. 11,458	Ps. 3,364,145	— Ps. 284,317	
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 9	8,400	+ 1,400	379,900	+ 101,500	
Havana Central ..	" 9	5,923	+ 1,436	77,661	+ 7,792	
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. c	22,808	+ 14,824	168,492	+ 30,594	
La Guaira and Car. ..	Sept.	6,250	+ 250	61,000	+ 22,250	
Leopoldina ..	Oct. 9	31,528	+ 15,962	1,173,209	+ 24,632	
Manila (Northern) ..	" 9	4,098	+ 785	211,277	+ 39,053	
Midland (Southern) ..	" 9	3,381	+ 155	152,128	+ 16,508	
Midland Uruguay ..	Sept.	9,468	+ 2,241	32,234	+ 7,857	
Morgana ..	July	M2,857,000	+ M251,003	M12374,000	+ M276,812	
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Sept.	22,000	+ 7,416	68,500	+ 16,357	
Nitrate ..	" 30b	16,615	+ 2,736	247,797	+ 233,627	
Paraguay Central ..	Oct. 9	249,000	+ 255,000	8,646,000	+ 276,000	
Paulista ..	July	M 3,100	+ 173,947	M13550,000	— M146,961	
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Sept.	S755,280	+ S154,784	S2,299,157	+ S56,218	
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	Aug.	3,266	+ 649	29,424	+ 943	
Salvador ..	Oct. 9	15,500	+ 3,080	289,250	+ 821,144	
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 2	36,342	+ 10,553	512,482	+ 150,752	
Sorocabana ..	July	M1,319,000	+ M109,000	7,042,000	+ M100,000	
Taitai ..	Sept.	21,375	+ 10,245	47,753	+ 4,890	
United of Havana ..	Oct. 10	25,931	+ 8,048	347,468	+ 71,366	
West'n of Havana ..	" 9	4,598	+ 589	71,609	+ 6,091	
Zafra and Huelva ..	Sept.	10,156	+ 2,614	72,973	+ 43,285	

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days. § Apl. 1

**TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.**

		£		£		£		£
Bath Electric ..								
Bristol ..	Oct. 8	9,096	+	941	†	384,897	+	34,738
British Elec. Fed. ..	"							
Dublin United ..	Oct. 8	6,077	+	255	†	246,740	+	9,195
Gearless Motor Bus ..	"							
Hastings and Dist. ..	Oct. 7	948	—	5	†	37,427	—	59
Isle of Thanet ..	" 7	341	—	146	*	69,456	—	272
Lancashire United..	" 6	1,705	+	188	†	70,458	+	4,151
London Cnty. Cncl.	Sept. 22	46,960	+	4,984	§	1,095,822	—	4,285
London General ..	"							
London United ..	"							
Metropolitan Elec. ..	"							
Nat. Steam Car ..	"							
Provincial ..	Oct. 9	2,244	+	146	*	2,967	+	280
South Metropolitan ..	"							
Sunderland District	Sept. 29	575	+	46	48	27,363	—	649
Tramways (M.E.T.)	"							
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	Oct. 10	1,540	+	76	41	65,291	+	5,406



# The Investors' Review.

## The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

With supplies of credit augmented by the repayment of £15,000,000 Treasury bills in the end of last week, the Money market was able to meet the 10 per cent. call on the War Loan on Tuesday without the slightest difficulty. This was variously estimated at anything between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000, and it was believed that payment of the final call was also being made under discounts by a good many holders. Money, however, appeared to be still very abundant, and the highest charge for overnight loans did not exceed 4 per cent., while before the close of business balances were offered down to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The payment appeared to have more effect on the following day, when the supplies seemed to be unevenly distributed, and borrowers had occasionally to pay over 4 per cent. for part of their requirements. This phase, too, passed, and although 4 per cent. remained the general charge the surplus offered at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was larger. For some time past the bankers who entered into the arrangement not to charge less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for weekly money have found themselves very much hampered by this condition. The clearing banks still adhere to that figure, but some of the other institutions which have been lending freely at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. have now come down to 4 per cent., and it is believed that the general agreement will be terminated early next week. A further £15,000,000 of Treasury bills will be paid off to-morrow, so that the ease will be further accentuated.

The discount market is still hampered in its efforts to keep rates up by the abundance of money and the scarcity of bills. Further large amounts of gold have left the Bank, but the loss had no effect, and in spite of the reluctance of brokers they have had to reduce their quotations. Some of the big houses adhered to  $4\frac{1}{8}$ - $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for three months' paper, but it was impossible to get bills at the higher figure, and most of the business has been done at  $4\frac{5}{8}$  per cent., while some sellers claimed to have been able to work at  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. The market is now discussing whether the Government will raise its rate for Treasury bills sold over the counter or whether it will keep its rate at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and allow the value of money to be reduced. On the whole, the opinion appeared to be in favour of the latter course as less likely to injure the price of the War Loan.

The New York exchange was again inclined to give way, and was at one time down to 4.67 $\frac{1}{2}$  for cable transfers, but it rallied a little after the new loan was definitely authorised by Parliament. Apparently the new Russian arrangement for relieving the position has not yet come into operation, and the Petrograd exchange has further risen to 140. The Paris cheque after touching 27.38 $\frac{1}{2}$  dropped back to 27.38, and the Dutch and Scandinavian rates are both lower.

The loss of gold for abroad this week amounted to £1,670,000, but a little came back from the country, and the stocks of coin and bullion were £1,294,000 lower at £59,955,000. A reduction of £316,000 in the note circulation left the reserve £978,000 down at £45,845,000, but with a decrease in the liabilities the proportion is 1.2 per cent. better at 27.2 per cent. Government disbursements, which included the repayment of £15,000,000 Treasury bills, caused a reduc-

tion of only £10,515,000 in Public Deposits, and it was therefore assumed that the greater part of the War Loan instalment had already been transferred to the Exchequer. Most of the money released, however, went against reductions of £5,326,000 in Government securities, and £4,560,000 in Other Securities, and "Other" deposits were £395,000 lower at £97,907,000.

The Bank of England announced this week that it had made special arrangements for the payment of the final instalment on the War Loan in order to facilitate the making of applications for conversion by subscribers who have been paying for their stock by instalments. Applications for conversion must be made not later than October 30, and as the last call is due on October 26, the pressure to convert at the last moment might be inconvenient. The Bank will, therefore, receive on and after the 19th inst. scrip certificates accompanied by cheques for the final instalment on the understanding that the cheques will not be presented until October 26, or if desired the cheques may be dated October 26. It will also receive applications for conversion accompanied by receipts for the final instalment, provided that the numbers of the scrip certificates have been duly listed on the Conversion Request Form, which must cover the whole of the scrip certificates for which the receipt has been issued.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended October 13 £3,192,964 in £1 notes, £1,296,897 10s. in 10s. notes, and £600,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £3,084,872 in £1, £648,363 in 10s. notes, and £150,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £1,206,626 10s., leaving a total of £76,443,513 10s. outstanding, made up of £54,958,885 in £1 notes, £18,874,628 10s. in 10s. notes, and £2,610,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £445,852 8s. 9d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £26,920,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £21,023,302 16s. 10d. at the Bank of England, while £194,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £251,500 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

There has again been a good demand for silver for coinage purposes on both home and Continental account, and although supplies have been a little more plentiful they have been readily absorbed. The price dipped to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. on Saturday, but the loss was more than recovered, and since Tuesday the market has remained steady at 24d. per oz. Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid say that the stock in India seems to be far in excess of the bazaar requirements, but that with the better monsoon reports the position there might quickly change, and some demand from that quarter become evident.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,90,000 in bills, Rs. 2,40,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 61,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 79,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 31,77,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 17,44,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 27 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is reduced to Rs. 40,00,000. Between April 1 and the 12th inst. the total sales were Rs. 5,87,95,297, realising £3,918,759, compared with Rs. 5,74,25,861 for £3,831,653 10 October 13 last year.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 13, 1915.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

		£	
Notes Issued	.. ..	78,247,935	
Government Debt..	..	11,015,100	
Other Securities ..	..	7,434,900	
Gold Coin and Bullion	..	59,797,935	
Silver Bullion ..	..	—	
		£78,247,935	£78,247,935



## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 25,959,825
Rest ..	3,158,692	Other Securities ..	114,706,690
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	70,859,619	Notes ..	45,687,480
Other Deposits ..	97,907,026	Gold and Silver Coin ..	157,522
Seven Day and other Bills ..	33,180		

£186,511,517

£186,511,517

Dated Oct. 14, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Oct. 14.		Oct. 6, 1915.	Oct. 13, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,177,514	Rest ..	3,121,050	3,158,692	37,642	
23,732,448	Pub. Deposits ..	81,375,191	70,859,619	10,515,572	
138,828,702	Other do. ..	99,301,697	97,907,026	394,671	
12,930	7 Day Bills ..	24,889	33,180	8,291	
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
27,571,087	Gov. Securities.	31,286,061	25,959,825	5,326,236	
109,715,402	Other do. ..	119,266,493	114,706,690	4,559,803	
43,018,105	Total Reserve ..	46,823,273	45,845,002	978,271	
				10,910,243	10,910,243
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
34,667,285	Coin and Bullion	32,876,520	32,560,455	316,065	
59,235,390	Proportion ..	61,249,763	59,955,457	1,294,336	
26 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	26 p.c.	27.2 p.c.	1.2 p.c.	
5 "		5 "	5 "		

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,690,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Wednesday—Bars ..	Saturday—Bars ..
Foreign coin ..	U.S.A. ..
Sovs. ..	Egypt set aside)
Friday—Bars ..	Tuesday—U.S.A. ..
	Wednesday—Bars ..
	Egypt (set aside)
	Thursday—U.S.A. ..
	Spain ..
Nett Efflux ..	Friday—U.S.A. ..
£3,499,000	£3,499,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

During the nine days ended on the 9th inst. £30,000,000 Treasury Bills issued by tender were repaid, together with £11,248,000 of other bills issued for Ways and Means advances, but as the total outstanding is only £18,122,000 down, it would appear that the sales of new bills amounted to £23,126,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1915.	£ s. d.
15,000,000	6 months	Oct. 17.	3 14 5½
10,000,000	12 months	1916.	
210,490,000		Feb. 27.	2 17 1½
235,490,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 24, 1915.	Sept. 17, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 45,994,400	44,880,400	42,426,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	240,400	239,400	237,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	11,810,000	12,608,000	13,738,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c. ..	4,584,000	3,200,200	4,047,000
Total reserves ..	61,628,800	60,928,000	60,448,400
10-day bills and loans ..	1,497,400	949,200	946,800
30-day bills and loans ..	2,399,400	2,607,200	2,417,000
60-day bills and loans ..	3,112,200	3,490,200	3,306,400
90-day bills and loans ..	1,634,000	1,458,600	1,730,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	242,600	227,000	251,000
Total ..	8,886,200	8,732,200	8,651,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	1,865,600	1,809,400	1,770,400
Municipal Warrants ..	4,989,000	4,888,800	4,742,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett. ..	2,973,200	2,496,200	2,675,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett. ..	1,481,800	1,706,600	1,628,400
All other assets ..	715,400	676,400	768,200
Total assets ..	81,540,000	81,237,600	80,684,000
Paid-up capital ..	10,949,600	10,949,600	10,954,400
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	65,988,200	63,390,600	62,610,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,069,600	3,312,400	3,505,400
All other liabilities ..	532,600	54,800	613,600
Total liabilities ..	81,540,000	81,237,600	80,684,000
Gold reserve against nett liabilities ..	82.2 %	84.9 %	83.6 %
Cash reserve against nett liabilities ..	88.7 %	89.6 %	89.6 %

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 9 days ended Oct. 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	£ 1,796,000
Excise ..	719,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	742,000
Stamps ..	283,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	
Property and Income Tax ..	1,431,000
Land Values Duties ..	
Post Office ..	800,000
Crown Lands ..	
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	164,189
Miscellaneous ..	231,920
Bullion advances repaid ..	120,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	6,000,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	500,000
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 ..	—
Issue of War Stock and War Bonds ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances ..	47,596,320
£54,383,429	£54,383,429
National Debt Service ..	£ 4,014,451
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	211,766
Development & Road Impvt. ..	—
Payments to Local Taxation	320,380
Other Consolidated Fund Charges ..	234,139
Supply Services ..	31,242,693
Bullion Advances ..	200,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)	6,812,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 ..	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 ..	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	100,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund 1911 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 ..	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid ..	11,248,000
Increase in Exchequer balances ..	—

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	660,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. 1 ..	275,985,000	155,707,000	120,278,000	—
" 8 ..	255,092,000	167,196,000	87,896,000	—
" 15 ..	254,607,000	180,216,000	74,391,000	—
" 22 ..	239,471,000	184,844,000	54,627,000	—
" 29 ..	250,838,000	207,994,000	42,844,000	—
Oct. 6 ..	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
" 13 ..	269,450,000	243,921,000	25,529,000	—
Total ..	10,482,116,000	12,192,633,000	—	1,710,517,000

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Oct. 10, 1914
Loans ..	£ 560,976,000	555,638,000	546,876,000	435,188,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	100,280,000	102,154,000	103,672,000	85,690,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	29,352,000	28,560,000	28,780,000	—
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	6,968,000	6,086,000	5,904,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	57,628,000	567,406,000	557,854,000	387,048,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	25,282,000	24,534,000	26,698,000	—
Circulation ..	7,200,000	7,298,000	7,328,000	28,828,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	37,520,000	38,580,000	41,752,000	1,553,000

\* Deficit.

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Sept. 25, 1915.	Oct. 10, 1914.
Loans ..	£ 116,754,000	116,142,000	116,678,000	112,700,000
Specie ..	10,210,000	9,912,000	9,942,000	8,520,000
Deposits ..	123,210,000	121,218,000	121,376,000	111,600,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,772,000	1,800,000	1,784,000	2,600,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 185,894,680	184,053,600	182,005,680	180,002,960
Silver in hand ..	14,530,720	14,544,960	14,565,840	14,646,240
Bills discounted ..	10,968,360	10,697,250	11,169,040	9,982,960
Advances ..	23,290,880	23,598,960	23,427,000	23,494,680
Note circulation ..	550,085,720	546,563,400	538,332,160	532,383,840
Public deposits ..	2,377,400	2,771,080	2,568,280	4,725,120
Private deposits ..	104,471,600	105,080,600	107,830,600	103,504,720
Foreign Bills ..	52,840	71,920	66,160	52,400

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 33½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £276,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £38,079,850, decrease £211,760, and at the branches to £39,824,000, decrease £109,880.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 122,925,950	122,843,950	122,370,100	89,467,800
Treasury Notes ..	44,395,250	44,256,350	9,194,150	47,458,150
Bills discounted ..	218,798,450	375,328,500	266,343,350	165,001,720
Advances ..	718,150	656,650	613,900	2,143,900
Note circulation ..	293,877,150	307,881,500	277,433,050	209,943,950
Deposits ..	80,771,150	220,812,750	112,461,700	95,771,450

Clearing House returns during Sept. £270,499,060 against £20,075,490 in August.



## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Oct. 10, 1914
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. .. .	30,414,961	29,977,890	29,674,682	21,989,200
Silver .. .. .	29,316,463	29,522,671	29,602,218	27,399,436
Foreign Bills ..	4,559,743	4,476,161	4,671,232	7,193,404
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,316,753	27,340,111	26,233,956	34,126,516
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,251,506	28,671,290	29,198,766	28,636,299
Notes in Circulation ..	82,623,617	81,623,241	80,914,091	80,022,383
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,276,305	25,337,389	25,403,233	23,681,146
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,776,870	1,943,067	1,082,864	1,568,616
Government Securities ..	1,821,674	2,116,937	3,079,802	4,992,970

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 10, 1915	Aug. 30, 1915	Aug. 20, 1915	Sept. 10, 1914
	£	£	£	£
Total cash .. .. .	55,491,960	56,278,520	57,730,440	49,249,560
Inland Bills .. .. .	22,713,840	25,235,040	26,441,080	33,551,480
Foreign Bills .. .. .	832,280	833,120	833,000	3,182,080
Advances .. .. .	8,332,280	8,691,000	8,640,720	6,126,480
Government securities ..	7,465,680	7,557,920	7,735,440	8,222,920
Circulation .. .. .	111,586,840	111,017,680	110,494,520	83,496,680
Deposits at notice ..	10,860,560	10,513,000	11,506,680	7,645,520
Current accounts ..	18,109,280	17,851,480	17,064,040	7,970,120

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 2, 1915.	Sept. 25, 1915.	Sept. 18, 1915.	Oct. 3, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. .. .	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	5,748,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,614,000	5,713,000	5,834,000	2,768,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,066,000	2,626,000	2,651,000	1,231,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,248,000	5,048,000	4,882,000	8,691,000
Notes in circulation ..	17,340,000	15,651,000	15,590,000	16,255,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,357,000	3,575,000	3,666,000	2,398,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	12,121,520	12,187,580	12,129,020	9,559,204
Bills .. .. .	5,697,448	5,953,756	5,013,160	10,161,320
Note circulation ..	17,109,520	17,430,724	16,290,304	17,393,324
Current and deposit accounts .. .. .	3,112,016	2,887,660	3,005,568	3,373,112

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 22, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. .. .	3,555,000	3,465,000	3,359,000	2,381,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,657,000	3,705,000	3,790,000	1,493,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,142,000	4,045,000	3,907,000	6,711,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,322,000	8,220,000	7,865,000	7,370,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,301,000	1,254,000	1,470,000	1,091,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Oct. 10, 1914
	£	£	£	£
Gold .. .. .	32,554,359	32,552,460	32,102,183	13,407,053
Silver .. .. .	152,654	153,220	139,422	131,156
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,031,854	12,985,030	12,831,347	29,951,725
Note circulation ..	45,339,535	43,511,275	43,504,702	39,859,727
Deposits .. .. .	1,171,130	1,173,879	2,440,433	1,710,087

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 12, 1915.		Oct. 14, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	11.61	11.65*	11.61	11.65*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	11.41	11.45	11.40	11.44
Italy .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	30.18	30.25*	30.32	30.40*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	29.78	29.85	29.90	30
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	34½	35½	34½	35½
Do. .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	*	*	*	*
Paris .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	27.76	27.81*	27.76	27.83*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	27.36	27.39	27.38½	27.41½
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	139½	140½	139	140
Scandinavia .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	17.85	18.10	17.80	18.05
Do. .. .. .	Three months' bills ..	18.20	18.50	18.15	18.45
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	46	46½*	46½	46½*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	24.83	24.93	24.75	24.85
Switzerland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	25.30	25.40*	25.30	25.40*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	24.90	25	24.90	25

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .. .. .	chqs.	27.30	27.43	Antwerp .. .. .	short	—	—
Brussels .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .. .. .	sight	29.55	29.95
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.44½	11.42½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. .. .	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro, 90 dys	12½d.	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg .. ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna .. .. .	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. .. .	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd .. ..	9 mths	138½	139	Bombay .. .. .	T.T.	1/4d.	1/3½d.
New York .. ..	sight	4.70½	4.68½	Hong Kong .. ..	T.T.	1/9½d.	1/10d.
Lisbon .. .. .	sight	35½d.	35½d.	Shanghai .. ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
Madrid .. .. .	sight	24.70	24.80	Singapore .. ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama .. ..	4 mths	2/1d.	2/1d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

		Last week.	This week.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½	4½
Six months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½	4½
Nine months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½	4½
Twelve months .. ..	.. .. .	4½	4½

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

		Last week.	This week.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	.. .. .	4½	4½
Three months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½-4½	4½-4½
Four months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½	4½
Six months .. .. .	.. .. .	4½-5	4½-4½
Three months fine inland bills	.. .. .	5½	5½
Four months .. .. .	.. .. .	5½	5½
Six months .. .. .	.. .. .	6	6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

		Last week	This week
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	.. .. .	5	5
" " short loan rates	.. .. .	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	.. .. .	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	.. .. .	3½	3½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	.. .. .	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	.. .. .	4½-4½	4-4½
" for call loans	.. .. .	4	3½-4

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Business on the Stock Exchange drags dismally, and although at the beginning of the week the feeling appeared to be more cheerful, there was nothing really to encourage enthusiasm on the part of members. One of the chief obstacles to increased activity is the growing scarcity of most of the stocks which at one time enjoyed the greatest popularity. Securities like Canadian Pacifics, for instance, are now in such very short supply that it is extremely difficult to put through bargains except in very small amounts, and the same applies to the majority of the leading American railway shares. The Treasury rule with regard to the physical possession of scrip dealt in prevents the possibility of purchasing stocks from, say New York, although it occasionally happens that they could be obtained at lower prices in that market. The War Loan still secures a large proportion of the dealings marked, but even in this case there has been a tendency to dwindle. In the miscellaneous sections interest is of the most meagre description, and, apart from the few specialities like ammunition and shipping companies, there is scarcely an inquiry from one week's end to the other. A moderate absorption of rubber and oil shares continues, but here also the volume of transactions would be regarded as a negligible quantity in normal times.

In addition to other adverse influences, the excess profits tax has had a demoralising effect on trading owing to the impossibility of forming any proper basis of future valuation.

A little more activity was shown in Stock markets in the beginning of the week, owing to the accumulation of orders through the House having been closed on Saturday, but it was only a spurt, and business soon fell back into the old quiet groove. War Loan stock was steady, but there was rather more doing in the "rights" at 7½, as the time allowed for the conversion of Consols and old War Loan is drawing near an end. Short-dated Colonial Government issues were in some demand, and Queensland and Victoria changed hands at 97½, while Union of South Africa was dealt in at 98. Amongst Foreign Government bonds Japanese loans again met with good support, which was ascribed to Government buying for sinking fund purposes. The 4½ per cent. issues were most wanted, the first series rising to 90½ and the second to 90½, but they closed below the best. Argentine 6 per cent. five-year Treasury bonds were bought both here and in New York, and Mexican 5 per cent. 1899 put on ½. Russian loans generally were steady with a moderate inquiry. Home Railway stocks were idle for the most part, and prices sagged at first, but the declines brought in buyers and the market hardened. Canadian Pacific shares were helped by the official crop figures and by a good traffic return, and the price at one time was up to 177¼, but a reaction to 176¾ followed. Grand Trunks moved in the opposite direction, the first and second preference stocks and 4 per cent. debentures all showing moderate gains. American Railroad shares reflected the buoyancy of Wall Street induced by the good crop reports, but as dealings here were restricted by the regulation regarding physical possession, the number of actual transactions was small. The rapid advance induced profit-taking in New York, and a little reaction followed. Mexican Railway securities came in for attention on the report that the U.S. Government has recognised the Carranza Government, and as the market is bare of stock National of Mexico first and second preference and Mexican (Vera Cruz) second preference were marked up sharply. Argentine Railways were steady without much change in price, but San Paulo dropped back to 171.



Business broadened out a little in the Miscellaneous markets, and the Shipping, Land and Telegraph sections were all firmer. The leading shipping shares showed little actual change, but a moderate business was done in Royal Mail, Cunard and P. and O. deferred, and there was some inquiry for Indo-China preferred and deferred. Hudson's Bays were freely dealt in, and recovered to 6½, while Forestal Land were again supported, the ordinary rising to 40s., and the preference to 29s. 6d. Canadian things were quieter, but Canadian Car and Foundry common further improved to 130, and Dominion Steel and Steel Co. of Canada both advanced. Shawinigan

Temiang. Bekoh were firm on the declaration of its first distribution. The proposal to amalgamate Linggi and Port Dickson-Lukut has been postponed to the 23rd inst. to give the Port Dickson shareholders time to consider the offer.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was a fairly good business stirring in this market during the course of the week, especially with regard to white kinds, while values maintained a steady level. Of home refined, Tate's cubes No. 1 sold, 50s.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 33s.; and pieces, 24s. to 30s., as to quality. Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Of cane, Trinidad crystallised, mid yellow, sold, 28s. 9d. to 29s. With regard to foreign kinds, white Java, on spot, sold, 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d.; American granulated, spot, at 32s. 6d.; 14 days, less 2½ per cent. discount. Cuban receipts for all during last week, 1,750 tons, against nil at same time last year. Centrals at work, 1, against nil. At public sale fair supplies ruled quiet, but rates were generally steady. 540 bags crystallised Demerara partly sold, good mid to good yellow, at 29s. 3d. to 29s. 6d. 501 bags Jamaica, few sold, small grain greyish at 27s. 9d. 660 mats Mauritius syrups partly sold, low dark to fine brownish 21s. 6d. to 23s. 6d. 1,806 bags Surinam crystallised sold, mid to good yellow, at 28s. 9d. to 29s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—At public sale moderate supplies experienced slow support. Costa Rica, good bold, 71s.; mid, 62s. to 73s. 6d. Salvador, common bold, 57s. 6d. Colombian, good bold, 65s. 6d. The market for future delivery ruled quiet but fully steady.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies at public sale met with a steady demand, Colonial sorts being firm to dearer. Ceylon, fair to fine, sold, 79s. 6d. to 89s. Trinidad, mid to fine, 84s. 6d. to 86s. Grenada, good, 79s. 6d. to 80s. 6d. Jamaica, fair ordinary to superior, 74s. to 84s. 6d. Cameroons, good to fine, 75s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. Demerara, fine, 81s. to 81s. 6d. Costa Rica, 83s. to 84s. 6d. Panama, fine extra bold, 98s. 6d. Guayaquil, mixed Ariba, 84s.; and Caraquez, 81s.

**TEA.**—Indian auctions this week encountered a generally good demand, though attended by slight irregularity. All grades up to 10½d. per lb. were in active request, and realised steady rates. Medium sorts, however, displayed an easier tendency, while good to fine, especially the latter, sold at a further decline. Ceylon sales met with a fair demand, though somewhat irregular, the lower grades being steady, but the finer qualities ruled easy, especially in the case of broken orange pekoes. Java offerings met with a good demand, and prices ruled steady.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but rates generally steady. Black Singapore, on spot, fair, sellers, 6d.; fair Tellicherry, done, 6½d. to 6¾d.; Lampong, sellers, 6d.; fair white Singapore, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 10½d.; and Penang, 8½d. To arrive, black Singapore, October-December shipment, 5½d.; Lampong, 5½d.; white Singapore, ditto, quoted 8½d.; Muntok, October-November, sold, 9d.; Penang, October-December, sellers, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves in slow request. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, quoted 6½d. At public sale limited supplies passed off quietly. Ceylon cinnamon, unworked, ruled dearer. First, sold, 11d. to 1s.; seconds, 10½d. to 10½d.; and thirds, 9½d. to 9½d.

**FRUIT.**—Raisins were in good demand at firmer prices. Half-boxes sold, at 68s. to 72s.; and quarters, 75s. to 95s. Sultanias in small supply, and prices firm. Smyrna, common to fine, sold, at 75s. to 95s.; Afghan, 76s. to 80s.; Californian, 70s. to 72s.; Greek, 100s. to 110s. Muscatels: to arrive, Californian loose quoted 30s. to 34s. Currants were in small supply, and a good trade passed at full prices. Provincial and Pyrgos, sold, at 38s. to 40s.; Amalias, 39s. to 41s.; Gulf, 44s. to 47s.; and Vostizza, 47s. to 55s., with smalls at 39s. to 43s. Figs steady. Malaga ruled at 35s. to 42s.; and Calamanta, 43s. to 44s.

**RICE** steadily held, but quiet. Garden Siam, on spot, sellers, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; and Rangoon, two stars, 14s. 3d. 800 tons No. 1 garden Siam, afloat (double bags), sold, 13s. 3d., c.f. and i. Rangoon beans firmer. November-December shipment, sold, £18 5s. to £18 10s., c.f. and i., United Kingdom.

**JUTE.**—Firm at first, but became quieter though improving again later. Native first marks, spot, London, sold, £25; ditto, September, £25; ditto, November-December, £25 to £24 15s., and £25; lightning D, October-November, £22 15s.; ditto, D/E, £22; Daisee 2, October-November, £24 to £24 5s.; T. and P.A. in diamond, October-November, £31; red D.S. double triangle, spot, £25 10s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila parcels steady, but dealings restricted. New graded fair, October-December, buyers, £38 10s.; medium, £36 5s.; coarse, £29 15s.; and coarse brown, £28. New Zealand slow at late rates. G.F., October-December quoted, £33; H.P.F., ditto, £32; and fair, £31, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot parcels steady, and a fair demand prevailed. Fair T.N. orange sold, 68s. to 69s., and fine up to 80s.; A.C. garnet fair free sold, 65s. Futures firmer. October delivery sold, 68s. 6d.; December, at 69s. 6d. to 71s.; March, 72s.

**GAMBIER** quiet, but firm. Good marks, October-November shipment, sellers, 36s., c.f. and i.

**QUININE** again stronger. Usual continental brands, on spot, sold, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 5d.

**INDIA-RUBBER** opened firmer, but a subdued tone existed later. Plantation standard crepe, sold, 2s. 6½d., 2s. 6½d. and 2s. 6½d.; October delivery, 2s. 6½d., 2s. 6½d., 2s. 6½d.; November-December, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6d.; January-March, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 5½d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 5d. Smoked sheet, on spot, sold, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6½d.; October, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 6½d.; October-November, 2s. 5½d.; November-December, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 2s. 5½d.; October-November, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; November-December,

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	97	97½
— (War Loan 3½%).....	92½	92½	— " 4½% 1922-7.	96½	96½
— " 4½% (£20 pd.).....	28½	28½	95 New Zealand 4½% ..	95½	95½
69½ India 3½%.....	69½	69½	92 Queensland 4½% ..	92	92
80½ " 3½%.....	80½	80½	— " 4½% New	97½	97½
92 Canada 4½% 1940-60 ..	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	97½	98
— " 4½% 1920-5 ..	98	98½	— " 4½% 1920-5 ..	97½	98
94 N.S.W. 4½%.....	95	95	— Victoria 4½% 1920-5 ..	97½	97½
66 Belgian 3½%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes ..	66½	66½
— Brazil, 1913.....	61½	63	82½ Japan 4½% (1st) ..	89½	90½
— " New Funding ..	69	69	83 " (2nd) ..	87½	89½
— Chinese 1896 ..	94½	94½	— Russia 4½% ..	73½	73
— " 1913 ..	82	82	— " 4½% ..	75½	74½
— Egypt Unified 4½% ..	85	85	— " 5% ..	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	54	53½	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	24	23
Caledonian defd. ....	82	8	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	78	73	Metropolitan ..	23½	22½
Gt. Central pf. ....	13	12½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	96	95
— dfd. ....	62	68	Met. District ..	13½	13
Gt. Eastern ..	33	33	Midland dfd. ....	57½	57
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	38½	38	Nth. British dfd. ....	15	14½
Gt. Western ..	93½	93	Nth. Eastern ..	100½	100
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	70	68½	Nth. Western ..	100½	100½
Canadian Pacific .....	170	176½	Sth. Eastern dfd. ....	23½	22½
Do. 6% Notes .....	108½	109½	Chesapeake .....	56½	61½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% deba.	94½	94½	Erie .....	34½	36½
Grand Trunk ord. ....	10½	10½	Milwaukee .....	92	98
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24	24½	N. Y. Central .....	104	106½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	98½	98½	Southern .....	109½	21½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " ..	97½	97½	Southern Pacific .....	98½	103
Atchison .....	110½	112½	Union Pacific .....	140½	143½
Baltimore .....	93½	98	U. S. Steel .....	83½	89½
Antofagasta dfd. ....	125	123	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	83½	84
Do. 6% Notes .....	101½	102½	Do. 5% Notes ..	102½	100½
Brazil Common .....	6	6	Do. 6% " ..	103½	103½
B. A. & Pacific .....	46	45½	Leopoldina .....	34	34½
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	80	80	Mexican ord. ....	17½	19
B. A. Western .....	84	83½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	174	171
Bank of Australasia .....	107½	107	United of Havana ..	73	73
Barclay & Co. "A" ..	7½	8	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Do. "B" ..	10	10½	London County & West ..	14½	11½
Capital & Counties .....	20	20	London Joint Stock .....	19½	19½
Chartered of India .....	52½	52½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd.)	22	22
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	72½	73½	Do. (£12 pd) ..	26½	26½
Lloyds .....	22½	22	Parr's .....	28	28½
London & Provincial ..	14½	14½	Standard of S.A. ....	108½	108
London & S.W. ....	11½	11	Union & Smiths .....	23	23
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestal Land .....	37½	40
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	35½	35½	Furness, Withy .....	32½	32½
Associated Cement .....	3	3½	Hudson's Bay .....	58	68
Birmingham Small Arms	59½	56½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	22½
Borax dfd. ....	24½	22½	Do. dfd. 'A' ..	35½	35½
Bovril .....	19½	19½	Kynochs .....	29½	28½
Brazil Traction .....	49½	49½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	63½	63½	Lyons, J. ....	48	42
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27½	27	Marconi .....	14	14½
Brunner, Mond .....	3½	3½	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	23½	23½
Cammell-Laird .....	51½	51½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	32	32
Castner-Kellner .....	61½	61½	National Steam Car. ....	11½	11½
Coats .....	47½	42	Nobel Dynamite .....	15½	15½
Cunard .....	59½	59½	Pears, A. & F. ....	148	148
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	28½	P. & O. dfd. ....	265	265
Dorman, Long .....	21½	22½	Royal Mail .....	80	80
Eastmans .....	7½	7½	South Durham Steel ..	27½	27½
English Sewing Cotton ..	32½	31½	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	71½	71½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	24½	33½	Vickers .....	33½	33½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	4½	4½	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	17½	17½
Baku (10s.) .....	2½	2½	North Caucasian .....	26½	26½
Burmah .....	38	31½	Romanian Cons. ....	12½	12½
Lobitos .....	27½	28½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	44½
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3½	3½	Shell .....	48½	48½
Maikop Pipeline .....	3½	3½	Spies (10/-) .....	13½	13½
Mexican Eagle .....	18	18	Ural Caspian .....	118	118½
Anglo-Malay .....	8½	8½	Linggi .....	13½	13½
Batu Caves .....	11½	11½	London Asiatic .....	5½	5½
Bukit Mertajam .....	2½	2½	Malacca .....	38	38
Bukit Sembawang .....	2½	2½	Malayalam .....	20½	20½
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Merlimau .....	4½	4½
Gula Kalumpung .....	12	12	Rubber Trust (15/- pd.) ..	9½	9½
Highlands .....	28	28½	United Serdang .....	9½	9½
Johore Rubber Lands ..	14½	14½	Vallambrosa .....	12½	12½
Abbottiakoon (10/-) .....	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	108	108
Brakpan .....	3½	3½	East Rand .....	148	148
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	43½	43½	Gt. Boulder (2½/-) ..	146½	146½
Cam & Motor .....	14½	13½	Meyer & Charlton .....	52	52
Central Mining (£12) ..	62	62	Modder "B" .....	58½	58½
Chartered .....	9½	9½	Do. Deep .....	48½	48½
City Deep .....	38½	38½	New Modder (£4) .....	152	15
Cons. Gold Fields .....	132	132	Rand Mines (5/-) .....	48	48
Cons. Langlaagte .....	132	132	Rio Tinto (£5) .....	54	53½
Crown Mines (10/-) .....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep .....	28	28½

Water and Power jumped to 137, but Brazil Traction finished below the best quotation at 49½, owing to the weakening of the exchange. Coats were dull, and offered down to 4 on fears of a reduction in the dividend, but good support was promptly forthcoming, and the price recovered to 4½.

Oil shares have been extremely quiet on the whole, but Shell and Royal Dutch were rather wanted, and there was some buying of Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference, Mexican Petroleum common, and Burmah. Rubber shares hardened on the improvement in the price of the commodity, and a moderate amount of business was recorded in Bukit Selangor, Bukit Sembawang, Kamuning, Dolok, Selangor United, and United



2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d. Soft fine, spot and near, quoted, 2s. 4½d. Ball, ditto, sellers, 2s.; and scrappy, quoted, 1s. 10½d. per lb.

ISINGLASS.—In auction, moderate supplies were brought forward, and met a fair demand. Para lower for lump, but tongue rather firmer. Lump, fair to good palish, sold, 3s. to 3s. 2d.; fair reddish, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 9d. Tongue: good pale, 3s. 9d.; fair pale and reddish, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 3d. Maranham lump easier. Lump, good palish, 2s. 7d. Tongue: good pale, 4s.; fair pale and reddish, 3s. 5d. West India lower for lump, but purse firm. Lump: good pale, 2s. 4d.; purse, fair palish, 1s. 3d. Bombay easier for Karachi leaf, but tongue and purse firm. Karachi leaf, fair palish, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. Leaf: Penang character, mid to fair, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 7d.; tongue, long palish and dark, 2s. 7d. Purse, good stout heavy palish, 1s. 8d. Penang, firm to dearer. Round

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 10 0	2 10 0	Australian	1 8½-2 6	1 8½-2 6
Ditto, No. 2	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	1 0½-1 8	1 0½-1 8
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 52-1 4½	0 52-1 4½
Lyle's granulated	32 3-32 9	32 3-32 9	Greasy Merino	0 58-1 3	0 58-1 3
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	1 11-2 4½	1 11-2 4½
G.O.B., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9-1 6	0 9-1 6
German Cubes, f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1 8½-2 6	1 8½-2 6
French Cubes	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
Crystallised, West India	27 9-31 0	27 9-31 0	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 6	0 2 6½
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1/-	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Indian Pekoe	92-1 13	92-1 13	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	92-1 33	92-1 13	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	92-1 33	92-1 23	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	102-1 8	11-1 4½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	82-1 0	82-0 11½	Steamers, best	18 0-18 6	19 0
Ceylon Pekoe	9-0 11½	9-0 11½	Seconds	16 0-17 0	16 6-17 0
Broken	9-0 11½	9-0 11½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	92-1 13	9-0 11½	English Pig	25 0 0	25 5 0
Broken	10-1 2	10-1 2	Foreign soft, Oct.	£248-£22½	£248-£24½
Pekoe Souchong	82-0 9½	82-0 10	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£16	£16½-£16½
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1½d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Tin</b> —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Trinidad	82 0-87 0	82 0-87 0	English Ingots	149½-150½	150½-151½
Grenada	76 0-84 0	74 0-82 0	Do. bars	150½-151½	151½-152½
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Standard cash	£149 10 0	£150 0 0
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-90 0	72 0-90 0	Tin Plates, per box	17 0-17 3	17 9-18 0
Guayaquil Arriba	87 0-89 0	85 0-87 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2½/- per cwt.			English, Tough	£87½-£88½	£87½-£88½
East India	62 0-94 0	62 0-94 0	Best Selected	£86½-£87½	£87-£88
Jamaica	47 0-120 6	47 0-120 6	Sheets	£100	£103
Costa Rica	55 0-82 0	55 0-82 0	Standard	£72 5 0	£72 7 6
<b>Provisions</b> —			<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Butter, per cwt.			Native firsts for sb'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£24 10 0	£25 5 0
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b> —		
Irish Creameries	178½-186½	168½-176½	Linseed, per ton	£27½-£28½	£28½-£29½
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, casks	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Russian finest	136½-142½	136½-142½	Brown English, naked	£37½-£39	£37½-£39
Normandy baskets	114½-164½	114½-164½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£35-£36	£35-£36
Danish finest	206½-209½	184½-190½	Ditto, refined	£29½-£30	£30-£31
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	15 6-18 0	15 6-18 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Water White	10½d.	10½d.
Irish	100 0-105 0	100 0-105 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental	96 0-107 0	98 0-107 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Oct.-Nov.	2 16 9	2 18 6
Canadian	32 0-95 0	32 0-95 0	Rape, Guzerat	3 2 0	3 3 0
American	77 0-90 0	78 0-94 0	Sept.-Oct.		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	118½-128½	118½-128½	Cleveland Cash	3 4 10½	3 5 0
Canadian	86 0-89 0	86 0-91 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
American	53 0-82 0	55 0-85 0	5/6 to 6½ per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 20
Canadian	76 0-77 0	76 0-77 0	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6-1 0	0 6-1 0
English Cheddar	82 0-96 0	86 0-96 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
Wilt's leaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
New Zealand	76 0-77 0	76 0-78 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Timber—Wood.		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Saigon c. f. and l.	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak	280/-600/-	280/-600/-
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Dutch	18 0-21 0	19 0 22 0	Town households, official	44/-	45/-
Russian	12 0-13 0	10 6-13 0	American, 1st patents	44/upwds	44/6 upds.
Danish	18 0 20 6	18 0-20 6			

leaf, fair to good palish, 4s. to 4s. 3d. Tongue, good heavy, 4s. to 4s. 1d. Saigon stronger. Long leaf, fair to good, 8s. to 8s. 7d. Senegal steady. Leaf, fair palish, 2s. 7d. Rio Grande steady.

COPRA ruled dearer. To London: Ceylon, September-October shipment, buyers, £26; Malabar, ditto, £26 10s.; F.M.S., Singapore, ditto, to Marseilles, buyers, £24 17s. 6d. To London: South Sea Islands, ditto £23 15s. To Marseilles: F.M. Straits, September-October, buyers, £24 15s.; Cebu, ditto, £24 5s.; Manila, ditto, quoted, £23 15s., c.f. and i.

TALLOW ruled firm. At public sale, 2,162 casks were brought forward, and 1,273 sold, prices being unchanged to 6d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 39s. 6d.; fair to good, 38s. to 39s. 3d.; dark to dull, 33s. 6d. to 36s.; hard, 38s. Beef: fine, 38s. 6d.; fair to good, 36s. to 37s. 3d.; dark to dull,

33s. to 35s.; sweet, 38s. 6d. per cwt. Market letter 1s. up for tallow. Stuff unchanged. Town tallow, 36s. 6d.; melted stuff, 25s. per cwt. Rough fat, 7½d. per 8 lb.

OILS.—Linseed firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £28 5s.; barrels £29 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £26 17s. 6d. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £37 10s. to £39; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £35 to £36. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), September-October, £33 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £30; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £34; sweet (barrels), £37, £39. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £43 10s. Cochin, spot, £44 to £47. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, October-November, £25, c.f. and i. Turpentine firm. American spirits, on spot, 35s. 9d. Spanish, spot, 32s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed dearer. Calcutta, spot, 58s.; afloat, 58s.; October-November, 58s. 6d. La Plata, October-November, 55s. 6d.; November-December, 56s. Rapeseed firmer. Brown Cawnpore, October-November (pure), 55s. Guzerat, ditto, 63s. Toria (3 per cent.), 55s. Cottonseed dearer, London, Egyptian, afloat, £11 16s. Resin, common strained, on spot, 13s. 3d.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market exhibited further strength until last Tuesday, early prompts being in principal demand, with sellers exercising reserve, when standard cash delivery settled down at £73 17s. 6d., and three months £74 2s. 6d. By the middle of the week realisations and a lack of inquiries led to a slight downward movement, late October and early November being sold at £73 15s., values of these dates closing at £73 15s. and £74 respectively. A smart relapse characterised Thursday's movements, cash being finally fixed at £72 15s., and three months £73. Tin: Dealings have been on a limited scale. At the week's commencement rates declined under realisations of near dates and good forward offerings, cash fluctuating to £149 5s., three months to £150 15s. Little change occurred on balance until the middle of the week, but a better general demand on Thursday imparted a rally, cash standard reaching £150, and three months £151 15s. English official quoted at £150 10s. to £151 10s. Leather rather firmer forward. Soft foreign, October to January, £24 7s. 6d. to £23 5s. Spelter easier. G.O.B., October, £68; December, £60. Iron better.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Increased stability, but not much business, characterised this market since last Monday, while sellers were scarce all round. Wheat: English, whites and reds, delivered up, range from 49s. to 53s. per qr. 504 lbs., according to quality. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 3d., ex ship; No. 2, hard winters, nominal; and Plate, 57s., landed terms. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 44s. 6d., upwards; and Manitoba patents up to 43s. 6d., both landed terms. Barley: Plate, 37s. ex ship, and 37s. 6d. ex quay. Japanese, ex ship, 36s. Oats: La Plata, 29s. 6d. to 30s., as to quality, landed. American white clipped No. 2, 30s. 6d., ex quay (40 lbs.). Maize: Plate (sound), 32s. ex ship, 33s. landed. White flat South African in latter position, 34s. 6d.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The experience of traders in the market during the past week has been a little more encouraging in some quarters, but many buyers resist the prices now ruling, and a big struggle is going on as to on what basis business should be done. The tone has been firm, and most spinners and manufacturers have held out for full rates. Rather violent fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton quotations, and there is a good deal of uncertainty as to the future course of events. It is being realised, however, that comparatively small supplies in both American and Egyptian cotton must be expected this season. In cloth for export the demand for India has broadened. A larger turnover has transpired in light fabrics such as dhooties, mulls, and jaconettes, and certain producers have obtained relief. Bids in shirtings have also improved, and lines of moderate weight have been put through in some directions, the bulk of the buying being for Calcutta. Some offers have been about in low shirtings for China, but not much has been done, and that market as a whole is disappointing. Business has been practically at a standstill for the Near Eastern outlets, and now and again cases are mentioned of shipments being stopped. Printing and finishing cloths have moved off fairly well for South America. Blackburn manufacturers, after passing through a severe depression, seem likely to experience some relief during the next few weeks. There continues plenty of activity in home trade circles, but the scarcity of colours is a serious handicap for many houses. American yarns for home use have been firm in quotation, and a rather increasing trade has been done, especially in medium counts. No stocks of any moment can be heard of at the mills, and producers are enabled by their position to be fairly independent when business is offering. Scattered sales have been arranged in export yarns, but buyers continue to resist the prices now ruling. In Bolton spinnings the tone has been firm, but operations have been rather irregular, and some producers are more favourably situated than others.

### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

SUGAR.—No change occurred in prices of white goods, and trade of fair extent. Cane sorts slow and in auction, crystallised Demerara sold 30s. 9d. to 31s. for fine colony and 28s. 9d. middling yellow. Jamaica good 29s., and low mid. 28s. Muscovado Jamaica sold 24s. 6d. to 26s., with cashed 24s. to 25s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Auctions quiet, and rates favoured the buyer. Futures steady, quiet, and December quoted 38s. 3d.

JUTE firm, and native first marks assortment, November-December, London, sold £25 5s.

HEMP.—Market for Manila steady. Coarse, September-November, £30 buyers.

SHELLAC slow, but steady in value.

QUININE.—Spot sales at 3s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.



**RUBBER.**—Market dull and weaker. Standard plantation spot crêpe sold 2s. 6d., October at the same price, November-December 2s. 5½d., and January-June 2s. 4½d. Smoked standard ribbed sheet sold on the spot at 2s. 6d. Fine hard Para, October-November, sold 2s. 5½d.

**HEMP FIRM.** Coarse near sold £30, November-January £30 5s., brown, November-January, £28 5s.

**CORN.**—Mark Lane.—Wheat: English firmer. Whites and reds, delivered up, quoted at 49s. to 54s. per qr., 504 lbs., as to quality. Foreign upheld. No. 1 Northern, 59s. 6d., ex ship. Plate 57s. 6d., Indian 58s., both landed. Flour maintained at late rates. Barley firmer. La Plata 37s. 6d., ex ship. Oats dearer. Plate 30s. to 30s. 6d., landed, according to quality. American white clipped No. 2 32s., landed terms. Maize stronger. Sound Plate 32s. 6d., ex ship, 33s. 6d. landed. White flat South African, 34s. 6d., landed.

**METALS.**—Copper: A moderate amount of business transpired, but prices after opening firmer became easier and closed about 2s. 6d. lower compared with previous day's final. Standard cash sold finally £72 10s. and three months' commenced at £73 10s. giving way on realisations to £73, closing £72 7s. 6d. cash and £72 17s. 6d. three months. About 500 tons sold. Settlement price £72 10s. Electrolytic unaltered at £87 10s. to £88 10s. Tough £87 10s. to £88 10s. Best selected £87 to £88. Strong sheets £103. Tin: Only small dealings were effected, but with no pressure on the part of sellers values were kept at a fairly steady level. Standard, chiefly three months', sold at £152 to £151 15s., closing £150 cash and £151 12s. 6d. three months. Some 80 tons changed hands. Settlement price £150. In the East 150 tons sold on the basis of £150, c.f. and i. Lead firmer for near. English £25 5s., foreign, October, sold at £24 15s. to £24 17s. 6d., December sellers £23 12s. 6d., and January sellers £23 12s. 6d., with buyers at £23. Spelter steady. G.O.B. officially quoted at £68 to £59. Antimony nominal. Tin plates I.C. cokes 17s. 9d. to 18s. basis, f.o.b. Wales. Iron weaker. Cleveland cash 65s., one month 65s. 4½d., and three months 66s. 1½d. Quicksilver, £16 5s. to £16 10s.

## Answers to Correspondents.

G. A. D.—We are more inclined towards buying a few more than to selling. The company has no doubt suffered severely, but its financial position is strong.

N. N. C.—Nothing definite is yet known. The exchange is probably the root of the trouble.

A. E. P.—(1) About 39s.; perhaps a little less. (2) £200 stock.

C. O.—The Public Trustee.

Winton.—(1) We are inclined to think you should hold for the present. The company has had a good many difficulties to contend with, but the latest information seems promising. (2) These we should keep, as there is no liability on the shares, and the company is likely to benefit presently by the war. Thanks for remittance.

Jack.—We do not like to advise you to sell at such a heavy loss, and in any case this would not be a favourable opportunity, when conditions appear to be improving. Some time ago it would certainly have been the right course to average, and it may not be too late to do so even now, but after the recent advance perhaps the best policy is just to sit tight and wait.

Cambs.—It is said that there has been very influential buying lately, and we do not think this is altogether unlikely. In spite of mistakes, the company has a very fine business, and we see no reason why it should not continue to prosper.

A. D. G.—The ordinary shares must be regarded as little better than gambling counters, but you might prudently have a few of the preference to help your average income.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

A. and F. Pears.—For half-year ended June 30 on the preferred ordinary at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 12 per cent. for the year, and at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, placing £10,000 to reserve, with £30,003 forward, against £34,248. For 1913-14 the ordinary received 10 per cent.

Aerated Bread.—Balance of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, to be paid for year ended Sept. 25, making 17½ per cent. for year, as against 27½ per cent.

Alliance Investment.—Interim for six months at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on account of 1915 on the deferred ordinary, less tax at 2s. 8d. in the £, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Borax Consolidated.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preferred ordinary in respect of half-year to Sept. 30.

British Empire Trust.—Dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative perpetual preference for half-year ending Oct. 15 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 15.

British North Borneo.—2½ per cent. for year ended Dec. 31, 1914, payable Nov. 25, against 5 per cent. for 1913.

Dominion Steel.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. on preference, payable Nov. 1.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Extra of 10 per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 1.

Eastern Produce and Estates.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, in respect of current year, payable 30th inst., against 4 per cent.

Glenshiel Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 21, against 5 per cent.

Hope Brothers.—Final at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (less tax) on the ordinary for half-year ended Aug. 31 last (making 4 per cent. for the year), with £14,451 forward, against for 1913-14 with £15,690 forward.

Imperial Bank of Canada.—For quarter ending Oct. 31 at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.—Interim of 2½ per cent., payable Nov. 5.

Indo-European Telegraph.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable Nov. 1, subject to the terms of the Trading with the Enemy Proclamation No. 2, of Sept. 9, 1914, same as a year ago.

Industrial and General Trust.—Interim for half-year to Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1, on the ordinary at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

International Banking.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, same as last year.

Investment Trust.—Interim for six months ending Nov. 1 on the deferred at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Nov. 2, against 12½ per cent. a year ago.

Jones Bros., Shippers, Manchester.—No dividend on the ordinary. None was paid last year, and 5 per cent. in 1912-13.

Kali Glagah (Java) Rubber and Produce.—5 per cent. for year ended March 30, 1915, payable Oct. 30. The preceding dividend was 2½ per cent. for 1912-13.

London and Lancashire Fire Insurance.—Interim of 14s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries.—Interim for six months to March 31 of 2 per cent., payable on Nov. 4, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

National Bank of Australasia.—On the ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Nordanal (Johore) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, payable Oct. 22, same as last year.

Norfolk and Western Railway.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. on the adjustment preferred, payable Nov. 19.

North of Scotland and Town and County Bank.—For half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, less tax, carrying forward £93,499, same as last year, but free tax.

Northern Assurance.—Interim, payable Nov. 4, of 3s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 15 per cent. on account of 1915, same as a year ago.

Nuwara Eliya Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 27, same as a year ago.

Realisation and Debenture of Scotland.—21 per cent. on the ordinary and 2s. 9 3/4d. per share on the deferred, placing £4,800 to general reserve, same as last year.

Riverside (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, against 5 per cent. last year.

Robert Simpson Company.—Half-yearly of the preference at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable at the London Joint Stock Bank Nov. 1.

Rosario Drainage.—On the ordinary at the rate of 3 per cent. (less tax) for year ending June 30, same as a year ago.

San Lorenzo Nitrate.—Interim of 2s. per share, free of tax, same as a year ago.

Scottish Lands and Buildings.—The directors intimate that they do not propose to pay any final dividend. An interim dividend of 2 per cent., less tax, was paid. For the whole of last year 4 per cent., free of tax, was paid.

Scottish Mortgage and Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Sungei Kapar Rubber.—Interim of 12½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Sungei Krian Rubber.—Second interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 3 per cent. on the preference, and an interim dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Nov. 18. This is the first interim dividend to be paid on the ordinary, which received a maiden distribution of 10 per cent. for 1914.

Tangga Batu Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, against 3 per cent. last year.

Third Mile (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, against 5 per cent. last year.

Travancore Tea.—Interim of 25 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary on account of year ended Sept. 30, payable on Oct. 26, against 15 per cent. a year ago.

Trust and Agency of Australasia.—Interim of 6d. per share free of tax on the ordinary, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Nov. 19, same as a year ago.

United River Plate Telephone.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Val de Travers Asphalt Paving.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (6d. per share) for six months ended June 30, less tax, payable 21st inst., same as a year ago.

Wolhuter Gold Mines.—6½ per cent. (1s. 3d. per share) for six months ending Oct. 31, 1915; same as a year ago.

Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 at 5 per cent., less tax at 2s. 8d. in the pound, same as a year ago.

Yataderia Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, in respect of current year, against 2 per cent. a year ago.

Yorkshire Insurance.—Payment on the 19th inst. of second half of the dividend declared in May, being at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share on the £5 shares (10s. paid), and 5s. on the fully-paid £1 shares.



## Critical Index to New Investments.

### PULLMAN CAR CO., LTD.

This company has acquired, as from September 30, the cars, stocks, work on hand and goodwill of the original undertaking, which was incorporated as far back as 1882, and owns Pullman cars running on the Brighton, South-Eastern and Chatham and Caledonian Railways. The assets taken over are valued at £271,774, made up of £235,275 for 77 Pullman cars, of which four were in course of construction, £15,898 for stocks, £18,000 in cash, and £2,600 for buildings, plant, &c., while the chairman values the goodwill and contracts at another £150,000. What the company pays is not disclosed, but in addition to a share capital of £250,000, it has a debt of £150,000 in 6 per cent. first mortgage sinking fund equipment debentures secured on the rolling stock. The sanction of the Treasury was obtained to the issue of these debentures, which were sold to Messrs. Higginson and Co., and by them offered at 98. The bonds are redeemable on October 1, 1930, but they may be repaid at 105 on any interest date on six months' notice, and it is stated that a sinking fund of £6,300 per annum will be provided from October 1, 1916, to October 1, 1921, and of £12,600 per annum thereafter until maturity. After providing for interest and sinking fund, all nett profits must be carried to a special reserve until the fund reaches £25,000, and thereafter at least 20 per cent. of nett profits must be carried to such reserve until it equals the total amount of the debentures outstanding, while not more than 6 per cent. may be paid on the share capital until the special reserve amounts to £50,000. The earnings, which are derived from extra fares from passengers using the cars, increased from £17,789 in 1911-12 to £22,009 in 1913-14, but in the year ended June 30 last they fell to £14,342 owing to the running of the cars having been temporarily suspended under Government necessity at the outbreak of the war. For the past three years the average before providing for depreciation was £19,306, and it is estimated that for the current year the earnings should exceed £25,000. This calculation, however, may be upset by the present need for economy, which may make passengers think twice before paying an extra fare for even the third-class Pullman cars which have recently been introduced on the Brighton line, and the bonds must be considered as a distinctly speculative security.

### American Business Notes.

The American Loan Bill came before the House of Commons on Tuesday last, and passed through all its stages on the same day, but not before certain members, including the irrepressible Sir Frederick Banbury, had tried to pick to pieces the work of the Anglo-French Commission. No one need be at pains to deny that the terms were harsher than we expected them to be, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer put before the House an array of sober facts which took a good deal of the sting out of the criticism to which the arrangement had been subjected. That the matter was not tackled so promptly as the situation called for is doubtless true, but nevertheless Mr. McKenna was able to show that, in spite of War Loan preoccupations, he was busy making inquiries as early as June last, asking in the first place for as much as £200,000,000, and gradually reducing the amount as each figure was seen to be impracticable. It was only when the impossibility of making a satisfactory arrangement by means of cable and correspondence became evident that it was decided to send out the Commission, and it is quite clear now that even the £100,000,000 was not secured for the mere asking. The American people are not accustomed to handing over such large sums even for domestic purposes, and far better the little wound to our pride in the 6 per cent. rate exacted than the risk of failure, more especially as there is a very good prospect of having to go again. The suggestion that because we have conceded that

rate for an external credit, necessitated by the adverse balance of trade, as much will have to be offered to the British investor when the next War Loan comes to be issued in this country is mere nonsense, as Sir Frederick Banbury must or should know, but it is evidently hard to resist a fling at the Government, even in these times. One half the loan, it may be noted, will be available for this country, France presumably taking the rest, and any day now may see the issue of the prospectus, although the document is not likely to add more than details to our present knowledge. A good deal has been said as to the advisability of mobilising the American securities held in this country and making them available for exchange purposes, but there has been a great deal of loose thinking on this question, and in any case we have not reached the compulsion stage yet for any ranks of the community.

We have now to wait for the effect on the New York exchange of the £100,000,000 about to be made available, and the fact that this week the rate has displayed rather pronounced weakness gave rise to reports that the proceeds of the loan had been already anticipated. There was no sort of foundation for the statement, and the decline seems to have been traceable to nothing more than some speculative transactions before the new credit begins to make its influence felt. Most of the Government's obligations to date are believed to have been provided for, and the entire loan will be available for future requirements, so that the establishment of a reasonably steady exchange during the next few months is not an extravagant hope. But all said, the best and surest way of bringing about an improvement in the exchange is to take care that imports of everything that is not necessary should be rigorously curtailed. We shall have economy forced upon us presently in any case, but it cannot be practised too early or too rigidly.

The returns of merchandise exports of the United States for the year to June 30 last to all countries reveals the great extent of the fluctuations which have resulted from the war, and give a clear insight of the causes which turned the exchange so severely against us. Thus we find that, compared with the preceding year, the exports to the United Kingdom advanced from \$594,272,000 to \$911,792,000, to France from \$159,819,000 to \$369,397,000, and to Italy from \$74,235,000 to \$184,820,000. Even Russia managed to import upwards of \$7,000,000 more at a total of \$37,474,000, but the thoroughness of our sea supremacy is shown by the utter collapse of America's direct trade with the Central European Powers. Germany, for example, got only \$28,863,000, as contrasted with \$344,794,000, and Austria-Hungary a mere \$1,240,000, against \$22,718,000; but the balance was to some extent redressed by the much greater amounts absorbed by the Scandinavian countries. The Netherlands took from America goods to the amount of \$143,267,000, an increase of \$31,051,000, Sweden's imports rose from \$14,644,000 to \$78,274,000, and those of Norway from \$9,007,000 to \$39,075,000. The excess of sales, that is, exports over imports, to England and France during the fiscal year to June 30 was almost \$950,000,000, or nearly one-half the total of the previous six years, figures which help to explain why it was necessary to offer 6 per cent. in order to redress and stabilise the exchange.

The more conservative and far-seeing financial interests in America are wholly opposed to the wild gambling in industrial securities on the strength of war orders, which in many cases are entirely fictitious. The extent of some of the rises is almost beyond belief, and we may give as a concrete example of the madness the position of the American Locomotive Co., whose shares, to adopt American journalistic parlance, were whirled up in a period of six weeks from 19 to 68. Even this was not the finish of the rush up; yet when the annual report appeared it was found that at no time since the company was established, 14 years back, had depression so severe been encountered. Gross earnings were only \$9,303,298, as compared with \$29,987,438 in the previous year, and \$54,868,175 in 1912-13, the revenue actually falling short of



operating expenses by \$1,142,602. Other companies supposed to be fortune-gathering may not be faring so badly as this undertaking, but there is probably a good deal of disillusionment in store. The game, however, has not yet been abandoned, nor will be while the public continues to help keep the ball rolling.

President Wilson's latest move in Mexico is to extend recognition to General Carranza. This development is the outcome of conferences between Mr. Lansing, the successor of the too peaceful W. J. Bryan in the office of Secretary of State, and representatives of the South American Republics, who were called into consultation some two months back, about which time the Washington Government gave the twentieth warning to the various aspirants to the office of looter-in-chief, i.e., the Mexican Presidency, that something unpleasant would befall them if the unruly behaviour did not cease. What will happen as the outcome of the preference extended to General Carranza we have not the least notion, for, so far as the pacification of the country is concerned, it seems pretty evident that Carranza is not better able to achieve this indispensable preliminary to the establishment of an orderly Government than any of the other revolutionaries. True, he seems to have control of Mexico City, but his influence does not seem to extend much beyond it, and, according to a Washington correspondent of the *Times*, General Villa, who has fallen from the good graces of President Wilson, is determined to continue to play his own game. How long it would be, even if all the insurrectionaries embraced to-morrow, before anything approaching normal economic conditions and relations with the rest of the world could be restored is a question difficult of answer, but that there has been an immense amount of destruction in most parts of the country is undoubted, and capital will not be readily available to make it good. Too much of the world's wealth is being consumed in the colossal European struggle to permit of much commercial and industrial upbuilding outside that necessitated by the war. No news has come to hand for a considerable time concerning the condition of foreign-owned enterprises in the Republic, but the last heard was bad enough, and there need be no hurry yet to lay in Mexican securities. Some people, though, seem to have been quite anxious to buy some of the low-priced things during the last few days.

The position of the New York banks showed a moderate diminution of strength during the week ended Saturday last, due more to extra credit demands than to any material shrinkage in the specie and legal tender holdings, and it is still remarkably good for the time of year. Loans and discounts in the average statement rose by £5,338,000, adding £4,970,000 to the deposits, and with the aggregate reserve rather less the excess reserve was pulled down by £1,060,000. In the actual week-end statement the loans and discounts were larger by £8,740,000 and the excess reserve smaller by £1,400,000, indicating a further slight deterioration.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In view of the passing of its dividend by the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., it was inevitable that there should be some criticism of the directors' policy at the annual general meeting. But the critics were not in the least acrimonious; rather they adopted a judicial attitude, asking for further information on certain points of a minor character, and on the whole showing complete confidence in the management of the company's affairs. Mr. C. Arthur Lampard, the chairman, had therefore a comparatively easy task in replying on the discussion, but shareholders will doubtless note that he was decidedly non-committal in his references to the probability of a further call. He stated that it had been the policy of the company to make calls gradually from time to time, but recently they had borrowed largely in order to spare the shareholders as much as possible. A call, however, would have to be made if it became necessary in the interests of the trust. He was quite confident that the trust would be

able to finance its obligations, and there was no ground for the suggestion that the company "had bitten off more than it could chew." With reference to the depreciation of the trust's investments, he made the satisfactory statement that while the amount of this item was £275,000 a year ago, it had been reduced to £193,000 at the date of the balance-sheet (March 31), and it was now no more than £161,000. Mr. Lampard also emphasised the fact that a large proportion of the capital is sunk in properties and undertakings which are still in the development stage, but whereas in the past year only 37 per cent. of the investments were revenue producing, in the current year 69 per cent. would yield some return. As to the "break-up" value of "trust" shares, he stated that the assets amounted to £1,400,000 against paid-up capital of £1,063,654, thus showing a surplus of £336,346, or a premium of 4s. 9d. per share, instead of a discount of 5s. 6d. which is the present market valuation. Altogether it was a very reassuring statement, and the report was adopted without a dissentient voice.

At the annual meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield on Tuesday the chairman, Mr. C. Heath Clark, made some interesting statements with regard to the tea-planting industry, which has had an exceedingly prosperous year. Mr. Clark reminded his hearers that on previous occasions he had pointed out that the increasing consumption of tea was not being sufficiently provided for by any new acreage coming into bearing, and could only be met as the result of higher cultivation. This had yielded a very large increase over the existing area under tea, but not to an extent to meet the growing consumption, which had been even larger than had been anticipated, owing to the war. During the 12 months ended June 30 the imports amounted to 395,000,000 lbs., or an increase of 34,000,000 lbs. compared with the previous year, and practically the whole of this had been absorbed, as the stock remaining was only 2,000,000 lbs. larger. Prices naturally rose, and

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on the average for the whole year showed an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., but the upward movement had later become still more marked, and for the first part of the present season the average was from 2d. to 3d. per lb. higher. Mr. Clark, however, was able to give the consumer some little consolation, as he stated that there were two considerations which make the continuance of these extremely high values throughout the year improbable. One is that as the weather has been exceptionally favourable for increased production, it is fairly certain that India, Ceylon, and Java will be in a position to increase their exports, and will together provide a greater surplus than has been the case for some years. The home trade will be affected by the heavy increase of the duty, and the strength of the market must, therefore, depend very largely on how far the foreign and colonial markets will prove to be in need of larger supplies.

As the Anglo-Java Rubber and Produce Co. only began the tapping of its rubber on a serious scale in December last, the output for 1914 was small at 49,304 lbs. Hevea and 27,104 Ficus, of which the Hevea realised 1s. 11d. nett and the Ficus 1s. 6d. Robusta coffee yielded 16,072 cwts., or 4,152 cwts. more, but the price dropped by 12s. 11d. to 39s. 7d. per cwt., while the tea crop was 36,531 lbs. smaller at 108,272 lbs., and the price was .67d. down at 7.33d. Nett profits from all sources amounted to £18,383, out of which £3,333 was written off the Ficus plantations, and the balance carried forward by the Dutch undertakings was increased from £15,681 to £30,581. When tapping began in earnest the output rose rapidly each month until July, after which there was a set-back, owing to trees wintering and the demand on labour for coffee harvesting, but the crop for the first nine months of the current year was nevertheless 496,167 lbs., and the estimate for the whole year has been increased to 800,000 lbs. In addition 15,940 cwts. of coffee and 160,000 lbs. of tea are expected. The Ficus and Ceara areas, estimated at about 2,025 acres, are apparently being abandoned as of little real value.

The Kamuning (Perak) Rubber and Tin Co. did very well in the year ended June 30, and obtained a crop of 668,277 lbs. of rubber, as against an estimate of 625,000 lbs. and an output in the previous year of 568,636 lbs., the average yield per bearing acre being 44 lbs. larger at 470 lbs. A further reduction of 1.04d. to 1s. 1.93d. was effected in the "all-in" cost, and the price realised was .55d. better at 2s. 2.76d., with the result that nett profits rose by £9,051 to £35,701. Profit on the tin mining department dropped by £1,275 to £1,409, but with miscellaneous receipts, the nett balance was £7,539 up at £37,603. The balance brought forward was £13,480 smaller at £2,912, but the directors transfer only £7,500 to reserve as against £25,000 a year ago, and are therefore able to make a further increase in the dividend from 10 per cent. to 15, while still carrying forward £2,438 more at £5,651. Property account was increased by £4,788 to £195,876, and buildings and machinery by £1,120 to £17,673, against which the reserve now amounts to £32,500. Stocks are £10,386 larger at £23,996, debtors owe £922 more at £1,803, against an increase of £1,236 to £5,735 in sundry creditors, and cash is £2,608 up at £13,592. During the year some 165 acres more will be brought into the tapping round, and the crop is estimated at 690,000 lbs.

The report of the Bekoh Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30, the third of its existence in its present form, is in every way satisfactory. An output of 220,175 lbs., or 95,325 lbs. more, was obtained, and the price was .75d. better at 2s. 2.75d., while the "all-in" cost was reduced by 4.29d. to 1s. 2.61d. Nett profits were consequently £4,318 up at £8,683, and after providing £812 for depreciation, the available balance, including £294 brought in, was £3,871 better at £8,165. The directors having cleared the balance-sheet last year by writing off £4,000 for balance of preliminary expenses are now able to pay an initial dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and still leave £1,040, or £747 more to be carried forward.

Nothing was spent on capital account, and the cost of the estates remains at £88,044, exclusive of £3,435 for buildings and machinery. Stocks are £3,076 larger at £6,299, and cash is £6,488 up at £8,023, while current liabilities have only risen by £1,074 to £3,931.

**TANDJONG RUBBER CO.**—Crop harvested for three months ended Sept. 30 was approximately 252,899 lbs., as against 187,274 lbs. for the corresponding period last year. Of this crop 13,665 lbs. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2s. 0.88d. (London equivalent). There remains to be delivered against forward contracts approximately 510,720 lbs. out of 1915-16 crop at an average of 2s. 2.57d. per lb. (London equivalent), and approximately 147,840 lbs. out of 1916-17 crop at an average of 2s. 2.79d. per lb. (London equivalent).

**BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.**—August rubber crops, 63,748 lbs.; increase 5,688 lbs.; eight months, 444,617 lbs.; increase 39,230 lbs. The estimated output from the three properties for the year 1915 was 596,200 lbs.

**DANGAN RUBBER (1913).**—The crop for the year ended June 30 amounted to 124,921 lbs., or an increase of 51,959 lbs., of which 98,852 lbs. were sold at an average of 2s. 1.1d. per lb., and the balance was valued at 2s. 2d. After debiting profit and loss with 75 per cent. of the cost of upkeep, compared with only 50 per cent. a year ago, the "all-in" cost was about the same at 1s. 2.2d., but the directors, in fairness to the general manager, point out that had the previous apportionment of administration charges been maintained, there would have been a reduction of 2.4d. to 11.8d. The cocoa crop was 246 cwt. larger at 672 cwt., and although there was a small reduction in the tea crop of 29,225 lbs., the average price was  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. better at 8d. Receipts from all sources were £9,084 up at £17,121, and the gross profit, including £1,689 brought forward, was £8,866, or £6,856 more. There being no longer any capital remaining, provision has to be made for the estate development and for capital expenditure in the current year as well as for the year under review. After setting aside £500 for income-tax, £3,129 is therefore written off property account, leaving £5,236 to be carried forward. This, the directors say, is more than sufficient to cover the estimated expenditure involved in the erection of factory and bungalows, and will leave entirely free for dividend the profits for the current year.

**TISMODA ESTATES.**—Although there was a reduction of 11,708 lbs. to 305,225 lbs. in the output of tea for the year ended April 30 the company was exceptionally fortunate in the matter of price, which rose by 1.10d. to 8.04d. Profits, including £1,001, or £557 more, from rubber, showed an increase of £2,282 at £11,930, and after providing for London office charges the dividend is increased from 2½ per cent. to 6 per cent. This requires a little more owing to a further 2s. per share having been paid up, and out of the balance £800, as against £100, is transferred to coast advances reserve, and £141 is written off for depreciation. There is nothing in the balance-sheet to call for comment.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### BARSI LIGHT RAILWAY CO., LTD.

Owing to the depression in trade caused by the war, both goods and passenger traffic were restricted in the year ended March 31, and the attendance of pilgrims at the chief Pandharpur Fairs was also much smaller, with the result that gross earnings were Rs. 2,00,876 down. As working expenses were rather heavier, the total reduction in nett earnings was Rs. 2,18,732, and after providing for debenture interest and charges on the "Latur Extension" debentures, the balance, including £12,894, or £5,832 more, brought forward, was £8,559 smaller at £42,312. Of this, £11,412, or £3,814 more, is transferred to the reserve for equalisation of dividends and £2,000 is set aside for income-tax, after which the usual dividend of 6 per cent. is paid, but the bonus is halved at 2 per cent., making 8 per cent. as against 10, and a smaller balance of £12,899 is carried forward. The short extension into Pandharpur City was opened for traffic on July 16, and the directors state that all the crucial points in connection with the concessions for the extensions to Lonand and to Miraj have now been settled with the India Office.

### H.H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS CO., LTD.

Gross earnings on the broad gauge system for the half-year ended March 31 showed a decrease of no less than Rs. 6,06,222 at Rs. 32,10,566, which was only partly met by a reduction of Rs. 3,27,735 to Rs. 16,00,792 in working expenses. Nett earnings were consequently Rs. 2,78,487 down at Rs. 16,09,774, and, converted into sterling at 15.92d. compared with 16.01d. per rupee, they showed a decrease of £19,230 at £106,750. After deducting £6,750 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezwada Extension, the nett revenue was £100,000, being the sum required to meet charges for the half-year in respect of the debentures, together with 5 per cent. per annum on the capital stock. On the metre gauge system also there was a reduction in gross earnings of Rs. 5,93,123 to Rs. 19,99,392, while expenses rose by Rs. 50,489 to Rs. 11,76,646, the percentage being 15.41 per cent. up at 58.85 per cent. In sterling, the nett earnings were £42,934 less at £54,635. For the whole year the nett revenue, after deducting £3,055, or £1,248 less, payable to the Government of H.H. the Nizam on account of the Hingoli branch, was £23,897 smaller at £15,407, and of this £93,301, or £3,301 more, is required to meet the charges on  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debentures, leaving £22,106, or £27,198 less, divisible between the Government and the com-



pany. The regular dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, is declared.

#### NORTHERN BANKING CO., LTD.

The nett profits for the 12 months ended August 31 were the largest in the history of this bank, exceeding the previous year's total by £2,954 at £78,342, and as £3,711 more was brought in, the amount available was £6,665 up at £96,105. For a number of years the company has paid a bonus in addition to the dividends, but as the directors have now decided to conform with the almost universal practice of paying dividends less tax instead of tax free, they have taken the opportunity to dispense with the bonus. Accordingly the "A" shares now receive a dividend of 13 per cent. instead of 11 per cent., plus a bonus of 2s. per share, and the "B" shares get half that distribution. Out of the surplus remaining an extra £5,000 at £25,000 is set aside to meet depreciation of securities, and the provision for reduction of bank premises is nearly doubled at £1,299, leaving £20,105, or £2,342 more to be carried forward. The balance-sheet shows an increase of £606,831 to £6,418,633 in the liabilities on deposits, and an expansion of £98,432 to £926,826 in the note circulation. Cash balances have been reduced by £234,785 to £1,431,627, and bills discounted, loans, &c., are £415,560 down at £3,354,607, but investments are valued at £3,421,139, or £1,384,553 more, the increase being due principally to the purchase of £1,368,200 War Loan stocks, which have been paid up in full.

#### FREDERICK HOTELS, LTD.

Naturally this company has suffered from the war in the London portion of its business, but the directors say that its other hotels did well during the year ended June 30. The hotel at Beaulieu-sur-Mer was taken over by the French Government on the outbreak of war, and although negotiations which have taken place lead the directors to believe that a substantial sum will be paid for the accommodation, they have not included in the accounts any sum in respect of this hotel. For these reasons the profits showed a reduction of £15,137 at £16,769, and after allowing for the balance of £19,529 brought forward, the disposable total was £10,731 smaller at £36,299. A year ago the full dividend was paid on the preference shares, but on this occasion the directors, in view of the uncertain outlook, prefer to increase the sum carried forward by £3,019 to £22,548, and do not supplement the payment for the half-year ended December 31. No change is made in the property and goodwill account, which stands at £1,643,342, and investments are also unaltered at £20,629, of which £17,338 represents a holding of £23,174 nominal of the company's own first mortgage debenture stock. Stocks and sundry debtors are £3,198 lower at £45,159, and cash is £8,710 down at £16,693, while current liabilities have been reduced by £1,178 to £42,676.

#### D. AND W. MURRAY, LTD.

This business of Australian merchants not only felt the effects of the war through the difficulty of obtaining certain classes of goods specially suitable for the Australian trade and the inadequate shipping facilities, but was also badly hit by the serious drought which existed throughout the Commonwealth for the greater part of the period. As illustrating how serious this drought was, the chairman stated that the yield of wheat last year was less than 25,000,000 bushels as against 103,000,000 bushels in 1913-14, although the area had been considerably increased. In these circumstances it is satisfactory to find that the reduction in the nett profits for the 12 months ended July 19 was only £10,988 at £47,252. At the same time a much larger balance of £34,820 was brought forward, and the divisible surplus was therefore £13,252 up at £70,072. The directors raise the dividend from 9 per cent. to 10, bringing it back to the level of two years ago, and after setting aside the usual £10,000 for debenture stock redemption, they have £42,072, or £7,252 more, left to be carried forward. Owing to the difficulty above mentioned of obtaining and shipping goods, stocks showed a decrease of £132,945 at £465,041, while, on the other hand, trade creditors were reduced by £47,384 to £88,056 and cash creditors by £38,703 to £182,741. Debtors owe £7,720 more at £245,496, bills receivable are £2,580 up at £137,180, and cash has risen by £36,880 to £61,678. The debenture stock redemption fund has been increased by £11,187 to £31,899, which is represented by an addition of £11,172 to £30,289 in the investments specially earmarked for this fund. Freehold properties are £9,323 higher at £278,670, owing to the additions made to the Adelaide and Launceston warehouses.

New Trans-Canadian Railway.—At the invitation of the directors, a party numbering about 140, including the Senators and members of the Dominion Parliament, commenced a trip across Canada on Tuesday to inaugurate formally the completion of the Canadian Northern Railway from Atlantic to Pacific. Separate trains started from Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, and were consolidated into one train, including sleepers and dining cars. The complete journey will extend over 10 days. This trip will give Parliamentary members and others who participate in it an opportunity to see personally the character of the country through which the railway runs, the standard of its construction, as well as the immense new fields in agriculture and general industry which it is opening up. The line from Quebec to the Pacific Ocean is about 3,000 miles in length, and with one exception of less than 10 miles, has a maximum grade of half of one per cent., while the system is fed by about 6,800 miles of contributory lines and branches.

#### OCTOBER MINING OUTPUTS.

Abbontiakoon.—11,548 tons, £18,877; £16,132.  
 Abosso Gold.—9,315 tons produced £15,226.  
 Antelope (Rhodesia).—4,089 tons, £8,827; profit, £2,235.  
 Ashanti.—11,774 tons, 9,020 ozs.; value, £38,317, against £37,792 for August.  
 Aurora West.—15,066 tons, £17,832; profit, £4,039, against £4,074 for August.  
 Balaghat.—3,050 tons, 1,172 ozs.; tailings, 268 ozs.; total, 1,440 ozs., equal to 1,298 ozs. fine gold.  
 Bantjes Consolidated.—20,500 tons, £22,330; profit £1,112, against £2,701 for Aug.  
 Bell Reef.—2,565 tons, value £5,697; expenses, £6,442. Cablegram adds:—Ample power now available.  
 Blackwater.—4,936 tons, £9,430; profit, £4,812.  
 Brakpan Mines.—61,800 tons; value, £87,283; profit, £31,022, decrease of £1,790 in comparison with the August total.  
 Bullfinch Proprietary.—6,180 tons, 2,679 ozs.; value, £7,634; profit, £2,748.  
 Burma Corporation.—Bawdwin: Lead production, 1,443 tons.  
 Cam and Motor.—11,483 tons; recovered, £20,621; profit, £5,298. Reduced tonnage and grade due to shortage of white labour and surface mullock passes being closed. All passes now reopened and increased tonnage expected for October.  
 Cape Copper.—O'okiep: 949 nett tons of 8 per cent. dry assay equals 76 tons fine copper. Nababeep: 4,760 nett tons of 2.5 per cent. dry assay equals 119 tons fine copper; total, 195 tons. Official note.—Low tonnage is due to furnace troubles, refractory mixture.  
 Champion Reef.—17,025 tons, 10,206 ozs.; sand and slimes, 1,883 ozs.; total, 12,089 ozs., equal to 11,082 ozs. fine gold.  
 Cinnamon Bippo.—Crushed 3,835 tons, yield 1,911 ozs.; profit, £2,866.  
 City and Suburban.—28,500 tons, for 12,212 ozs.; value, £50,959; profit, £21,183.  
 City Deep.—61,000 tons, £118,184; profit, £60,086, against £62,227 for August.  
 Consolidated Goldfields, N.Z.—Wealth of Nations—2,270 tons, £3,850; profit, £1,828.  
 Consolidated Langlaagte.—54,700 tons, £70,091; profit, £29,024, against £31,531 for August.  
 Consolidated Main Reef.—28,090 tons for £41,123; profit, £13,547 (August, £12,018).  
 Crown.—207,000 tons, £262,116; profit, £95,525, against £97,118 for August.  
 Durban Roodepoort.—26,600 tons, £36,200; profit, £5,850, against £6,212 for August.  
 Eldorado Banket.—4,073 tons, £10,201; profit, £5,152; reserve, 2,051 ozs.  
 Falcon.—18,660 tons, produced 308½ tons blister copper, containing 3,525 ozs. gold, value £14,805; total value, £30,508.  
 Ferreira Deep.—56,410 tons, £101,399; profit, £50,887, against £42,482 for August.  
 Geduld Proprietary.—25,700 tons, £39,623; profit, £12,779; reserve, 4,431 ozs. (August, £12,768).  
 Geldenhuis Deep.—55,000 tons, £69,347; profit, £11,484, against £11,576 for August.  
 Giant.—5,000 tons, £3,428; profit, £498.  
 Ginsberg.—15,375 tons, £17,792; profit, £4,169, against £4,193 for August.  
 Glencairn.—21,300 tons, £14,373; profit, £2,430, against £2,135 for August.  
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,026 tons; value, £6,096; profit, £1,924.  
 Golden Kopje Proprietary.—Crushed 11,465 tons, £10,292; expenses, £13,207. Poor results due to difficulty in getting new cyanide men accustomed to plant.  
 Government Areas (Modderfontein).—49,100 tons, £66,735; profit, £15,216, against £17,880 for August.  
 East Rand Proprietary.—180,000 tons, 53,196 ozs., including 506 ozs. recovered from accumulated slimes; value, £22,359; profit declined from £56,049 in Aug. to £55,011 in Sept., including in both cases the profit from accumulated slimes of £1,806 and £1,088 respectively.  
 Gibraltar Consolidated.—335 tons, 333 ozs.  
 Great Boulder Proprietary.—Treated 16,455 tons; value, £49,750; expenditure, £21,472.  
 Great Boulder Perseverance.—20,193 tons; value, £20,944.  
 Great Fingall Consolidated.—4,490 tons, £7,899.  
 Hampden Cloncurry.—Smelter treated 7,102 tons ore, yielding 712 tons copper, 172 ozs. gold, and 6,084 ozs. silver. This includes 95 tons copper from customs ore.  
 Ipoh Tin.—Recovered 300 piculs—approximately 18 tons.  
 Ivanhoe.—20,216 tons for 2,031 ozs. fine gold; sands, 1,239 ozs.; slimes, 2,580 ozs.; concentrates, 1,555 ozs.; value, £31,435; profit, £9,015.  
 Jibutit (Anantapur).—2,700 tons, 796 ozs. fine gold (August 782 ozs.).  
 Knight Central.—28,030 tons, £30,945; profit, £4,042 (August, £3,348).  
 Langlaagte Estate.—51,236 tons, 7,578 ozs. cyanide; 6,441 ozs.; profit, £13,626.  
 Lonely Reef.—4,550 tons, 2,536 ozs.; value, £10,660; profit, £2,260.  
 Luipaard's Vlei Estate.—Tonnage, 21,160; profit, £4,390.  
 Main Reef West.—25,020 tons, £28,060; profit, £3,671 (August, £3,697).  
 Modderfontein B.—45,000 tons, £94,712; profit, £61,160, against £62,889 for August. The grade of the ore mined is still above the average value of the ore reserves.



Mount Boppy.—7,270 tons, 1,246 ozs.; cyanide, 721 ozs.; slimes, 1,392 ozs.; and concentrates, 105 ozs. (fine); value £9,980.

May Consolidated.—14,300 tons, £11,368; profit, £1,031 (Aug., £1,029).

Meyer and Charlton.—14,544 tons, £34,103; profit, £20,767, against £20,489 for Aug.

Modderfontein Deep.—34,500 tons, £62,995; profit, £34,746 (Aug., £34,664).

Mount Elliott.—Smelter treated 4,440 tons ore and 197 tons matte (part of the ore and matte stacked at the mine), producing 507 tons blister copper, containing 745 ozs. gold and 1,045 ozs. silver.

Mount Lyell Mining.—25,617 tons ore treated, being 16,024 tons from Mount Lyell and 9,510 tons from North Mount Lyell, also 83 tons from Mount Lyell Comstock; converters produced 571 tons blister copper, containing copper 565 tons, silver 32,085 ozs., gold 736 ozs.

Mysore.—25,750 tons, 14,100 ozs.; sands, 2,153 ozs.; slimes, 2,180 ozs.; total, 18,433 ozs., equivalent to fine gold, 16,870 ozs.

Naraguta Extended (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 30 tons; shipped, 28½ tons.

New Kleinfontein.—53,800 tons, £68,579; profit, £22,339 (August, £23,027).

New Goch.—29,700 tons, £29,017; profit, £8,035, against £8,440 for August.

New Modderfontein.—51,000 tons, £102,253; profit, £57,762, against £56,234 for August.

New Primrose.—23,100 tons, £19,276; profit, £6,077, against £6,165 for August.

New Unified.—13,550 tons, £14,092; profit, £5,037, against £5,150.

New Heriot.—13,100 tons for 5,549 ozs.; value, £23,227; profit, £8,815.

Nigel.—10,500 tons, 3,220 ozs.; value, £13,678; loss, £987.

North Anantapur.—2,600 tons, 1,026 ozs. fine gold; tailings, 120 ozs.; total, 1,146 ozs. (August, 1,115 ozs.).

North Broken Hill.—Produced 1,100 tons concentrates containing 691 tons 19 cwt. lead and 24,128 ozs. silver.

Nundydroog.—8,000 tons, 5,736 ozs. bar gold; tailings and slimes, 1,416 ozs.; total, 7,152 ozs., equal to 6,392 ozs. fine (August, 6,481 ozs. fine).

Oregum.—12,550 tons, 6,389 ozs.; sand and slimes, 1,466 ozs.; total, 7,846 ozs., equal to 7,117 ozs. fine.

Oroville Dredging.—Gross returns week Sept. 9, \$3,661. At Pato, week Sept. 21, dredge worked 110 hours; no clean up.

Philippine Dredges.—Produced 1,010 ozs. of gold. Expect improvement.

Prestea Block A.—Crushed, 20,500 tons; total yield, £33,031; profit, £5,962.

Progress, N.Z.—2,920 tons, £3,706; profit, £1,042.

Ranfontein Central.—206,178 tons, 29,477 ozs.; cyanide, 28,570 ozs.; profit, £58,756.

Rayfield (Nigeria) Tin.—Output, 70 tons; shipped, 77 tons.

Robinson.—55,300 tons, £78,191; profit, £38,403, against £41,610 for August.

Robinson Deep.—52,400 tons, £73,675; profit, £24,273.

Roodepoort United.—33,851 tons, £30,918; profit, £2,539, against £943 for August.

Rose Deep.—66,300 tons, £75,072; profit, £18,535, against £28,402 for August. Decreased profit due to temporary drop in grade and smaller tonnage crushed.

Shamva.—47,534 tons, £37,665; profit, £17,183.

Simmer Deep.—61,000 tons, £53,991; profit, £4,042.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—68,900 tons, £74,194; profit, £28,514.

St. John Del Rey.—Production, £38,500; yield per ton, 48s.

Sheba.—6,920 tons, 2,491 fine ozs.; profit, £1,835.

South Kalguri.—9,868 tons, 2,917 ozs.; value, £12,366; surplus, £2,610 (Aug., £2,574).

Sub Nigel.—7,240 tons, £14,182; profit, £3,126; reserve, 645 ozs.

Sulphide Corporation.—19,935 tons ore milled producing 2,948 tons lead concentrates (including 257 tons from the de-leading plant), which assayed 36 ozs. silver, 64 per cent. lead per ton, together with 6,539 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 15 ozs. silver, 7 per cent. lead, 46 per cent. zinc per ton. 7,487 tons lead concentrates and purchased ores smelted, producing 3,097 tons lead bullion, containing 2,965 ozs. gold, 236,761 ozs. silver.

Talisman Consolidated.—2,630 tons, £15,000; profit, £7,044.

Taquah.—5,918 tons, producing £17,766.

Transvaal and Rhodesian.—Fred: 1,800 tons, realising £3,918.

Village Deep.—52,400 tons, £76,684; profit, £25,771, against £26,598 for August.

Transvaal Gold Estates.—12,810 tons; value, £29,325; profit, £13,646.

Tronoh.—161 tons tin ore, value £14,725; the dredge produced 15 tons of tin ore, which are included. Note.—The decreased profit is owing to the large quantity of tributors' ore returned this month.

Tronch South.—Output 25 tons tin ore, value £2,320.

Van Ryn.—38,350 tons, £47,103; profit, £19,599, against £19,442 for August.

Van Ryn Deep.—42,020 tons, £78,664; profit, £43,119, against £43,630.

Village Main Reef.—30,000 tons; value, £53,612; profit, £25,668.

Vogelstruis.—13,276 tons, 3,253 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—16,266 tons, yielding £27,093 gold and silver.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—11,970 tons; profit, £950.

West Rand Consolidated.—31,200 tons, £38,687; profit £10,278, against £10,473 for August.

Witwatersrand.—41,900 tons, £53,137; profit £25,035, against £24,819.

Witwatersrand Deep.—41,730 tons, £52,701; profit, £16,034 (Aug., £16,068).

Wolhuter.—34,800 tons, £42,592; profit, £13,672 (Aug., £14,021).

Wolfram Mining and Smelting.—Output, 27 tons.

Zinc Corporation.—13,644 tons treated in lead mill, producing 2,663 tons lead concentrates; value on the basis of lead at £20, subject to realisation, is £19,313.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and October 9, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 9, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 10, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
		83,450,952	10,434,519
REVENUE.			
Customs .....	37,450,000	22,559,000	17,868,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	28,574,000	17,910,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	17,457,000	13,423,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	3,319,000	4,337,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	18,216,000	9,106,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	60,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	15,400,000	15,100,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	210,000	220,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	767,960	792,767
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	2,139,913	2,461,673
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	—	—
Revenue .....	267,232,000	109,033,873	81,538,440
Total, including Balance ..		192,484,825	91,972,959
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		750,000	1,400,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		—	20,100,000
For War Loan 1915-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1945 .....		534,000,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		500,000	1,150,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		2,385	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		232,150,000	70,930,000
Total .....		995,927,963	185,552,959

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 9, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 10, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	16,496,437	14,001,727
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,725,000	5,048,711	514,469
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,431,000	694,395	763,218
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	3,877,521	3,798,659
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,697,000	1,183,425	1,086,910
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	683,220,360	133,940,018
Expenditure .....	1,054,676,000	710,520,849	154,105,001
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,175,000	1,815,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		6,204,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,130,000	1,800,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		50,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		80,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £66,668,000, in 1915-16) .....		66,668,000	15,000,000
		973,337,576	173,453,165
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England .....	1915. Oct. 9.	1914. Oct. 10.	
Bank of Ireland .....	£	£	
	21,912,548	11,602,255	
	677,839	497,539	
		22,590,387	12,099,794
Total .....		995,927,963	185,552,959

NOTE.—The Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure are based upon the original Budget Estimate.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on October 9, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£25,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	210,490,000
Total .. .. .	£235,490,000

\* Includes £62,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, October 11 1915.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## LINGGI PLANTATIONS.

An extraordinary general meeting of Linggi Plantations, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering the following resolutions:—(1) "That the capital of the company be increased to £200,000 by the creation of 750,000 additional ordinary shares of 2s. each." (2) "That the agreement intended to be made between the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates, Ltd., and the liquidator thereof of the one part and this company of the other part (which agreement has been produced to and explained at this meeting) be and the same is hereby approved, and that the directors be and they are hereby authorised and directed to enter into such agreement, and to carry the same into effect with or without such modifications as they may approve, whether before or after the execution thereof." Sir William Hood Treacher, K.C.M.G. (the chairman), presided.

Mr. J. G. Hay, on behalf of the secretaries (Messrs. Guthrie and Co., Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: This meeting is called for considering and, if thought fit, passing two resolutions, which are set out clearly in the notice which was issued under date of October 4. The first resolution is for the increase of the company's capital from £125,000 to £200,000. I wish to emphasise that the result of this resolution, if passed, will be to increase the unauthorised capital from £125,000 to £200,000. In regard to the issued capital, however, the increase will be strictly limited to the amount that is necessary to provide the consideration for the purchase of the two estates. The consideration in each case will be satisfied by the allotment of shares. The amount required for this purchase will be approximately £20,000 in 200,000 shares of 2s. each. The issued capital will thus be increased to £140,000. The capital position will then stand as follows:—Authorised capital, £200,000; issued capital, £140,000; unissued capital, £60,000. You will understand that there will be no issue of shares for subscription, but in the event of any such issue at a future date, these, of course, will be offered in the first place to the company's shareholders. The second resolution before you is for the approval of an agreement which the directors have entered into for the purchase of the Port Dickson Company's estate and assets on the basis of one Linggi share for ten Port Dickson's. I have seen the Port Dickson Company described as a subsidiary of Linggi Plantations. The Linggi Company did not float off the Port Dickson Company. The main Port Dickson property was originally owned by a company having its registered office in Singapore. On the occasion of the flotation of the present Port Dickson-Lukut Company, the opportunity was taken by that company of acquiring from Linggi Company a small outlying estate named Lukut, comprising 265 acres, plus the right to 800 acres of jungle land. The total area planted with rubber was 150 acres. All the salient points regarding the Port Dickson property have been given in the circular issued along with the notice convening this meeting. This circular contains an estimate of the output from the Port Dickson Company for five years and an estimate of the output prepared by your visiting agent, Mr. E. Macfadyen, from the combined properties for a similar number of years. When addressing you at the last annual general meeting I told you that the capital cost of the planted area of 7,400 acres worked out at the low figure of £16 4s. per acre. Including the extensions in progress, the proposals now before you, if adopted, would reduce this to £11 14s. per acre, a reduction of approximately 25 per cent. The low capital cost of its planted area has always been a feature of strength to this company. You will appreciate, therefore, the significance of this further substantial reduction. Our output, as you will observe, will, by the year 1920, be very nearly trebled. Moreover, we feel that we are in the advantageous position of being in possession of ample funds to undertake all necessary and desirable works to bring the new estates into a higher state of cultivation, reduce the costs and increase the revenue-earning capacity of the properties under consideration. I might at this stage remind you that it has been the policy for some years past for Linggi Co. to add to its planted acreage by purchase. We have been able to do this because of our favourable financial position, and, looking back on the history of the company, I think we might fairly claim it has proved to be a successful policy indeed. As you are aware, three of your directors are also directors of the Port Dickson Company and shareholders in the Port Dickson Company. Their registered holdings are as follows:—Mr. C. Malcolm Cumming, 34,744 shares; Mr. Robert Frederick McNair Scott, 5,438 shares; and myself, 8,410 shares. To this I may add that Sir John Anderson is also a shareholder to the extent of 18,041 shares. We are anxious in our procedure to avoid being open to a suggestion from any source that your interests would thereby be prejudiced. When the proposal to acquire Port Dickson was first submitted to your board we immediately appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Trotter and Traill, neither of whom is in any way connected with the Port Dickson Company, except that Mr. Traill has a nominal interest of £40 in that company. The final recommendations of that committee were accepted by the board without amendment and are embodied in the agreement which you are now asked to approve. We are confident that this acquisition will prove of benefit to this company. It will enlarge your planted acreage considerably without involving a very considerable addition to your issued capital.

Mr. Noel Trotter seconded the resolutions.

The Chairman, replying to questions, said that the Port Dickson meeting was adjourned as the shareholders wanted

further time for considering the scheme. The agreement was of a provisional character, and would only become operative if adopted by the shareholders of both companies.

Both resolutions were passed with practical unanimity.

## ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The 35th ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. Maclean Jack) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said it would be seen from the report that the company had had a year of ups and downs, but that, on the whole, they had come through very well, considering the various circumstances prevailing. In the railway there had been a falling-off in the coaching traffic, while the goods traffic had maintained its figures owing to increased receipts from coal. A marked decline had taken place in the receipts from the carriage of building materials, no new building work at present being done. In the railway, besides the falling-off of receipts, they had had to face an increased expenditure under the heading of maintenance of way and works and locomotive expenses. With regard to the collieries, it would be seen that there had been a large expansion in the coal output, from which it would be gathered that they had to an extent overcome some of the difficulties of which he spoke at the last meeting. Costs of production, he was glad to say, were getting lower, and that was a point to which they paid very great attention. The sales, while they showed an increase on those of previous years, were not up to the increase in production, the obvious reason being that a company which had to arrange its sales programme some time beforehand could not take any immediate advantage of an improvement in output, and, therefore, the greater part of the increase merely went to stock. He foresaw no difficulty in getting rid of these stocks, and, of course, they would get the advantage of the increased output later on. The output of the collieries was going on well, and they were making adequate provision for maintaining and expanding it in the future. To sum up the company's position generally, the result was not quite so good as in the previous year. However, all companies must have their fluctuations, and, unfortunately for their concern, a slight reduction in the profits had synchronised with an expansion in their fixed charges, the past year's income having to meet the interest on the new 5 per cent. debentures, while that capital had not yet really become fully productive. In spite of the war, he would have felt able to assure the shareholders that next year would have witnessed a resumption of their ordinary steady expansion, had it not been for one thing—namely, the fact that the Assam-Bengal Railway had suffered a very serious breakdown. In July last heavy floods carried away bridges, and the damage was so serious that the hill section of that railway had to be closed for six to nine months. That meant that their access to one of their most important markets, representing 25,000 tons or 30,000 tons of coal, had been closed to them for the moment. He thought, however, that that could only be looked upon as a temporary interruption. As to their other interests and investments, they were at the moment negotiating with the Government for a considerable extension in their timber concessions, and he thought that would be obtained. Their investments as a whole had done very well. The result of the year was a profit of £102,401, against £104,011 in the previous year, or a reduction in round figures of £1,600. They had paid all their interest charges and preference dividend and also an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the "B" shares in March last. They now proposed to pay a final dividend of 2 per cent. on the "B" shares, making 5 per cent. in all, and to carry forward £2,960. The reduction in the "B" dividend was, they considered, only of a temporary nature, due, broadly speaking, to outside causes known to everyone. In conclusion, he said he felt fairly confident that they would resume their ordinary and steady business, and, indeed, continue it, war or no war.

Mr. Walter Butler, M.I.C.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD FOUR PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE STERLING BONDS (1908).

The COUPONS due on the 1st November next on the above-named Bonds will be paid at the Financial Agency of the Company in London, THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED, 5, Princes Street, London, E.C., where the customary lists may be obtained.

The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Applications for payment must be made between Ten and Two o'clock.

The Transfer Books for the Bonds Registered as to Principal and Interest are closed, and will remain so until the 1st proximo inclusive.

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED,  
5, Princes Street, London, E.C.,

14th October, 1915,



## THE NOBEL-DYNAMITE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION.)

The Liquidators of the above Company give notice that, in accordance with the powers vested in them by Special Resolution of the Shareholders duly passed and confirmed at Meetings held on 25th August, 1915, and 9th September, 1915, they have now concluded the Agreements then approved, and Shareholders should now surrender their Preference and Ordinary Shares of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust Company, Limited, to be exchanged for Shares of Nobel's Explosives Company, Glasgow, in terms of the circular of the 9th August, 1915.

Special forms of surrender are provided, and will be sent direct to holders of Registered Ordinary Shares and Preference Shares. Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer can obtain the necessary form at the places hereunder mentioned:—

The Company's Registered Office, 220, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The London City and Midland Bank, Limited (Metropolitan Bank Branch), Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

The Belfast Banking Company, Limited, Belfast.

These surrender forms must be completed and delivered, together with the Share Certificates and/or Share Warrants to Bearer (the latter with Talons and Coupons Nos. 31 to 37 attached) to one of the addresses above indicated.

In exchange for their present securities, Shareholders will be handed Receipts to be retained by them, pending the preparation of the Share Certificates of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, Glasgow. Due notice will be given when these Share Certificates are ready for issue.

H. J. MITCHELL,  
M. B. DICKIE,

Liquidators.

220, Winchester House,  
Old Broad Street,  
London, E.C.

October 15th, 1915.

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## Passing Events.

Occasionally there is much sneering at "prophets," especially among the greatest swarm of paid prophets and hired howlers among them all—the Harmsworth syndicate, to wit. Well, among all those who have been too sanguine surely the Kaiser stands first. What that miserable wretch plumed himself on securing when he started his onslaught, and what the reality before him is to-day, surely form a contrast more eloquent of his capacity for self-deception than anything ever before encountered in history or romance. Where is his "peace in October"? October has brought the peace of the grave probably to hundreds of thousands of his fellow human beings in the two empires he is hustling to their destruction, but no other peace is even in sight. For him and his Teutonic notions of brutality there can be no other peace than the peace of Death. From the killing point of view, then, all goes well with the Allies. French and British are mowing the Kaiser's dupes down like swaithes of grass in the West; Italy on her northern frontiers is without pause or check consuming the Austrians; Russia is keeping the headlong Hindenburg out of Dvinsk and Riga, and devouring the Huns at a great rate further south; and even in the Balkans the first flare of Bulgarian "success" will probably soon be turned into a howl. Bulgaria strong? Why, Greek thrashed Bulgar in the last Balkan war the Bulgar had, Prussian-wise, provoked. Have no fear, we have but to redouble our energies, arrange to give the foe no rest or peace, and the end will come sooner than superficially looks probable. Think what a winter in Russia—in Lithuania, Courland, and Galicia—will mean to the German hosts. Can they endure it and live? Perhaps. Russia is giving them the opportunity to make the experiment anyway, and the possession of Riga even would mitigate but little the horrors of the ordeal, so long as the Kaiser's fleet is unable to get the mastery in the Baltic. There is but one black spot—Gallipoli, the Dardanelles. We have failed there because our heroic, devoted men were not well led. But are we to accept this failure and crawl away? Never. What is now being done should have been done at first; an officer skilled in artillery warfare, Sir C. C. Monro, has been appointed to command. That is a loss to our armies in the West, for Sir Charles Monro was probably the

best handler of artillery in them all, but it should mark a great change for the better at the Dardanelles. When will rep-tape, routine seniority, and, above all, family and purse influence, give place to selection by merit and attainments in our Army? When we no longer need one, perhaps.

From Petrograd once again comes a note of help for that policy of economic *entente* which this REVIEW has striven to put before the leaders of our public policy. Mr. Sazonoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has given the *Times* correspondent a note, in which he urges that there should be common understanding, not only on military affairs, but on questions of trade intercourse. It is high time that we should think more of this question, he says, and urges that there should be no delay in discussing commercial treaties between the Allies. We thoroughly agree, and although it may not be that the Russian ideas about accord on tariffs and about the aim of tariffs, especially as against Germany, are the same as ours, the conception inspiring a message of this kind is most encouraging, if only our Free Traders and men of all walks in life capable of looking beyond mere insular or passing day interests will give their minds to the many delicate problems awaiting discussion and settlement.

Mr. Henry Jones, of the *Daily Chronicle*, is warning the country that a Northcliffe or Alfred Harmsworth plot has been circulating for months, having for object the turning out of Mr. Asquith's Ministry and putting one under said Northcliffe and Mr. Lloyd George in its place. But surely Mr. Lloyd George can be no willing party to any such plot. Even his experiences in City finance cannot have reconciled him to take his place in the Harmsworth star troupe of performers alongside their other pet, Mr. Horatio Bottomley.

Probably enough the explanation offered by a correspondent of *Truth* in this week's number is the true one with regard to these loathsome Zeppelin attacks. The military object, he suggests, "is to create an irresistible demand in England for strenuous defensive measures, and by so doing to involve the Government in a great expenditure of material and men, which will all be so much military strength diverted from the



only point where it troubles the Germans, viz., the battle-front on the Continent." That view certainly deserves to be borne in mind by those who are now agitating and screaming for "more effective measures" to be taken against these pests of the air. Measures, we can assure them, are being taken, and vigorous measures, which will in due time abate the nuisance, even as the submarine piracy has been abated, and we must not allow even such horrors as the recent attacks upon London have produced to divert us for one hour from our main purpose, which is to assist our Allies in destroying Prussian militarism from off the face of the earth. How debased that militarism has made the senile German peoples in its human attributes is proved, not only by the gorilla-like cackling of joy with which the exaggerated reports of Zeppelin devastations in this country and wholesale murders of women and unarmed citizens of all kinds are hailed in Berlin and throughout the Fatherland, but by such cold-blooded crimes as the murder of that English nurse, Miss Cavell, in Brussels. The shooting of her for the crime of being humane, by an officer in cold blood with a pistol, as she lay in a dead faint in front of the firing party called out to slay her, constitutes one of the most dramatically fiendish deeds of cruelty done in all the war. It was a Prussian officer who perpetrated this crime, and the echo of his shot seems even to have reached the ears of the Kaiser, for the execution of the death sentence passed upon other women for the same devotion to country and humanity has been suspended by his order. After all, there is some blood not Hunnish in the insane megalomaniac's veins, and through his relatives he has now and again come into contact with human beings; but from the Prussian Junker nothing is to be expected. Human nature is to him as indifferent as swine nature. Hence his doom is sealed, be the time long, or be it short; he is destined as a force in human governance to disappear from the earth along with his friend, his one friend, the Turk.

"I am writing," says a very old friend, "to ask if you can give any help to the Anti-German Union in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. The position is really growing very serious. You know I am sensible, and not liable to silly scares, but when I told you that the German influence in this country was far more widespread and dangerous than was thought, I only said what I knew to be the truth. There is no doubt that these German and pro-German influences are most strongly at work now and in the *Administration somewhere* to destroy the A.G.U., just because it is doing good work. No one minds about the Anti-German League, which merely does us (the Union) harm by caricaturing our policy; but there is far more chance of the A.G.U. being shut down under the Defence of the Realm Act than the Union of Democratic Control. You will hardly believe this, but it is true." The writer proceeds to give proof, and we regret to say that it seems substantial proof, of the strength and persistence of malign influences of a German or pro-German character on our policy. Events, too, are occurring almost daily which, in spite of the care with which they are hidden or muffled, tend to confirm this friend's statement. Hardly a day goes by without our seeing in the Press articles and information published here that Wilhelmstrasse might be glad to pay handsomely for, and such episodes as the catching and shooting of the last publicly notified spy, who was, it seems, doing his best to guide the Zeppelins in their effort to play havoc on the civil population of London, appears to bear emphatic testimony to the fact that the enemy has still large scope and no insignificant degree of freedom in this country. It must not be forgotten that ours was an essentially German Court until a few—a comparatively few—years ago, and that the roots of Teutonic influences continue to strike deep down through the ranks of officialism and into the strata of our so-called upper classes. Thus powerful,

though subtle, influences may captivate innocent people and cause infinite harm. Assuredly they appear to make it easy for early information about our Government's intentions and about Cabinet secrets to reach not only the Kaiser's officials, but his reptile Press. There is, in short, something wrong, something perverted or loose somewhere in high places, and the root of the mischief will have to be discovered at all costs. For were treachery among the sacred discovered at a moment when the tension of public feeling was great there is no predicting what might happen. Our own Junkers—and we have a few—should not forget that this is a far more democratic country than our creeping things who grope and "boo" after titles and honours precisely in the serf-German manner would lead superficial observers to suppose. For example, what are the masses from whom we obtain the bulk of the men—men, mind you, not serfs, but men who go joyously into battle in the belief that they are doing their duty to their country, and not merely obedient to their master's lash or sword-prod—thinking about that Suvla Bay hush-up? It is confessed now that some responsible general so betrayed the trust placed in him there as to cause the attack he should have led to fail after it was on the eve of success. The resulting loss of life was great, but all has been wrapped in silence by our officials, and the blunderer, or coward, or whatever he was, has merely been dismissed the Army. For all the nation is permitted to know he may have been "retired" on full pay by the friendly authorities. Is hushing-up and class favouritism such as this conducive to domestic peace when the war ends and the children and relatives of the tens of thousands who have died with such loyal courage for our liberties begin to look at the life they have come back to? Can we be sure that the officialism which screens a delinquent by whose incompetence or worse a great strategic blow has failed and thousands of lives been uselessly cast away is to be trusted to do its duty when it encounters high-placed Teutons and becomes subject to their blandishments? Is "honour" like that incompatible with a capacity to finger lovingly the enemy's gold? Alas! not always. A storm seems to be brewing.

Oftentimes have we insisted that the ideal before us in this war is the liberation of the nations great and small from the would-be world-subduing tyranny of the Prussian Junker and his soul-withering militarism, but amid our petty conflicts and political divergences this ideal sometimes looks as if it were being forgotten. And we have a Press with us which, unfortunately, is for ever endeavouring to belittle for us not only everything connected with the war, but everything calculated to inspire us with a higher determination to press on no matter how many mistakes we have to blunder through and overcome, no matter what disappointments meet us, no matter how great the cost. It should therefore be well to quote here, for the encouragement of those who are disposed to faint by the way, what General Joffre told an American correspondent, Mr. Owen Johnson, who interviewed him lately, and whose report of what was said is reprinted in Thursday's *Times* from *Collier's Weekly*:—"Peace to-day would be a crime toward posterity. It would only be an armistice in which every nation would continue feverishly to prepare for war. The French nation is too intelligent to deceive itself or to be deceived. We are not fighting a nation with the same ideas as our own, but a nation drunk with the idea of Imperial domination, a nation which believes that in the progress of the world there is no place for little nations. The decision as to whether Europe will continue as free and individual will be made in this war alone. Either we win the right now to continue democratic and peaceful, or we surrender Europe to the imposition of an Imperial idea. You will find, wherever you go, that the French people know this. You will find them absolutely of one opinion. They are prepared for anything, and they know what the issue is. We do not need to lie to



our soldiers. No matter how long the war lasts, it will be fought out until we have conquered the right to leave a heritage of peace to our children." Is not that a noble utterance, and as true as noble? The French Commander-in-Chief, we are glad to note, assured his interlocutor that the coming winter campaign will be very different from the last one—"no standing in water for days and weeks."

The movement to extend the zinc smelting industry in this country is not making the progress that was hoped for, because those who are willing to put up the necessary capital are demanding a guarantee that after the war they shall not be threatened with the dumping of the more cheaply produced German article. Consequently a campaign is now being waged in favour of the grant of a bounty to the English industry under certain conditions. The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting last week, passed a resolution on the subject. The Australasian section, which first took the matter in hand, consulted the leading producing companies in Australia, and the large manufacturers of brass and corrugated iron, and the merchants, who have been called upon to pay as much as £115 a ton for spelter instead of £21, the normal price. Smelters in this country gave evidence that before the war the cost of producing spelter here was £21 to £22 per ton, and after the war about £23 per ton. The resolution which has been adopted urges the Government to grant a bonus for not less than 20 years on spelter produced in the United Kingdom and made from concentrates produced within the Empire when the average monthly price falls below £23 a ton, the bonus to be granted on the same month's output to raise the price to £23. Alternatively it is proposed that the State should guarantee the interest on the capital invested in such works. These proposals will be submitted to the Government in due course. But surely if instead of wasting a twelvemonth in talking the sponsors of the scheme had got to work at once, they would have been able by this time to produce spelter and to make enormous profits, which would have enabled them to build up large reserves with which to meet competition in the future. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that if the Australian output were taken by the British smelters, Germany would be deprived of the main source of her supplies of the raw material, and she would thus be less able to control the market for spelter.

It was with sincere regret that we learned on returning home that Mr. John Howard Gwyther has decided to retire from business life in the City. He is a very old friend of ours and of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, a man whom we always liked, and in the days when our active life as a City editor compelled us often to worry people of importance to supply us with information or help us to check the authenticity of information already picked up, Mr. Gwyther was a man to be counted on. Always friendly, always well posted up in current affairs, and always straightforward, he was ever accessible and helpful to those whom he felt he could trust. Most of his City career as a banker, which began some 64 years ago, was passed in the service of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. The bank grew up from modest dimensions to something like its present magnitude in Mr. Gwyther's time, and is now one of the most powerful banking institutions in Asia. Mr. Gwyther, although he has for a good many years retired from its management, can well look back with pride upon its developments and on the success in which he took an important part. Of late years he has been known mostly as a member of the board of the London City and Midland Bank, whose wonderful expansion under the guiding hand of Sir Edward Holden has placed it in the front rank of the world's banks. And now Mr. Gwyther withdraws from the field of his labours. His going may not mean much to the younger generation, but to us who are old it signifies a further diminution of interest in the personalities of the City. As we

have again and again been obliged to say, the City is growing strange to us, so strange as to make us almost shy in visiting it, for we wander through its streets encountering only faces with which we are unfamiliar. But it is probably a happy deliverance for Mr. Gwyther, who is an acute-minded and sensitive man, to be free in times like these from the cares of business, and we cordially wish him the calm enjoyment of a serene old age.

The Central Argentine Railway, Ltd., makes a better display for the year ended June 30 last than was expected. Gross receipts show a reduction of £302,886 at £5,755,254, but £183,679 was saved in working expenses, reducing them to £3,363,055. Consequently the nett receipts from working the system were only £119,207 worse at £2,392,198, and adjustments of interest during construction drawn from capital, interest on investments, exchange remittance account, which, by the way, gave £13,755 more at £23,193, with registration fees, produced in all £6,499 more at £184,711, so that the final available income was only £112,709 down at £2,576,909. Debenture stock interest, however, took £50,000 more, and an additional £50,000 of new charges was imposed by the interest on the 6 per cent. three-year and the 5 per cent. five-year notes, against which increases general interest shows a reduction of £5,099, the nett result of the prior charge burden being an increase of £95,137, bringing it up to £685,101. Then the directors wisely put aside £100,000 to contingencies fund, against nothing a year ago, so that, although the balance of £440,275 brought forward was £213,410 better, the available clear income finally shown, amounting to £2,232,084, is £94,436 down. Not a bad result in the circumstances. It, in fact, enables the directors to give the 4½ per cent. preference stock its full dividend and also to pay the ordinary and deferred stocks 5 per cent. each, the same as for the previous year. The balance then left to carry forward will be £94,436 down at £345,839, but that, it must be remembered, is after putting aside the exceptional £100,000 to contingencies. In his report to the London board, the president of the local committee, Dr. Jose a Frias, remarks that, although the results obtained during the year do not compare favourably with those of the previous year, they may be considered satisfactory, in view of the difficulties under which they have been achieved. That is the truth. There is nothing happening to frighten stockholders out of their property in this fine company, and last year's experiences probably mark the lowest point in the recoil, for in the 15 weeks which have elapsed since July 1 gross receipts have increased £204,600 on the corresponding period last year. In one respect the hard times through which the Argentine Republic has been passing is probably laying the foundation for no small future prosperity, inasmuch as expansion which might have been too indiscreet has been checked. During the past year, though, the total outlay on capital account was £1,818,546, including the above-mentioned interest charge debited to capital account. That is a large sum, but the company must slow down, because it will be unable for some time to come to obtain outside help from the investing classes at all on the scale established before the war. Development none the less proceeds steadily, and the doubling of the line between Buenos Ayres and Rosario is practically completed, the directors say, as also sundry other extensions. All branches of traffic showed signs of revival, and the past harvest has undoubtedly laid the foundation for a new expansion in business—that and war prices.

Now that the complete accounts are available it appears that the Buenos Ayres Western Railway was not quite so fortunate as supposed. Instead of the estimated increase in gross receipts for the year to June 30 last there was a decrease of £6,500 at £2,522,682, and as working expenses increased by £17,530 to £1,505,284, nett receipts fell £24,030 to £1,017,398. Interest produced £14,860 more, but £78,000 less at



£47,060 was brought in from last year, and the available balance shows a reduction of £87,140 at £1,125,735. The interim dividend was only 2 per cent. (actual), against 3 per cent., requiring £137,480 less, but interest took £70,310 more, and income-tax £18,890 more, and the balance is £44,890 down at £260,515. As previously mentioned in dealing with the dividend announcement, £160,000 is withdrawn from the reserve, and a final distribution of 3 per cent. is proposed (making 5 per cent. for the year, the same as for 1913-14), and £53,910 remains to be carried forward, or £6,850 more than was brought in. Passenger traffic showed a decrease of £79,910, or 11.5 per cent., which is a fair indication of the depressed condition of affairs in the country, but receipts from animal traffic increased £43,650, or 11.17 per cent., and from goods £50,830, or 4.4 per cent. Receipts per train mile were 6d. higher at 12s. 2½d., while the cost of working increased 4½d. to 7s. 3½d. per train mile. The ratio of expenses to receipts was 0.85 per cent. higher at 59.67 per cent., but this was entirely accounted for by exceptional expenditure, amounting to £123,000, due to floods. Otherwise expenses would have shown a substantial reduction, £50,000 being saved on maintenance of way, £17,000 on locomotive running, £28,000 on traffic expenses, and £8,000 on general charges. Evidently rigid economy has been practised in all departments, and it is certainly unfortunate that the company should have been so heavily penalised by circumstances beyond its control at a time when business was disturbed by the international situation as well as internal conditions. The balance-sheet shows an expenditure of £648,450 on capital account, but £380,000 was paid up on the 4 per cent. debenture stock and £800,000 on the new 5 per cent. terminable debentures, so that the balance at the credit of capital account has been increased by £505,000 to £1,990,000. It is only fair to regard recent setbacks as temporary, and although the general manager does not venture on any forecast as to the immediate future owing to the abnormal circumstances prevailing, the prospects need not be considered discouraging.

Gross receipts of the Cordoba Central Railway Co., Ltd., likewise showed a reduction of £277,306 last year ended June 30. That made them £1,691,714, but working expenses were brought down by £145,536 to £1,202,462, and consequently the nett profit of £489,252 was only £121,770 worse, the percentage of expenses to receipts having risen by 2.62 per cent. to 71.08 per cent. Fixed charges of various kinds differed little in aggregate, but the reduction of £170,586 in the charge of the 4 per cent. first debenture stock was more than balanced by the interest on the 4½ per cent. second debenture stock and the 6 per cent. three-year notes. Altogether these charges took £552,937, so that the revenue failed to meet this draft by £60,743. This seems rather a disappointing start for the reorganised and consolidated Cordoba Central system, but it is only a temporary disappointment, we feel sure, in spite of the fact that the sugar cane crop in Tucuman has been hurt by frosts. Prospects are good for a larger cereal traffic, and with vigilant management the system ought to pull round soon. To meet liabilities on capital account as they fall due 6 per cent. three-year notes to the amount of £248,600 have been issued. To help matters, the company's rates have been raised by 10 per cent. since the 1st inst., in common with the rates of all other Argentine railways. On the other hand, the Argentine Congress has passed a law ordering a pension fund for railway employees to be created, and that will, for a time at least, add to the working charges. Capital expenditure last year came to £357,445, and the deficit on the revenue account is carried to the balance-sheet for the time being. It will have to be wiped out before any question of dividends to stockholders comes into view.

It is something just now to be able to turn the eye to any part of the world where hope can be stimulated,

and everybody, therefore, is indebted to Sir Robert Harvey, the chairman of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., for his stimulating account of the state of business and prospects in Argentine. Some of the figures given in his speech, printed on another page, are distinctly encouraging. During the past year, he told his shareholders, 2,500,000 tons of wheat were exported by the Republic, compared with 900,000 tons in the previous year, and the maize crop available for export amounts to 5,000,000 tons, of which only 3,000,000 tons has thus far been shipped. In the previous year the total shipments came to only 1,800,000 tons. There has been no great rise in the quantity of wool sent away, but values have risen about 50 per cent., and in values will be found the greatest immediate stimulus, although it is in the quantities the country can produce and send away that the real foundation of durable prosperity lies. Crop prospects, moreover, are good, as a telegram from the Buenos Ayres manager of the bank received on Wednesday indicates: "Wheat in general excellent. Oats very good owing to further rains. Linseed average. Maize too early to report, but expect some damage from locusts. Local financial position steadily improving." That last fact is the most satisfactory of all, for the strain that credit users and lenders have been passing through during the past two years at least has been far more acute throughout Argentine than we have any idea. From Chile likewise Sir Robert had good news to give. That Republic has been very severely struck by the outbreak of war, because the belligerent countries, its former customers, used to take about 60 per cent. of its output of nitrate, and there has been no time to fill this gap by opening new markets. Still, it is expected that this year 40,000,000 quintals, as compared with the former 60,000,000, will be exported, and the price is now 9s. 3d. per quintal, as compared with 6s. 6d. last year, so that the money lost will be far less than the reduction in weight would imply. Nevertheless, the Chilean exchange is low, and at the date when this bank balance-sheet was made up under 8d. per \$. It has recovered to 9d., however, and as Chile will have to lean on her own resources for a good many years, there will be ample time given for that internal development of resources which will form the first guarantee of a permanent recovery.

But for the war it is evident that the Nigerian Railway would have done very well in 1914. From the report of Mr. A. S. Cooper, the general manager, it appears that the gross earnings for the first seven months of the year amounted to £507,500, or an average monthly revenue of £72,500, compared with an average of £59,500 in 1913. For the last five months, however, the earnings were only £242,700, or an average of £48,540. The accounts for the whole year show a gross revenue of £763,900, an increase of £50,280, or 7 per cent. Traffics suffered a severe setback owing to general depression and to the cessation of trading by alien enemy firms, who were doing a large business with the railway. Although the amount of produce available was not much affected, European markets were very uncertain, and the position was further aggravated in the case of the palm kernel trade by the fact that most of the crushing mills were owned in Germany. Working expenditure amounted to £448,980, an increase of £63,850, the ratio to receipts rising from 53.97 per cent. to 58.77 per cent. Capital expenditure amounted to £562,000, raising the total to £6,656,500. Nett receipts came to £314,930, a decrease of £13,500, while interest charges were £260,100, leaving a balance of £54,830. Sinking funds, however, require £62,230, against £32,950, so that the final result is a debit of £7,400, which becomes a charge on the debt of the colony. With regard to traffic prospects, the general manager does not think that the earning power of the railway is permanently impaired, but during the war he estimates the earnings at only 65 per cent. of what might be expected under normal circumstances. In this respect he is perhaps rather pessimistic, as he lays



particular stress on the cessation of ground nut traffic owing to the elimination of Germany, but if the goods are there, plenty of buyers will be found as soon as it is known that supplies are available. Anyhow, the railway is doing good work, and although the ratio of expenses is likely to increase until traffics recover, with the probability of heavier deficits for some time, we have no doubt that in the long run it will justify the capital expended on it.

In several directions conditions were unfavourable for the San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Co., Ltd., in the half-year to June 30 last, and in addition to reduced traffics the company had to contend with a heavy fall in the exchange, the average rate being only 12.835d. against 15.988d. Consequently it is not surprising to find that the receipts of the main line were £165,450 less at £616,175, but it was found possible to reduce working expenses by no less than £200,000, which is a remarkable achievement in view of the fact that they were cut down £121,000 a year ago. The ratio to receipts is now 71.54 per cent. against 82.09 per cent. last year, but we hope economies are not being pushed too far and on wrong lines. We notice, for instance, that maintenance of way is nearly £80,000 less, and wagon repairs £25,000 less, which gives furiously to think, but no exception can be taken to savings of £42,000 on tractive power, £40,000 on traffic expenses, and £6,000 on general charges. Nett revenue comes out at £175,350, an increase of £35,400, and on the Bragantina section the nett income is £6,864, an increase of £4,440. The balance brought in was £53,400 less at £281,763, and interest produced £11,000 less, while £76,900 is written off for depreciation of investments, with the result that the available balance is almost exactly £100,000 lower at £346,275. However, the dividend of 10 per cent. per annum is repeated, but it may be mentioned that two years ago there was a bonus of 2 per cent. in addition, and last year £60,000 was set aside for income-tax. There remains £171,275, or £40,000 less, to be carried forward. Conditions in Brazil have been extremely depressed, and the flow of immigrants has been arrested, the company carrying only 6,240 free as against 39,260 last year, but there is reason to hope for a turn in the tide, and the coffee crop, on which the prosperity of a large portion of the country so greatly depends, is estimated at 12,000,000 against 9,000,000 bags. The San Paulo has still very substantial reserves, but we hope it will not, or have to, cut into them too deeply.

A solid improvement in the profits of Baldwins, Ltd., is shown in its report for the year closed June 30 last. The total nett, including everything, was £266,237, an increase of £51,059. Of that increase, £15,781 was absorbed by additional management expenses and income-tax, directors' and trustees' fees, &c., which aggregate £31,254. Also £14,532 was spent on alterations, but that was £732 less than for the previous year. On the other hand, £45,000, against £30,000, was assigned for depreciation. Only after these charges were met did the balance available for the shareholders emerge, and this shows an increase of £21,010 at £121,844. Adding to this £69,889 brought forward, which was £20,834 more, there is £41,844 more at £191,733 available, out of which the ordinary stock receives 10 per cent. for the year, viz., an interim of 2½ and a final 7½ per cent., tax free. Then £50,000, or twice the apportionment of a year ago, is added to the reserve, raising it to £325,000, and the balance finally left to carry forward is still £16,844 up at £86,733. These details show that the company's financial position is vigilantly safeguarded, and no policy could be more worthy of commendation at the present time. The balance-sheet shows an extension of both the current assets and liabilities, amounts due by the company on trading account being £63,429 higher at £363,823. Against this, stock-in-hand has risen £22,909 to £430,555, and investments are £53,540 higher at £261,447. This last figure,

though, does not relate to current savings, but to past savings, and it is in current trade debtors, &c., £40,950 up at £357,076, that we see the effect of the large volume of business going on, and the offset to the increase in the company's own floating obligations. But along with this increase cash, &c., is £37,855 higher at £134,222, and as the premiums paid to the Sun Life Assurance for the redemption of debentures and the depreciation of leaseholds shows an increase of £11,357 at £108,850, it may be said that the financial position of the company is guarded at all points.

It is always interesting to observe how the banks throughout the country have met the strain put upon them by this civilisation-devouring war, and when we find a comparatively small bank like the North of Scotland and Town and County Bank, Ltd., whose headquarters are in Aberdeen, able to put £1,696,000 into war stocks between the beginning of October last year and September 30 this year, we can form some conception of the whole-hearted way in which the duty of supporting the Government has been accepted in Scotland. Besides that large investment, not quite fully paid up at the date of the balance-sheet, the bank held at September 30, the date at which its accounts are made up, £760,000 in Treasury bills. Where did it get all the money to lay by in these ways? Was its ordinary business hurt in the effort? Not in the least. That is to say, the total of "bills discounted, advances on cash credits and on securities," &c., does show a diminution of £527,932 at £3,937,852, but that is not greater than the inevitable slackness of business might be expected to produce, and the real source from which the means were drawn to help the Government in its war was the bank's loans to the London Stock Exchange. These show a reduction of £1,081,202 on the 12 months' comparison, and, at the same time, the bank's direct temporary loans on stocks and other marketable securities to its own customers fell off by £134,960 to £723,106. Altogether,



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## DARKENED STREETS

Now that enforced lighting restrictions are in operation, it is more than ever necessary to take great care in crossing the streets, and to make use of the refuges provided for people wishing to cross the road.

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In crossing a street look out for approaching traffic from the right hand until the centre of the roadway is reached, then from the left hand. The straight way is the shortest way. Don't cross obliquely, especially at the intersection of two streets. It is also useful to remember that at recognised crossings policemen are on duty. Cross at a street lamp so as to be seen.

★ ★ ★

When hailing a bus passengers should endeavour to stand under or as near as possible to a street lamp, and give a direct signal to stop the bus by holding up the hand. This gives the motor-bus driver an opportunity of seeing a prospective passenger some yards in advance and bringing the bus to a stop safely and conveniently.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.





therefore, it managed to get £1,216,000, mostly from off the London market, to put into the Government stocks. In one sense the money soon came back, or is in process of coming back, to London, but it will be there now as the result of the loan operation, and in all probability the position of the Stock Exchange at least is all the healthier for the transfer. In proof that ordinary business of the bank was wonderfully good is the fact that profits for the year were slightly higher instead of being reduced. The total shows an increase of £36,330 at £169,906, but £34,164 of that increase was in the balance brought forward, so that the actual increase in the year's clear revenue was only £2,166. But it was ample in the circumstances, and the board is able to continue the dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, with this difference only that the distribution for the final half of the year is paid less income-tax, whereas the dividend paid in May last was free of income-tax. No doubt henceforth all bank dividends will be paid "less tax." The balance left to carry forward is £41,424 up at £93,500, beyond which there is a reserve fund of £452,500. At no point is there any indication of unusual recourse to credit by the bank's *clientèle*, unless it be in the expansion of £151,283 in the note circulation, which stood at £1,054,560 when the balance was struck. Deposit liabilities have risen £736,335 to £9,406,915, and including the paid-up capital of the bank, which is £652,000, the balance-sheet total is now £11,906,078.

Like the majority of banks in the Commonwealth, the English, Scottish and Australian Bank felt the effects of the exceptional conditions which prevailed during the year ended June 30. Gross profits, however, were only £4,862 down at £280,998, so that the shrinkage was not very serious, but unfortunately it was accompanied by an increase of no less than £17,988, to £180,813, in management expenses, income-tax, &c. The decrease in net profits was partly offset by the larger balance of £43,084 brought in, but after setting aside the usual £15,000 for reserve the available surplus was still £12,355 down at £128,269. Of this an additional £35,000 is again transferred to reserve, raising that fund to £400,000, and £14,385 is appropriated as before to the purchase and cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock, while the shareholders also get their regular dividend of 8 per cent., but the contribution to the officers' guarantee and provident fund is halved at £2,500, and £33,229 less at £9,854 is carried forward. The amount set aside last year for the purchase of deferred inscribed deposit stock enabled the directors to buy £16,600 nominal, or £900 more, reducing the amount outstanding to £686,000. Current accounts have risen by £282,836 to £3,323,946, but deposits at interest are £81,967 lower at £3,734,851, and bills payable and other liabilities have been reduced by £17,101 to £532,445. Cash and bullion in hand shows a substantial increase of £598,492 at £2,430,683, but money at bankers and at short notice is £93,886 down at £756,717, while investments are £181,990 up at £364,036. Bills receivable and remittances in transit, however, are £93,468 smaller at £1,243,664, and advances and other assets show a decrease of £373,579 at £6,079,186. Bank premises are £15,076 down at £284,953, through the cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock.

In its June half of this year the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., made a gross profit of 19,885,045 yen, this amount including 1,335,248 yen brought forward, and representing a decrease of 3,127,603 yen on the corresponding half of last year. The whole of this decrease was due to the business of the six months because the balance forward was 67,760 yen better. Yet it is not at all a depressing exhibit in the circumstances, and the gross decline has been counterbalanced by a reduction in charges, which were brought down by 3,200,821 yen to 16,346,421 yen. Accordingly the actual balance of nett revenue available for distribution is 73,218 yen better at 3,538,624 yen, and the

directors, after placing 50,000 yen more at 400,000 yen to the reserve fund, are able to continue the dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, with 23,218 yen more at 1,338,624 yen left to carry forward. That seems good conservative finance. The reserve fund stands in the balance-sheet at 19,600,000 yen against a paid-up capital of 30,000,000 yen, besides which there is a reserve of 1,175,281 yen put aside for doubtful debts. Deposits of all sorts are 23,776,768 yen down at 163,455,607 yen, and there is a decrease of 44,896,476 yen in bills payable, acceptances, &c., whose total is 101,034,821 yen. Cash, amongst the assets, is also 8,838,943 yen less at 34,885,930 yen, and bills receivable, &c., the largest agglomerate in the exhibit, show a reduction of 40,007,687 yen at 155,437,683 yen. Also discounts, loans and advances are 24,214,924 yen down at 103,882,792 yen, and the balance-sheet altogether is 70,169,047 yen lower in aggregate at 324,378,790 yen.

It will be remembered that a year ago A. and F. Pears, Ltd., entered into an arrangement with Lever Bros., Ltd., whereby the existing ordinary shares became 12 per cent. preferred ordinary and Lever Bros. subscribed £150,000 new ordinary, which was to be invested in the latter's 15 per cent. preferred ordinary shares. From this investment an additional income of £27,600 was anticipated, but the nett profit for the year to June 30 is only £17,200 higher. Details are not given, and therefore it is impossible to say whether a full year's income on the new investment has been received or whether the difference is accounted for by a falling off in general trade. With £2,400 less brought in the available balance is £14,800 higher at £113,060, and after paying the fixed dividend of 12 per cent. on the preferred ordinary and placing £10,000 as before to reserve, it is proposed to pay 20 per cent. per annum on the new ordinary as from January 27 last, absorbing £12,657 and leaving £30,003, or £4,245 less, to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet, except those incidental to the increased capital, are neither important nor illuminative, but Sir Thomas Dewar's speech at the forthcoming meeting will be all the more interesting on that account.

In view of the chairman's statement with regard to the prospects of the current year, at the meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. in May, the announcement of an interim dividend on the ordinary shares did not come altogether as a surprise, although the actual rate of 4 per cent. per annum was better than had been expected. Last year the company's trade was poor even before the war, owing to the depression in South America, and it was only able to meet the debenture interest and preference dividend by withdrawing £200,000 from the reserve. Since then, however, substantial benefits have been derived from the high freight rates, especially for the carriage of meat, and while the Government has now taken over the whole of the refrigerating accommodation, the rates paid are believed to have been increased by about ½d. per lb. The fact that the interim dividend is at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum has raised hopes that the results for the full year will enable the company to return to the level of 1913, when 6 per cent. was paid.

Canadian Northern Railway System.—In consequence of the operation of all the railways of the system as one great consolidated enterprise, and the commencement of the regular Trans-continental service on and after November 1 next, the weekly and monthly publication of the separate earnings of the Canadian Northern Railway will be discontinued, and those of the entire system substituted.

Nobel Dynamite Trust Co., Ltd.—The agreements with the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg and Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Glasgow, having now been concluded, shareholders are asked to surrender their preference and ordinary shares in this company to be exchanged for shares in Nobel's Explosives Co. The shares may be delivered to the company's office, the Union Bank of Scotland, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, the London City and Midland Bank, Birmingham, or the Belfast Banking Co., Belfast, when receipts will be given pending the preparation of the share certificates.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened an agency at Porterville Road, near Tulbagh, in the Cape Province.



## The Bulgarian Eruption.

After 14 months of uninterrupted writing and observation upon the war, it became imperative to take a short rest. This Editor therefore went to France to compare popular sentiments and the position there with what we find at home. The shifted point of view afforded valuable instruction. In both countries there is the same resolute determination to carry this war through until an end is made for ever to Prussian militarism and the Prussian spirit of aggression. And in France, as in the United Kingdom, the delay in attaining this imperative finality not only creates a feeling of disappointment amongst large classes of the community, but a spirit of carping, of critical detraction and occasionally of doubt—doubt of the capacity of leaders, of the guiding power of ministrators who are in charge of affairs. But, as far as we can judge, there is far more of a leaning towards absolute disloyalty here than in France; far more, that is to say, of the spirit of cavilling and open fault-finding which may amount to betrayal of the nation's vital interests. Naturally all reflecting men everywhere are appalled at the boundless expense Prussian aggression has thrown upon the Powers of the *Entente*, and the feeling that, should the struggle be prolonged, we shall all be landed in bankruptcy, excites impatience, causes doubts to arise whether everything has been done with the foresight and promptitude necessary for victory, and might, if unchecked, induce a mood fatal to the establishment of a real peace. On the whole, however, the highest spirit of patriotism prevails as yet in both countries, and France in particular is bearing her share of the burden with a larger measure of self-sacrifice and community of sentiment and action between classes than we find at home. The families, for example, of the French soldiers fighting to save their country's liberties are not provided for on anything approaching the liberal scale established in this country, and it would be impossible in France to put before the Chambers such a scheme of "retaining fees" for uncalled-up recruits as that apparently to be established under Lord Derby's recruiting rally. 3s. a day for promised recruits until required would be regarded in France, and justly regarded, as a scale of payment wanton in its extravagance.

This blunder of extravagance has always been the greatest fault of the British in war making. We dash ahead with a disregard of consequences that is harrowing enough to look upon even when ordinary wars only are in question, and which becomes unspeakably abominable in its devastating consequences in a great war like the present. The governing spirit appears to be the spirit of rapine, and another year of outlay on the scale now prevalent in the British Empire would undoubtedly imperil every portion of the structure of our civilisation and threaten to drive the nation, nay, the Empire, back upon a system of social economy differing but little, if at all, from that established by the founders of Christianity. Therefore there is ground enough for apprehension at this point, and we sympathise fully with those who complain of the waste now rampant, while, at the same time, we deprecate that habit of nagging and worrying Ministers which seems to be about the only occupation left for a minority of the unemployed amongst our Members of Parliament. Could not these men be given some work to do? They talk of extravagance; why should not the Government form them into committees and make them work to check extravagance in a practical way? They may be sure that, however much their querulousness worries Ministers, the country would not tolerate any change in the management of its affairs such as success of the malcontents would imply. It wants none of them to rule it. When the news became public that the Prime Minister was ill, we are certain that the heart of the country, of the Empire, went out to him solicitously in a manner it has done towards no man who has ever presided over its affairs, at any rate since the hey-day of Mr. Gladstone's supremacy. It would be an evil day for the Empire if the Prime Minister were laid aside even for three months, for we

are at probably the most critical juncture of the whole war, and the clamouring throng would be let loose.

It has been a great disappointment to many that the area of strife should have been extended into the Balkans in a manner that compels the Allies actively to intervene there, and in France the news of Bulgaria's treachery, although not wholly unexpected, caused such keen disappointment as to render retention of the office of Foreign Minister by M. Delcassé impossible. There is injustice in this attitude, however, as in the accusations and criticisms levelled against our Government over this last disaster, out of which we are persuaded a triumph more complete will come for peace in the end than perhaps by any other road. Necessarily, in a war such as this, where the Teutonic element may be said to have suffused its influence through communities everywhere—and especially through the United Kingdom, for France is not nearly so much cursed by the spy and the German sympathiser as we are—it is impossible for any Government to be as frank as it could and would be, say, in an Afghan war or a war in China. Consequently, in this Balkan affair the appearance of being taken by surprise does not represent the reality at all. Months back preparations must have been going on to meet this very event. It is, therefore, at worst only half a surprise, and in due time the onset of the traitorous Bulgars will be checked, along with that of their comrades in infamy. Throughout this war it has been the same story always. A first success of the Germans, a kind of "surprise," because, for one thing, the nations they attacked never rose to the height, or sunk to the depth, of a true conception of Prussian capacity in infamy; but if any of the combatants have thus far been really disappointed, have had their ideals destroyed, it has surely been just these Prussians and their Austrian dupes. What did they hope for when they began the war? That it would be over in a few months, like the war of 1870, or the still shorter war of 1866. It may not be over in two years, as things are now, in the still arrogant temper of the baffled invaders, and when it ends the manhood of the Central Empires will have been destroyed. Has any of the Powers on our side made a miscalculation such as this and staked existence on it? No, most assuredly not. But it is going to be the same for Prussia with this latest effort. We thoroughly endorse Mr. Belloc's argument in last week's *Land and Water* that it represents the last throw of a gambler driven desperate by his condition, by the fact that his reserves are now beginning to be depleted, and that the war's prolongation must soon wear him down to exhaustion point.

Months ago we were told that Austria was massing an army of enormous size—three, four, or five hundred thousand men—once more to invade and "punish" Serbia. Austria alone could not and Germany had no troops to lend to her because Russia was absorbing all her available men left over after the numbers necessary to hold the front in France and Flanders. So Bulgaria, a willing because greedy victim, was easily tempted in with promises of grand things to be done for that miserable interloper, Ferdinand, a being repudiated even by his relative, the Duke of Orleans, and doubted by his all-too-hustled subjects. So now we have this fourth battle front upon us—nay, this fifth, if we include Italy, or sixth, should the Tigris Valley be also taken in. But this does not mean that the Germans are any nearer victory than they were in September twelvemonth. On the contrary, it means that they are nearer exhaustion, and after a few advances, and "triumphs" perhaps, here and there, railway cuttings and suchlike, captures of prisoners, seizures of towns, the Balkan wave will probably subside like the rest. Then the winter of the Balkans will take its toll of the lives of the aggressors, even as that of Russia. The faster they perish the easier will be the arrangement of the peace. For heaven's sake, then, drop snarling and misrepresenting. Could we have landed troops within a day or two after the declaration of war by Ferdinand's Government if we had been taken wholly by "surprise"? It must have taken many weeks to assemble, organise, and equip these



troops. Really, publicists and members of Parliament should think a little before worrying, like a pack of undisciplined whelps, men who are spending their utmost energy in endeavouring to steer the affairs of the country through the most fate-laden crisis in its history.

As regards Italy, we found in France that considerable bitterness of feeling existed, amounting in some instances to a sentiment that Italy was not dealing squarely with the Allies of the Triple Entente. "She has not declared war on Germany," it was pointed out to us, "therefore a German submarine in the Adriatic might torpedo a French war vessel with an Italian one standing by and refusing to interfere." The accusation is strong and became clothed with a plausibility almost unanswerable when it appeared for a moment as if Italy meant to refuse participation also over this Bulgarian outburst. But Italy has not played traitor, and it is unfair to regard her action in refusing to declare war on Germany as well as on Austria as an unfriendly act to us, the sore pressed. The Italians are a prudent people, and wisely decided to take on but one job at a time. They had no immediate chance of reaching Germany to hit her; it was not necessary, therefore, to put Germany in a position to inflict injuries upon Italian commerce or the Italian navy that could not be revenged. The fullest and most effective assistance was given when the Austrian was gored in his vitals. But Italy has also declared war on Bulgaria in all loyalty because the Balkans concern her, and are also interfered with by her immediate enemy, the Austrian. All this is well, makes for accord, and the ill-feeling existing in France, the doubt, will probably now soon disappear. Nothing assuredly requires to be more urgently preached day in and out than harmony, the avoidance of all suspicion or jealousy between the Great Powers now fighting the Prussian barbarian. Our lives as civilised nations, as upholders of national rights, defenders of liberty, depend upon the strenuousness with which all of us work towards, not only a sentimental, but a whole-hearted economic accord.

It is needless to add that the failure of Greece to range her troops instantly on the side of Serbia has also been a keen disappointment. Many hard words are used to characterise this "betrayal," as it is called, as well as the apparently cold-blooded self-seeking of Rumania. Had these two small Powers, whose fortunes are bound up in that of the Balkan territory, joined Serbia loyally and at once when the Bulgarian traitor first showed his hand, it is plausibly argued that a further extension of the European War might have been averted. Perhaps, we do not know, and shall not yet fall foul of either people. That their attitude disappoints goes without saying, but both Greece and Rumania are under the heel of the Hohenzollerns so far as Government is concerned, and to expect peoples so young in freedom to arise and assert their will against the established forms and machinery of government, foisted upon them with our assistance and consent, is to place them on a higher moral pedestal than they have reached. What Greece has to do with kings we have never been able to realise, for surely all the glory of ancient Greece should make the modern Greek anything but the willing tool of a king. Both Greece and Rumania, however, may in the end serve the Allies better by their abstention than by their active interference. Both would probably want to be paid for their services, and heavily paid, did they actively assist in defeating the Teuton. Both, therefore, can be the easier denied inordinate ambitions if they stand aside now, and in any event it must never be forgotten that one of the essentials to a real peace, a peace that shall last and give mankind time to recuperate, is the disarmament of these smaller Powers. Their freedom shall be absolute in all that concerns their own affairs, but it must not be permissible for States like Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, or even Serbia, to entertain large armies with a view to future conflicts with each other or to united aggression against an outside neighbour. So, after all, this betrayal of the Greeks and selfish-looking aloofness of the

Rumanians may turn out to be for the best in the end. Our task now is made a little harder thereby, but we shall be equal to it, and time is more and more on our side.

### Australian Commonwealth Finance.

Like ourselves here, nothing comparable to a fixed Budget is just now possible for the Australian Commonwealth. Accordingly, Mr. Fisher, the Prime Minister, has not attempted to do more than put forward a provisional estimate. We gave some particulars of that when the figures first appeared, but now find them stated with greater fulness, and expounded with its usual lucidity by the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*. Therefore, it is well to return to the subject, because in finance, as in fighting, it cannot be too much insisted on that the interests of the home countries and of the colonies are one. We stand or fall together, and not one portion of the Imperial community can take an independent step regardless of what the effect may be upon any other portion. Much the same consequence of this war, as we also must continually insist, will inevitably follow for the nations of the *Entente*. They must all stand in together, shape their taxes so as to help each other and their commercial and fiscal policy so as to remove every obstruction in the way of the full development of the industrial energies of all. With Australia—indeed, with Australia and New Zealand—the problem to be faced is complicated in a variety of ways, not least by the fact that these States are already profoundly indebted to the Mother country. They have drawn the capital by which they have risen to their present state of development and civilisation from us, and, therefore, one prime consideration which must be kept in view when remodelling the taxation of any of these States is the avoidance as far as may be of injury to the home creditor. How will that creditor be affected is a vital question in view of future necessities. For instance, there is to be a new income-tax in Australia, apparently of a maximum weight equal to our own—say 5s. in the £, for that seems to be the levy contemplated upon large incomes. Now, if a tax of this magnitude has to be paid on incomes originating in Australia, and one of a similar weight borne by the same income when brought to this country, it will follow that the man who had a revenue of, say, £5,000 before taxation, will henceforth have it cut down to £2,500. "No great hardship," the casual passer-by may sneer, but that depends. It might be a joint-stock company which was thus struck, and how would its shareholders regard the position if they found that the small individual incomes they drew from the company were reduced by half? That is but one point which has to be considered, but there are others relating to the probability of capital being kept out of Australia by such taxation and the consequent impossibility of carrying on what may be called the "business" of the young nations on the pre-war scale, because native means cannot be found to supplement the means from abroad henceforth denied.

It would be very easy to animadvert upon the extravagance of the Australian Governments, and we are, on the whole, far from displeased to find the *Record* harping a little upon this point, but do not like to keep shouting, "We told you all this a generation ago," and it is not necessary. The lessons administered by the fruits of wild borrowing and too ambitious attempts to spring to the height of an old civilisation in comfort and accessories within a lifetime are going to be driven home to the people of these young States when this war is over with a force no preacher of financial thrift and forethought could ever hope to exercise, and the young nations will probably be allowed time enough to imbibe the instruction given. Just look at the figures. Take the subjoined table, which gives the estimate of revenue and expenditure up to June 30 next, or for the year 1915-16, as presented by Mr. Fisher in August last:—



## COMMONWEALTH INCOME AND OUTGO.

	Actual. 1914-15.	Estimate. 1915-16.
<b>Expenditure.</b>	£	£
1. Defence—		
Special war expenditure .....	14,792,960	45,749,450
Ordinary services .....	2,723,771	3,909,590
New works .....	1,186,785	2,051,679
2. Other expenditure—		
Ordinary .....	11,497,221	13,766,435
War pensions .....	—	500,000
New works .....	1,483,451	1,775,950
Total .....	31,684,188	67,753,104
<b>Revenue.</b>		
Gross .....	22,411,710	23,540,000
Less payments to States .....	6,363,774	6,290,000
Nett revenue .....	16,047,936	17,250,000
Deficit (nett) .....	15,636,252	50,503,104

The deficits for the two years are provided for as follows:—

	Actual. 1913-14.	Estimate. 1915-16.
	£	£
Accumulated funds brought forward ..	1,224,347	—
War Loan from British Government ..	14,100,000	10,400,000
Treasury bills .....	311,905	—
Commonwealth Loan .....	—	20,000,000
Income tax .....	—	4,000,000
To be otherwise provided .....	—	16,103,104
	15,636,252	50,503,104

On these figures as they stand a nett deficit of over £66,000,000 is to be expected for the two years. In the current year the direct war expenditure is put at £45,749,000, but this is exclusive of £500,000 for war pensions and £1,305,000 of interest imposed by war debts already created. Altogether, therefore, the total war outlay of the year may be put at £47,555,000. It is a formidable amount unquestionably, but if severe economies were introduced in all other departments of State, there ought to be sufficient resources in the countries affected to enable them to wrestle with and overcome the difficulties thus represented. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any greater realisation of the necessity for public economy in Australia and New Zealand than there is here. The ordinary borrowing outlays of the various States would seem to be looked upon as a matter of course, and should that be so, all we can say is, trouble for them all is not far off. It will simply be impossible for either the Commonwealth, or any one of the States composing it, to go on raising money for public works and to nourish public extravagance of many kinds in the years to come as they did before the war. As it stands, and after assuming that £30,400,000 can be got outside, the Commonwealth Budget shows a deficit of over £16,000,000, which can only be provided for by new taxes. Let us assume, and it is a formidable assumption, that this large sum of money will be found, in the main at least, by fresh taxes. But where? from what source? Surely the unfortunate habit of reasoning which we have for so many years trounced Australians for continues to mislead their administrative economists. The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, Mr. Fisher, talks, it seems, of the country being able to find hundreds of millions of revenue were they necessary, and no doubt bases this imaginary state of independence and wealth on the fantastic exhibits of riches continually set forth by official colonial statisticians. The land is worth so much, the buildings worth so much, the railways so much, the stock of sheep and cattle so much, with other items added, and the sum of the "wealth" is dazzling. It has never been grasped, to all appearance, that this figuring up does not represent available wealth. Not one-fiftieth part of it is free capital that can be drawn upon at need. It is at best fixed wealth, property representing money spent, and at worst it is the vague fantastic assumption of a capitalised value placed on assets not in being, regulated according to the fervency of the imaginations engaged on the exercise in arithmetic—values placed upon unoccupied lands, undeveloped, or even, it may be, undiscovered layers of mineral wealth and other such phantasmagoria of the heated imagination as can only beguile. That Australia has measureless potential

wealth, that, time given, this wealth will furnish large means with which to meet debt and other charges, are facts unquestionable, but it is just as true that unless rigid economy is enforced now in all departments of public expenditure, the war will bring such a crisis upon the young Commonwealth as no dependency of any great empire ever passed through in the history of the world.

Already, as readers know, the first quarter of a loan of £20,000,000 has been triumphantly raised in Australia, and that is an excellent augury for the future, or would be if it did not stimulate the people and the Ministries of the various States to hold on to the belief that they also can go on doing this kind of thing. We fear they cannot, partly because their wealth is mostly borrowed, or largely unrealisable, or the product of capital already spent and irrecoverable. How much of the actual wealth of the colonies is mortgaged, for example, and how their sustaining power may be affected this year by the drought which has prevailed, and which has adversely affected the prospects of the wool crop, as well as of meat and other exports, are questions on which never a thought seems to be bestowed. The margin is ever narrow, even in the best of years, and it is a noticeable fact, also pointed out by the *Record*, that over a period of nine years ending with June 30 last the nett excess of exports of merchandise over imports was under £24,000,000. That was not nearly half enough to cover the interest on the debt payable here. In the five seasons ended with June, 1911, the exports of merchandise, however, exceeded the imports by £38,075,000, so that there would seem to have been then something like a tendency to improve. Yet this inference would be quite misleading, because subsequent years showed a profusion in importing on loans which wiped out all trace of progress towards self-dependency. In 1911-12 imports exceeded exports in value by £4,676,000, and in the succeeding year ended June 30, 1913, the excess was £7,207,000. As for the year ended June 30 last, its excess of £4,995,000 in the value of imports over exports may be accounted for by the war, so that we will not insist upon the continuance of a most dangerous economic profusion, but enough remains to show that there is urgent necessity for immediate and stringent measures of economy to be taken by all the Australian Governments. They cannot now borrow here; they are not able to borrow enough within their own borders to meet the war expenditure and also to enable them to continue the sustenance of industries, the upkeep and expansion of railways, and other more or less legitimate enterprises that could have been persevered with in time of peace. We shall all have to economise, pull in our horns and go slow, but the Governments must begin, and begin at once.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In the year ended June 30 the New Dimbula Co. secured a yield of 660 lbs. per acre, or an increase of 101 lbs., with the result that the total crop was 266,134 lbs. larger at 1,620,415 lbs., while the f.o.b. cost was reduced by 3.48 cents to 27.66 cents. At the same time the price realised was 1.33d. higher at 10d., so that the company benefited both ways, and the nett profits, after making provision for several special items, showed an improvement of no less than £13,276 at £30,129. Of this, £1,000 is reserved for income-tax and £1,090 for depreciation of investments, leaving, with £2,287 brought forward, £30,326, or £9,090 more available. The directors, however, have in mind the new excess profits tax, and after paying the usual dividend of 20 per cent., they content themselves with increasing the bonus from 4 per cent. to 6, bringing the distribution back to the level of 1912-13, and carry forward £9,798, or £7,511 more. Property account stands at the old figure of £78,162, and the reserve is also unaltered at £17,000. Investments, too, are unchanged at £17,379, but the depreciation on these now amounts to £3,865, compared with £1,014 a year ago, and is only partly met by the present appropriation from revenue. Stocks of produce



are £15,548 larger at £27,243, and cash has been reduced by £975 to £15,424, while current liabilities have risen by £2,073 to £16,415.

Thanks in great measure to the big jump in tea values the Kintyre Tea Estates Co. did exceedingly well in the year ended June 30. Owing to the cutting out of a number of the tea bushes in 1913-14, a crop of 390,000 lbs. had been expected, but the actual outturn was rather larger than that of the previous season at 444,125 lbs. The cost was reduced by 0.63d. to 4.77d. per lb., while the price for the portion sold in London rose by 2.16d. to 11.14d., and the balance sold in Colombo realised 7.97d. nett. Rubber fell short of the estimate, but exceeded the previous crop by 24,928 lbs. at 120,740 lbs., while, against a drop of 2.98d. to 2s. 1.26d. in the nett price, the cost of production was reduced by 0.89d. to 1s. 2.18d. Nett profits amounted to £13,652, or an increase of £3,804, of which £3,488 came from tea, and after meeting home charges and writing off £985 for coast advances, compared with £500 transferred to the reserve against this item, the surplus was £3,320 better at £12,024. Of this £1,000 is again written off machinery, but the reserve for rubber extensions gets nothing compared with £3,000 a year ago, and the directors proceed to divide the surplus up to the hilt by declaring a dividend on the ordinary shares of 21 per cent., as against 6 per cent. The payment absorbs £10,054, and leaves a slightly smaller balance of £3,459 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure for the year was only £209, and the cost of the properties, including £19,775 spent on rubber, is £791 lower at £81,816, against which the only reserves are £8,000 for rubber extensions and £4,315 derived from premium on shares.

At the meeting of the Anglo-Java Rubber and Produce Co., on Wednesday, the chairman stated that the directors had been considering a proposal for the reduction of the capital which is not represented by available assets. The balance-sheet contained a number of items such as preliminary expenses, underwriting commission, cost of debenture interest, and London expenditure, amounting in the aggregate to £82,922, which must be regarded as capital irretrievably lost. In addition, there was the money spent on the Poeger estates, which have been pronounced unsuitable for the company's purposes, and are to be surrendered in order to relieve the company of the burden of the rent of £1,690. It was therefore suggested that £120,000, or 6s. per share, should be written off the capital, and that the shares should be subdivided into 2s. shares. A special meeting is to be held on October 29 to consider the matter, but an informal expression of opinion by the shareholders showed that they approved of the suggestion.

A circular has been issued by the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields stating that in view of the conditions it has become necessary to revise the programme of operations. For some time past the output of oil has been unsatisfactory, and at the present rate of production and expenditure the company's available resources would not last far into next year. The directors, however, state that they have every reason to hope that the boring operations now being conducted, if freed from such obligations as are unsuited to existing conditions, can be carried on with greater economy and despatch, and may result in securing a paying production. In order to attain this end and to subject the fields to a sufficient test, the co-operation of the Egyptian Government and of the shareholders is necessary, and Sir Reginald MacLeod, K.C.B., has been requested to proceed to Egypt to represent the directors' views to the Government. On his return the directors hope that the prospects may be such as to justify them in inviting the shareholders to provide the further capital required. Of the total capital of £1,100,000 in £1 shares the Egyptian Government holds 100,000 "C" shares, and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. 336,000 "A" shares, while the 664,000 "B" shares are in the hands of the public. If satisfactory arrangements can be made and prospects are held to justify further outlay, the additional capital required might be from £50,000 to £100,000.

It is satisfactory to find that the directors of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. have been able to come to an agreement with respect to the various matters over which the recent dispute arose. The amended report now issued states that Mr. Herbert Allen has consented to resume the chairmanship of the company, and that Mr. R. R. Tweed, the late manager at Baku, has agreed to act as managing director for three years. In the accounts as originally presented the question of depreciation was one of the rocks on which the directors split, and a compromise appears to have been made, as the new balance-sheet sets out the assets in the manner adopted by Mr. Rutherford, but Mr. Allen's method is accepted of setting aside a lump sum for depreciation instead of writing specified amounts off certain assets. The balance on profit and loss account remains at £27,286, and the provision for depreciation is also unchanged at £60,236, but of this £41,513 has been written off and £18,724 has been transferred to a reserve against contingencies arising out of the absence of certain inventories. These appropriations leave a debit of £32,950, of which £10,527 is met by the balance brought forward and £22,422 by a transfer from the general reserve set aside a year ago.

**SUNGEI SIPUT RUBBER.**—Being a comparatively young producer, the costs are naturally high, but substantial progress in their reduction was made during the year ended June 30. The output was 36,799 lbs. larger at 101,523 lbs., and the all-in cost, exclusive of 0.36d. for war risk insurance, showed a decrease of no less than 9.12d. at 1s. 6.63d. As the nett price realised was only 0.66d. lower at 1s. 11.66d., the receipts were £3,447 up at £10,193, and after providing for proportion of London office expenses, interest, &c., there was a profit of £1,406, compared with a loss of £1,197 a year ago, which reduces the debit balance to £1,104. Development expenditure amounted to £1,788, but £700 was received from the sale of an estate of 14 acres, leaving the property account £1,088 up on balance at £43,944, against which the company has increased its indebtedness on loans by £750 to £8,450. A crop of 130,000 lbs. is expected in the current year.

**PERMAS RUBBER.**—During the year ended June 30 a crop of 211,536 lbs., or 87,569 lbs. more, was harvested, and the "all-in" cost was reduced by 3.79d. to 1s. 6.11d. At the same time the average nett price improved by .5d. to 2s. 1.70d., and nett profits were £5,855 larger at £8,420. Although these profits would have permitted of a larger distribution, the directors prefer to restrict their dividend to 5 per cent., which, however, compares with nothing in the previous year, and instead of repeating the transfer of £2,500 to reserve, they increase the sum carried forward by £4,379 to £5,133. No addition was made to the cost of the estates, which stands at £75,480, including the expenditure on maintenance and development up to June 30, 1914, while the depreciation allowance on buildings, &c., exceeded the outlay by £1,128, reducing the cost to £4,569. Stocks are £8,201 up at £13,465, and while, on the other hand, liabilities on loans have been increased by £2,201 to £3,501, bills payable of £4,004 have been paid off.

**BATAK RABIT RUBBER.**—In the year ended June 30 a crop of 202,320 lbs., or 48,014 lbs. more, was harvested, but the gross price dropped by 3.76d. to 2s. 1.22d., and the "all-in" cost, exclusive of .45d. for war risk insurance, was only 1.25d. down at 1s. 2.55d. Nett profits were a trifle smaller at £8,708, but £598 more at £2,571 was brought forward, giving £11,369 to be dealt with. Nothing is set aside, compared with the £4,500 transferred to development reserve a year ago, and the directors are, therefore, able to double the dividend at 10 per cent., making the distribution the same as two years ago, and to increase the sum carried forward by £1,209 to £3,869. Expenditure on development amounted to £2,822, making a total of £76,595, and cash was reduced by £3,836 to £8,553. For the current year a crop of 275,000 lbs. is expected.

The directors of the American Freehold Land Mortgage Company of London, Ltd., announce with deep regret the death of their colleague, Mr. F. L. H. Morrice. In his place they have elected the Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird, K.T.

## NOTICE.

### THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		Oct. 15	3,085	£ 282	*	£ 153,803	£ 11,194
Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 15	1,111	—	249	†	17,486	—
Grand Canal ..	" 15	23,285	—	365	†	960,965	+ 30,415
Great Northern ..	" 15	35,366	—	1,295	*	1,367,365	+ 100,355
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 15	15,143	+	405	*	528,869	+ 14,655
Midland Great Western ..	" 15						

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		Aug. *	£ 33,224	£ 4,472	—	£ 1,615,300	£ 243,000
Beira ..	Aug. *						
Canadian Northern ..	Oct. 14	\$767,800	+	\$113,900	c	\$32,595,000	— \$305,800
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	\$2,988,000	+	\$762,000	†	1,191,288	— 528,459
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	172,991	+	4,841	†	6,381,034	— 31,262
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	34,171	+	5,609	†	431,360	— 28,215
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	12,253	+	952	†	282,897	— 165,025
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	" 14	47,206	+	26,703	†	11,068	— 7,361
Mashonaland ..	Aug. *	49,470	—	1,930	8	69,167	— 732
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Sept. *	5,800	—	3,082	†	521,774	— 177,239
New Cape Central ..	" 25	2,073	+	595	†	1,361,425	— \$47,781
Rhodesia ..	July *	77,976	—	11,294	8		
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Sept 30a	\$77,948	+	9,607	†		

\* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. a 9 days. c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		Oct. 7	\$ 779,000	\$ 73,000	†	\$ 12,160,000	\$ 1,261,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Oct. 7						
Chicago G.W. ..	Sept 30	300,000	+	2,000	†	3,594,000	— 144,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 30	418,000	+	21,000	†	3,565,000	— 13,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Oct. 14	577,800	+	79,200	†	7,749,000	— 416,000
Louisv' & Nashv' ..	" 7	1,078,000	+	27,000	†	15,976,000	— 246,000
Min. S.P. (Soo) ..	Sept 30	956,000	+	25,000	†	7,962,000	— 63,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Oct. 7	596,000	—	70,000	†	8,297,000	— 477,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 7	1,237,000	—	1,000	†	16,474,000	— 794,000
Southern ..	" 7	1,333,000	+	38,000	†	17,346,000	— 852,000

† 9 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Sept. 18	Rs. 1,32,000	Rs. 2,586	†	Rs. 31,38,541	Rs. 54,604
Assam Bengal ..	Sept. 18						
Barsi Light ..	" 30a	24,000	+	11,400	†	5,46,200	— 20,600
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 11	27,550	—	79,510	†	82,51,810	— 13,33,152
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 18	6,93,000	—	17,000	†	1,83,89,000	— 18,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Oct. 16	11,04,000	+	1,20,000	†	26,45,000	— 3,96,000
Burma ..	Sept. 18	3,29,163	+	46,909	†	89,71,109	— 12,21,490
Delhi Umballa ..	Oct. 16	73,000	—	506	†	1,64,630	— 15,406
East Indian ..	" 16	20,35,000	—	13,000	†	47,26,000	— 2,54,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 16	15,11,600	+	1,27,300	†	33,37,500	— 3,88,100
Luoknow-Bareilly ..	Sept. 11	27,153	+	5,645	†	8,82,509	— 388
Madras and S. ..	" 18	7,75,000	+	1,48,545	†	2,18,12,639	— 13,74,072
Mabratia ..	" 18	1,71,895	+	30,012	†	39,25,365	— 34,489
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 18	1,01,317	+	22,931	†	18,16,197	— 3,91,837
Rohilkund and ..	" 11	26,298	+	1,173	†	8,27,691	— 9,564
Kumaon ..	" 18	5,41,209	+	65,449	†	1,36,80,541	— 81,951
Southern Punjab ..	June 8	6,37,843	+	75,436	†	14,32,236	— 35,513

a 12 days.

† April 1.

§ Month.

† October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atcholson T. & S. Fé	Aug.	3,601,000	+ 206,000	2	6,950,000	+ 648,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	89,000	— 15,000	2	327,000	— 94,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,395,000	+ 628,000	2	6,471,000	+ 1,432,000
Canadian Northern	"	238,800	— 5,900	2	523,900	— 151,300
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,444,000	+ 79,000	2	6,243,900	— 899,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	713,000	+ 319,000	2	1,971,000	+ 682,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,391,000	— 265,000	2	4,010,000	— 562,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	2,075,000	— 506,000	2	4,635,000	— 965,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	331,000	— 92,000	2	573,000	— 63,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	2,510,000	+ 350,000	2	5,322,000	+ 778,000
Chicago, Rock I.&P. ..	"	1,273,000	— 335,000	2	1,931,000	— 678,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	386,000	+ 20,000	2	654,000	+ 53,000
Cuba ..	"	146,634	+ 73,147	2	856,724	+ 110,602
Do. ..	"	125,386	+ 64,134	2	263,198	+ 110,739
Delaware & Hud. ..	July	833,000	+ 107,000	7	4,364,000	+ 600,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug.	840,600	+ 258,603	2	1,477,000	+ 338,000
Erie ..	"	2,269,000	+ 769,000	8	10,559,000	+ 2,046,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	\$248,700	+ \$13,000	8	\$1,507,550	+ \$5,050
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	\$39,700	+ \$14,000	8	\$24,800	+ \$63,050
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	\$24,300	+ \$10,700	8	\$6,700	+ \$45,850
Gt. Northern ..	"	2,623,000	— 600,000	2	4,989,000	— 1,130,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,123,000	— 137,000	2	1,665,000	— 312,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	332,000	+ 74,000	2	697,000	+ 4,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,230,000	— 55,000	2	2,307,000	+ 57,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,326,000	+ 341,000	2	2,506,000	+ 445,000
Min. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	833,000	+ 191,000	2	1,582,000	+ 211,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	791,000	— 15,000	2	1,262,000	— 173,000
Missouri Pacific ..	July	1,161,000	— 540,000	1	1,161,000	— 540,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Aug.	5,273,000	— 897,000	8	27,980,000	+ 8,872,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,114,000	+ 482,000	2	4,309,000	+ 1,115,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	318,000	— 74,000	2	730,000	+ 60,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,534,000	+ 489,000	2	3,222,000	+ 1,083,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,770,000	+ 598,000	2	4,565,000	+ 236,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"	10,858,000	+ 1,245,000	8	49,405,000	+ 5,253,000
Reading ..	"	567,338	+ 9,853	2	1,134,787	+ 16,491
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,137,000	— 4,000	2	2,124,000	— 16,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	339,000	+ 24,000	2	723,000	+ 74,000
Southern ..	"	1,611,000	+ 285,000	2	3,759,000	+ 438,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,597,000	+ 1,242,000	2	9,190,000	+ 2,553,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,403,000	— 53,000	2	6,252,000	+ 120,000
Wabash ..	"	910,000	+ 62,000	2	1,414,000	— 174,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	£		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	£
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 16	Ps. 9,000	+	3,000	†	Ps. 502,200	—	Ps. 26,750
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 17	22,925	+	2,435	†	987,795	—	344,115
Arauco ..	Aug.	6,756	+	375	†	55,375	—	9,974
Argentine N.E. ..	Oct. 16	7,356	+	3,056	†	105,394	—	31,424
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Sept. *	5,368	+	256	9	44,453	—	1,826
Bolivar ..	"	7,750	+	3,202	9	22,000	—	5,081
Brazil ..	Aug. *	M3,706,000	+	M133,649	8	M25,821,000	—	M788,137
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	July *	Mis. 29,800	—	M 2,900	7	M28,850	—	M18,600
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Oct. 16	78,000	+	20,000	†	1,239,000	—	259,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 17	97,000	+	29,000	†	1,293,908	—	224,967
Do. Western ..	" 17	49,000	+	12,000	†	657,000	—	111,000
Central Argentine ..	" 16	116,000	+	9,500	†	1,748,300	—	214,100
C. Ur.'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 16	11,539	+	2,474	†	165,045	—	32,524
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 16	3,760	+	1,811	†	53,315	—	15,057
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 16	1,986	+	775	†	27,359	—	6,160
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 16	1,797	+	321	†	24,178	—	5,585
Colombian National ..	Aug.	12,700	—	2,000	†	82,342	—	492
Cordoba Central ..	Oct. 16	25,150	—	14,085	†	513,950	—	82,660
Costa Rica ..	Aug. 28	5,340	—	1,303	†	39,812	—	25,727
Cuban Central ..	Oct. 9	7,907	+	2,416	†	111,279	—	15,356
Dorada Extension ..	Sept. *	8,400	+	1,400	†	71,300	—	5,300
Egyptian Delta ..	" 30a	5,368	+	1,664	†	75,165	—	20,954
Entre Rios ..	Oct. 16	11,200	+	4,200	†	142,200	—	23,300
French Sante Fé ..	Aug.	79,552	—	13,210	†	598,312	—	77,665
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 9	Ps. 50,601	—	Ps 8,240	†	Ps2,414,746	—	Ps292,557
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 16	9,000	—	600	†	388,900	—	102,100
Havana Central ..	" 16	5,381	—	630	†	85,042	—	8,422
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Sept. c	6,370	+	3,501	9	174,637	—	39,465
La Guaira and Car. ..	Sept. *	6,250	+	250	†	61,000	—	22,250
Leopoldina ..	Oct. 16	35,689	—	8,147	†	1,208,898	—	16,485
Manila (Northern) ..	" 16	3,789	—	834	†	215,066	—	39,887
Do. (Southern) ..	" 16	3,462	—	160	†	155,590	—	16,668
Midland Uruguay ..	Sept. *	9,468	+	2,241	3	32,234	—	7,857
Mogiana ..	Aug. *	M2,705,000	—	M147,267	8	M15,079,000	—	M17,494,82
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Sept. *	\$22,000	—	\$7,416	3	\$65,500	—	\$16,357
Nitrate ..	Oct. 15b	20,191	—	6,452	†	267,991	—	227,175
Paraguay Central ..	" 16	\$508,000	—	\$273,000	†	\$6,914,000	—	\$303,300
Paulista ..	Aug. *	M3,400,000	—	M1,743,972	8	M16,950,000	—	M1,602,11
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Sept. *	\$755,288	—	\$154,784	8	\$2,299,157	—	\$56,218
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	Aug. *	3,266	—	649	8	29,424	—	943
Salvador ..	Oct. 16	\$19,500	—	\$7,100	†	\$49,616	—	\$28,244
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 9	37,134	—	5,782	†	549,616	—	156,534
Sorocabana ..	Aug. *	M1,692,000	—	M778,770	8	M10,724,000	—	M878,843
Taitai. ..	Sept. *	21,375	+	10,245	3	47,753	—	4,890
United of Havana ..	Oct. 17	24,9 8	+	5,374	†	372,416	—	76,749
West'n of Havana ..	" 16	4,080	—	629	†	75,689	—	6,718
Zafra and Huelva ..	Sept. *	10,156	+	2,614	9	72,973	—	43,285



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Considerable uncertainty prevailed in the beginning of the week as to the course the Money market was likely to take. Supplies of credit had been increased by the repayment of £15,000,000 Treasury bills on Saturday, and were for the time being superabundant, with the result that lenders other than the clearing banks were accepting 4 per cent. for advances for a week, while day-to-day loans were offered at 3½ per cent. Steps, however, have been taken by the Bank of England to reduce floating balances by borrowing from the clearing banks at 4½ per cent. for a week, and it is believed that arrangements have been made through those banks to lift further large amounts from some of the colonial banks and other financial institutions. The result has been to make money more usable, and although balances have still been obtainable in the later business hours at 3½ per cent., the more general charge for overnight accommodation has risen to 4-4½ per cent. Weekly fixtures also now cost 4½-4½ per cent., and on Wednesday some borrowers had even to go to the Bank.

So long as money remained cheap it was impossible to keep discount rates even steady, and the quotation for three months' paper fell to 4½ per cent. Bills were still exceedingly scarce, and it was understood that a substantial business was done in Treasury bills over the counter at the Bank at 4½ per cent. The action of the Bank in withdrawing funds from the market caused brokers to hesitate over further purchases, as it is generally expected that the step will be followed by the rate for Treasury bills being advanced after the 26th inst., when the Bank's obligation to discount Treasuries at 4½ per cent. in connection with the payment for the War Loan ceases. In view of this the general rate for three months' bills has been raised to 4¾ per cent., and with only a moderate inquiry the market is firm.

Only one more instalment of the War Loan remains to be paid, and the fact that the Exchequer balances were shown by the Revenue return to have been reduced to £18,000,000 has naturally led to a renewal of the discussion of the Government's intentions with regard to financing the war. In some quarters it was asserted that the sale of Treasury bills could not be relied upon to produce the funds required, and that a new loan would have to be issued almost immediately. It looks, however, as if the Government intended to depend on what may be called a hand-to-mouth policy of borrowing for the present, and to postpone until near the end of the year, at least, any fresh financial operation on the large scale which will be necessary.

Although New York advices stated that a very large amount of gold has been received, the American exchange has been decidedly weak, and the cable rate has relapsed to 4.67½. The Paris cheque has risen to 27.53½, and both the Dutch and Italian rates, after dropping back earlier in the week, have recovered the greater part of the declines. In South American exchanges there has been an improvement of about 5-32d., but the Chilean rate has dropped ½d. on the week.

Disbursements by the Government during the week ended on Wednesday, which included the repayment of £15,000,000 Treasury bills, were again very heavy, and Public Deposits showed a decrease of £24,732,000 to £46,128,000. Very little of this, however, came into the markets, as Government securities were reduced by £7,064,000 and Other Securities by £16,088,000, owing probably to repayments of War Loan advances, and Other Deposits were only £474,000 higher. Gold to the amount of £1,346,000 went abroad, but £276,000 came back from the country, making a nett reduction of £1,070,000 to £58,885,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion, and with a small expansion of £12,900 in the note circulation, the Reserve was £1,083,000 lower, but the proportion to liabilities rose by 3.8 per cent. to 31 per cent. as the result of the big reduction in deposits.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended October 20 £2,866,719 in £1 notes, £1,345,077 in 10s. notes, and £1,930,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £2,343,854 in £1, £686,181 10s. in 10s. notes, and £240,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £2,871,760 10s., leaving a total of £79,315,274 outstanding, made up of £55,481,750 in £1 notes, £19,533,524 in 10s. notes, and £4,300,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £445,852 8s. 9d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold £9,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £21,191,563 6s. 10d. at the Bank of England, while £194,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £255,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

Offerings of silver from New York have been on a rather larger scale this week, while the demand has been almost entirely confined to home and Continental orders for coinage purposes. China has bought and sold alternately to a moderate extent, but India is still doing nothing, and in the absence of competition the price relapsed ½d. to 23½d. per oz. To-day, however, there was a slight recovery to 23½d. per oz. on Mint buying.

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 3,25,000 in bills, Rs. 1,50,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 54,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 73,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 35,70,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 3,57,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 23 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 40,00,000. Between April 1 and the 19th inst. the total sales were Rs. 6,37,95,297, realising £4,252,332, compared with Rs. 5,80,71,861 for £3,874,591 to October 20 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 20, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 77,183,270	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	58,733,270
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 77,183,270		£ 77,183,270

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,543,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,895,781
Reserve .. ..	3,181,384	Other Securities .. ..	98,618,396
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	44,609,925
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	152,300
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	46,128,445		
Other Deposits .. ..	98,380,914		
Seven Day and other Bills	29,659		
	£ 162,276,402		£ 162,276,402

Dated Oct. 21, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Oct. 22.		Oct. 13, 1915.	Oct. 20, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,196,370	Rest .. ..	3,158,692	3,184,384	25,692	—
15,764,074	Pub. Deposits ..	70,859,619	46,128,445	—	24,731,174
143,058,390	Other do. ..	97,907,026	98,380,914	473,888	—
10,087	7 Day Bills ..	33,180	29,659	—	3,521
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
24,074,087	Gov. Securities.	25,959,825	18,895,781	7,064,044	—
208,787,978	Other do. ..	114,706,696	98,618,396	16,088,294	—
43,713,856	Total Reserve ..	45,845,002	44,762,225	1,082,777	—
				24,734,625	24,734,695
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
34,798,900	Coin and Bullion	32,560,455	32,573,345	12,890	—
63,662,756	Proportion ..	59,955,457	58,885,570	—	1,069,887
27 1/2 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	5	5	3.8 p.c.	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,346,000 out.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	560,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,057,000	380,936,000	—
Oct. 6 ..	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
13 ..	269,450,000	243,921,000	25,529,000	—
20 ..	270,952,000	248,954,000	21,998,000	—
Total ..	10,753,068,000	12,441,587,000	—	1,688,519,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service .. 34
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 152,802
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	Development & Road Impvt. .. —
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation .. 300,000
Land Tax and House Duty. .. —	Other Consolidated Fund .. —
Property and Income Tax .. 472,000	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties.. .. .	Supply Services .. .. . 35,313,000
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. .. . 100,000
Crown Lands .. .. .	For Advance for Interest .. —
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. —	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. .	Capital Expenditure .. —
Bullion advances repaid .. 100,000	(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. . 30,456
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) 8,722,000	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) 6,804,000*
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure .. —	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	demption Act, 1910 .. .. . —
War Loan, 1925-8 .. .. .	Issues under Section 1 of .. —
War Loan, 1925-45 .. .. . 32,000,000	War Loan Act, 1915 .. .. . —
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 .. 500,000	Under Telegraph (Money) .. —
Under Post Office Rly. Act, .. —	Act, 1913 .. .. . 100,000
1913 .. .. .	Under Post Office (Lon-
Under Military Works Acts, .. —	don) Railway Act, 1913 .. .. . —
1897-1903 .. .. .	Under Housing Act, 1914 .. .. . —
Issue of War Stock and War .. —	Old Sinking Fund 1911 .. .. . —
Bonds .. .. .	Under Military Works Acts, .. —
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. —	1897-1903 .. .. .
East Africa Protectorate .. —	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Loan repayments .. .. .	penses Act, 1903 .. .. . —
Cunard Loan—repayment on .. 1,440	E. Africa Protectorate Loan .. 3,825
account of principal .. .. .	Deficiency advances repaid .. —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares.. .. —	Ways and Means Advances .. —
China Indemnity .. .. .	repaid .. .. . 21,430,000
Ways and Means Advances .. —	Increase in Exchequer .. —
Decrease in Exchequer .. —	balances .. .. .
balances .. .. .	
4,571,119	
£ 51,226,117	£ 51,226,117

\* Decrease.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.				WITHDRAWALS.			
			£				£
Tuesday—Bars	..	..	122,000	Monday—Egypt (set aside)	..	..	100,000
				"    Switzerland	..	..	50,000
				Tuesday—U.S.A.	..	..	577,000
				"    Egypt (set aside)	..	..	100,000
				Wednesday—Bars	..	..	724,000
				"    Egypt (set aside)	..	..	150,000
				Thursday—Spain	..	..	600,000
				"    Argentina	..	..	70,000
				"    Uruguay	..	..	20,000
				Friday—U.S.A.	..	..	1,245,000
				"    Japan	..	..	100,000
Net Efflux	..	..	3,614,000				
			£3,736,000				£3,736,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

During the week ended on the 9th inst. £21,430,000 Treasury Bills, including £15,000,000 of those issued by tender, were repaid, but £14,965,000 were replaced by sales over the counter, and the total outstanding was therefore only reduced by £6,465,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£ 10,000,000	12 months	1916.	2 17 1/2
* 219,025,000	—	Feb. 27.	—
229,025,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 1, 1915.	Sept. 24, 1915.	Sept. 17, 1915
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 45,452,600	£ 45,994,400	£ 44,880,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	240,470	240,400	239,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	11,036,000	11,810,000	12,608,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,298,600	4,584,000	3,200,200
Total reserves ..	60,027,600	62,628,800	60,928,000
10-day bills and loans ..	1,155,400	1,497,400	949,200
30-day bills and loans ..	2,454,800	2,399,400	2,607,200
60-day bills and loans ..	3,153,400	3,112,200	3,490,200
90-day bills and loans ..	1,775,400	1,634,600	1,458,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	441,400	242,600	227,000
Total .. ..	8,980,400	8,866,200	8,732,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,865,800	1,865,600	1,809,400
Municipal Warrants ..	5,476,200	4,989,000	4,888,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,075,600	2,973,200	2,496,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	2,198,600	1,481,800	1,706,600
All other assets .. ..	663,600	715,400	676,400
Total assets .. ..	82,287,800	83,540,000	81,237,600
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,945,600	10,949,600	10,949,800
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	64,949,400	65,988,200	63,390,600
Note circulation—nett.	2,859,000	3,069,600	3,312,400
All other liabilities ..	533,800	532,600	584,800
Total liabilities .. ..	82,287,800	83,540,000	81,237,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	82.7%	82.2%	84.9%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	87.5%	88.7%	89.6%

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 17, 1914
Loans .. ..	£ 574,342,000	£ 560,976,000	£ 555,638,000	£ 434,302,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	102,634,000	100,280,000	102,154,000	86,914,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	30,216,000	29,352,000	28,560,000	—
Reserve held in Other Depos.	6,494,000	6,668,000	6,086,000	—
Net Demand Deposits ..	586,440,000	571,628,000	567,406,000	386,290,000
Net Time Deposits .. ..	27,618,000	25,282,000	24,534,000	—
Circulation .. ..	7,128,000	7,200,000	7,298,000	29,246,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	37,842,000	37,520,000	38,580,000	* 186,000

\* Deficit.

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Oct. 17, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 119,162,000	£ 116,754,000	£ 116,142,000	£ 112,520,000
Specie .. ..	10,272,000	10,210,000	9,912,000	8,220,000
Deposits .. ..	124,444,000	123,210,000	121,218,000	111,520,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,820,000	1,772,000	1,800,000	2,700,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1915.	Oct. 14, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.
Gold in hand .. ..	£ 187,706,960	£ 185,894,680	£ 184,053,600	£ 182,005,680
Silver in hand .. ..	14,531,680	14,530,720	14,544,960	14,565,840
Bills discounted .. ..	10,733,040	10,968,360	10,697,250	11,189,040
Advances .. ..	23,020,480	23,290,880	23,598,960	23,427,000
Note circulation .. ..	553,279,760	550,085,720	546,593,400	538,332,160
Public deposits .. ..	3,303,760	2,377,400	2,771,080	2,568,280
Private deposits .. ..	102,961,120	104,471,600	105,080,600	107,839,600
Foreign Bills .. ..	58,800	52,840	71,920	66,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36 1/2 per cent. against 36 1/2 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £276,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £37,688,160, decrease £391,720, and at the branches to £39,550,000, decrease £274,600.



## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	123,127,150	122,925,950	122,843,950	91,238,050
Treasury Notes	41,539,600	44,395,250	44,256,350	41,669,950
Bills discounted	219,518,850	218,798,450	375,528,500	148,751,450
Advances	689,800	718,150	656,650	1,578,100
Note circulation	288,863,000	293,877,150	307,881,500	205,058,600
Deposits	83,880,550	80,771,150	220,812,750	78,576,600

Clearing House returns during Sept. £270,499,060 against £210,675,490 in August.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 6, 1915.	Sept. 29, 1915.	Sept. 21, 1915.	Oct. 6, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	5,316,200	7,403,000	5,845,900	8,235,200
Cash in reserve	159,187,900	159,079,900	158,842,600	161,574,600
Gold in reserve abroad	3,826,200	3,849,300	3,870,200	21,640,200
Circulation note issue	482,000,000	481,987,500	452,000,000	272,500,000
Treasury deposits	22,196,200	20,957,000	30,125,000	20,314,200

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Oct. 17, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	30,944,171	30,414,061	29,977,890	22,014,063
Silver	29,348,646	29,316,463	29,522,671	27,537,992
Foreign Bills	4,136,054	4,459,743	4,476,161	7,049,259
Discounts and Short Bills	27,214,033	27,316,753	27,340,111	33,425,780
Treasury Account, &c.	29,326,770	29,251,506	28,712,290	28,911,857
Notes in Circulation	82,918,310	82,623,617	81,623,241	79,772,946
Current Accounts, Deposits	25,117,494	25,276,305	25,337,389	23,989,729
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,639,915	1,776,870	1,943,067	1,580,954
Government Securities	1,637,983	1,821,674	2,116,937	4,702,923

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 10, 1915.	Aug. 30, 1915.	Aug. 20, 1915.	Sept. 10, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	55,491,960	56,276,520	57,730,440	49,249,560
Inland Bills	22,713,840	25,235,040	26,441,080	33,551,480
Foreign Bills	832,280	833,120	833,000	3,183,080
Advances	8,332,280	8,691,000	8,640,720	6,126,480
Government securities	7,465,680	7,557,920	7,733,440	8,222,920
Circulation	111,586,840	111,017,680	110,494,520	83,496,680
Deposits at notice	10,860,560	10,513,000	11,506,680	7,645,520
Current accounts	18,109,280	17,851,480	17,064,040	7,971,120

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 23, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	12,191,520	12,187,580	12,129,020	9,559,204
Bills	5,697,448	5,953,756	5,013,160	10,161,320
Note circulation	17,109,520	17,430,724	16,290,340	17,393,324
Current and deposit accounts	3,112,016	2,887,660	3,055,568	3,373,112

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Oct. 17, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	32,778,585	32,554,359	32,532,460	13,176,456
Silver	185,617	152,654	153,220	125,395
Bills discounted, &c.	13,237,326	13,031,854	12,985,050	27,026,638
Note circulation	45,642,368	45,339,535	45,511,275	38,567,049
Deposits	1,556,365	1,171,130	1,173,879	1,828,973

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Sept. 25, 1915.	Oct. 10, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	5,760,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	6,750,000	6,614,000	5,713,000	2,814,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	3,043,000	3,066,000	2,626,000	1,231,000
Discounts and Loans	5,040,000	5,248,000	5,048,000	9,333,000
Notes in circulation	16,337,000	17,340,000	15,651,000	1,551,000
Deposits at notice	4,342,000	3,157,000	3,575,000	3,720,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Sept. 22, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	3,555,000	3,465,000	3,359,000	2,381,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,657,000	3,705,000	3,790,000	1,493,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans	4,142,000	4,045,000	3,907,000	6,711,000
Notes in Circulation	8,322,000	8,230,000	7,865,000	7,370,000
Deposits at notice	1,301,000	1,254,000	1,170,000	1,091,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 19, 1915.		Oct. 21, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	11.62	11.67*	11.60	11.65*
Do.	Cable transfers	11.42	11.46	11.40	11.44
Italy	Three months' bills	30.24	30.34*	30.21	30.31*
Do.	Cable transfers	29.85	29.95	29.82	29.92
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	34	35	34	35
Do.	Three months' bills	27.82	27.90*	27.91	27.99*
Do.	Cable transfers	27.45	27.48	27.54	27.57
Petrograd	Cable transfers	139	140	139	140
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	17.80	18.05	17.80	18.05
Do.	Three months' bills	18.15	18.45*	18.15	18.45*
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Cable transfers	46	46	46	46
Do.	Three months' bills	24.80	24.90	24.87	24.97
Switzerland	Cable transfers	25.30	25.40	25.30	25.40*
Do.	Three months' bills	24.57	24.67	24.57	24.67

\* Nominal

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	27.43	27.53	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	slight	29.95	29.95
Amsterdam	sight	11.42	11.37	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	124d.	124d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	498d.	498d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Caleutta	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd	3 mths	139	139	Bombay	T.T.	1/34d.	1/4d.
New York	sight	4.68	4.67	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10d.	1/94d.
Lisbon	sight	35d.	35d.	Shanghai	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
Madrid	sight	24.80	24.85	Singapore	T.T.	2/4d.	2/4d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1d.	2/1d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	4	4
Six months	4	4
Nine months	4	4
Twelve months	4	4

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	4	4-42
Three months	4	4
Four months	4	4-42
Six months	4	4
Three months fine inland bills	5	5
Four months	5	5
Six months	5	5

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	5	5
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3	3
Current rates for 7 day loans	4-4	4-4
for call loans	3-4	4-4

## The Week's Stock Markets.

There has been a much more cheerful feeling in the Stock Exchange this week, which is very welcome at a time when pessimism is being so sedulously cultivated in some quarters. It may be taken as a happy augury that members who are by the nature of their business extremely sensitive to adverse influences, should be able to estimate the unpatriotic clamour of a certain section of the Press at its proper worth, and to treat it with the contempt that it deserves. Interest has been mainly confined to the War Loan, in which dealings have been very active owing to the approaching expiry of the time limit for conversions and to the fact that a half-year's dividend is payable on December 1. Buying orders have been largely in excess of sales, and investors are coming forward in very encouraging fashion. Under these circumstances, there has been renewed discussion as to whether the time has not now come for a revision, or even the abolition of minimum prices. Abolition would be premature, if not actually dangerous, at present, but the Treasury restrictions on dealings create an artificial scarcity of stock and impose a certain amount of hardship on holders who find that they cannot realise their securities. But we are afraid we must just put up with these inconveniences for the time being, although it is regrettable to deprive the hardly-hit Stock Exchange of any opportunity of doing legitimate trade. No improvement has occurred in the Home Railway section, and there seems little prospect of any immediate change in sentiment, especially in view of the increase in the war bonus to the men. Mexicans have come to the front rather strongly on hopes that the recognition of General Carranza by the United States will tend to hasten the pacification of the country, but we are afraid it must be a long time before normal conditions can be restored. Brazilian issues also have been in more favour on the coffee crop prospects, and Argentines have benefited by good traffics and the decision of the railways to raise their rates by 10 per cent. to compensate for the imposition of provincial taxes. In other directions there has been little sign of life, and we can see little hope of improvement in general business yet awhile. So we have no "hints" that would be of much value just at present; they must wait till the sky is clearer.

Apart from a good deal of activity in War Loan, interest in the Stock Markets has been chiefly confined to Mexican securities, which have come into prominence on the recognition



of the Carranza Government by the United States. War Loan was in good demand, owing partly to the fact that a full half-year's interest will be paid on December 1, and partly to the short time remaining in which conversions of Consols, the Annuities, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. War Loan can be effected. The  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. War Loan improved to  $98\frac{1}{8}$  and  $98\frac{7}{8}$  cumulative rights, and the advance made it possible to sell Consols at the minimum. Dealings in the "rights" were active at  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Japanese securities continue the most prominent in the Foreign

Min. Pres.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Pres.	Last Week	This Week
66 Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	97½	97½
— War Loan.....	92½	92½	— " 4½% 1922-7..	96½	96½
62 India 3½% (290 pd.)	2½ dis	1½ dis	95 New Zealand 4% ..	95½	95½
80½ " 3½% .....	80½	80½	92 Queensland 4% ..	92	92
92 Canada 4½% 1940-5	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	97½	98½
— " 4½% 1920-5	98½	98½	— " 4½% 1920-5 .....	98	98
92 N.S.W. 4% .....	95	95	— Victoria 4½% 1920-5	97½	98
66 Belgian 3% .....	66½	66½	— French Rentes ....	66½	66½
— Brazil, 1913 .....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½% (1st) .....	90½	91
— " New Fundings .....	69	70½	83 " (2nd) .....	89½	90½
— Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	— Russia 4 % .....	73	73
— " 1913 .....	82	82	— " 4½% .....	74½	74½
— Egypt Unified 4% .....	85	85	— " 5% .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	53½	53	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	23	22½
Caledonian defd. ....	8	8	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	Metropolitan .....	22½	22½
Gt. Central pfd. ....	12½	12½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	95	95
— dfd. ....	68	64	Met. District .....	13	13
Gt. Eastern .....	33	32½	Midland dfd. ....	57	56½
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	38	37½	Nth. British dfd. ....	14½	14½
Gt. Western .....	93	92½	Nth.-Eastern .....	100	100
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	68½	68	Nth.-Western .....	100½	100½
Canadian Pacific .....	176½	179½	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	22½	22½
Do. 6% Notes .....	109½	109½	Chesapeake .....	61½	60½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% deba.	94½	94½	Erie .....	37½	37½
Grand Trunk ord. ....	10½	10½	Milwaukee .....	98	98
Do. 3rd pf. ....	24½	25	N. Y. Central .....	106½	106½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes .....	98½	98½	Southern .....	21½	21½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " .....	97½	98	Southern Pacific .....	103	104½
Atchison .....	112½	113	Union Pacific .....	143½	143½
Baltimore .....	98	98	U. S. Steel .....	89½	94½
Antofagasta dfd. ....	123	122½	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	84	83½
Do. 6% Notes .....	102½	102½	Do. 5% Notes .....	100½	100½
Brazil Common .....	6	6½	Do. 6% " .....	10½	10½
B. A. & Pacific .....	45½	45	Leopoldina .....	34½	35
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	80	80	Mexican ord. ....	19	20½
B. A. Western .....	83½	83	San Paulo (Brazilian) .....	171	171
Bank of Australasia .....	107	107	United of Havana .....	73	73½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	8	8	London City & Midland .....	7½	7½
Do. "B" .....	10½	10½	London County & West .....	14½	14½
Capital & Counties .....	20	19½	London Joint Stock .....	19	18½
Chartered of India .....	52½	52½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	22	22
Hongkong & Shanghai .....	73½	73½	Do. (£12 pd) .....	26½	26
Lloyds .....	22	21½	Parr's .....	28½	29½
London & Provincial .....	14½	14½	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½
London & S.W. ....	11	11	Union & Smiths .....	23	23
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestal Land .....	40/	40/
Armstrong, Whitworth .....	35/	34/6	Furness, Withy .....	32/	32/
Associated Cement .....	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay .....	6½	6
Birmingham Small Arms	56½	55½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½
Borax dfd. ....	22½	22½	Do. dfd. "A" .....	35/6	35/6
Bovril .....	19½	19½	Kynochs .....	28/	27/6
Brazil Traction .....	49½	52½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20/6	20/3
British Amer. Tobacco .....	63½	64/	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27/	27/	Marconi .....	18½	18½
Brunner, Mond .....	3½	3½	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	23½	23/6
Cammell-Laird .....	5½	5½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner .....	61/	61/	National Steam Car .....	11/	11/
Coats .....	43	43	Nobel Dynamite .....	15½	15½
Cunard .....	59/6	59/6	Pears, A. & F. ....	1½	1½
Dennis Bros. ....	28/6	28/6	P. & O. dfd. ....	26½	26½
Dorman, Long .....	22/	22/	Royal Mail .....	80	84
Eastmans .....	7/6	7/3	South Durham Steel .....	27/6	27/6
English Sewing Cotton .....	31/6	31/3	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	7½	70
Fine Cotton Spinners .....	23/9	23/6	Vickers .....	33/	32/9
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	4/6	3/	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½
Baku (10s.) .....	2/6	2/6	North Caucasian .....	26/3	26/
Burmah .....	31½	31½	Roumanian Cons. ....	12/6	12/6
Lobitos .....	28/	28/	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44½	44½
Maikop Combine (10s.) .....	3/6	3/6	Shell .....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline .....	5/	5/	Spies (10/-) .....	13/6	12/6
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian .....	1½	1½
Anglo-Malay .....	8/3	8/3	Linggi .....	13/9½	13/10½
Batu Caves .....	11½	11½	London Asiatic .....	5/10½	5/10½
Bukit Mertajam .....	2/7½	2/7½	Malacca .....	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang .....	2/7½	2/7½	Malayalam .....	20/6	20/3
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Merlimau .....	4/	4/
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	9/3	9/
Highlands .....	2½	2½	United Serdang .....	9/3	9/3
Johore Rubber Lands .....	14/	13/9	Vallambrosa .....	12/9	12/10½
Abbottiakoon (10/-) .....	7/9	7/6	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	10½	10½
Brakpan .....	38½	38½	East Rand .....	1½	1½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	43/	42/6	Gt. Boulder (2/-) .....	14/6	14/6
Cam & Motor .....	13/9	14/	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) .....	6½	6½	Modder "B" .....	5½	5½
Chartered .....	9½	9½	Do. Deep .....	5	5
City Deep .....	38½	38½	New Mcadder (£4) .....	15	15½
Cons. Gold Fields .....	25/	25/	Rand Mines (5/-) .....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5) .....	53½	52½
Crown Mines (10/-) .....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep .....	2½	2½

Government section, the  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. first series rising to  $91\frac{1}{8}$ , and the second to  $90\frac{1}{8}$ , while the 5 per cent. 1907 loan changed hands at the fixed minimum of 91. Argentine Treasury bonds were supported at par, and towards the end of the week a good demand sprang up for Brazil issues on the improved conditions in that country. Mexican 5 per cent. was sought after and rose to 58, and the Irrigation bonds touched 39.

The announcement of an increase in the war bonus payable to employees had no effect on Home Railway ordinary stocks, but prices continue to give way in the absence of any sign of interest. Canadian Pacific shares hardened on another good traffic, but closed a little below the best, while the 6 per cent.

notes were in demand and improved to  $109\frac{1}{8}$ . Grand Trunk stocks were also firmer, the ordinary touching  $10\frac{1}{8}$ , the first preference 63, and the thirds 25. A substantial improvement was shown in the Grand Trunk Pacific receipts, reducing the nett decrease to date to £23,000. American Railroad shares had a fresh spurt in the beginning of the week following the rise in Wall Street, but the upward movement was checked by profit taking, and final prices were mostly below the best. United States Steel were amongst the most active, but after jumping to  $91\frac{1}{8}$  closed a fraction or two under that figure. Mexican Railway stocks were bought after on the prospect of the country being brought into order now that Carranza has been recognised by the United States and South American Governments. Sellers were, however, hard to find, and Mexican Railway first and second preference rose to  $70\frac{1}{8}$  and  $37\frac{1}{8}$  respectively, while National of Mexico first and second preferred and  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. prior lien bonds all improved. Argentine Railways were quiet and dull, in spite of another good batch of traffic returns and of the favourable crop advices. Amongst other South American Railways Sorocabana  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. debentures jumped to 58, and Brazil Railway  $\frac{4}{5}$  per cent. gold bonds and 5 per cent. convertible debentures were substantially higher on the excellent traffic returns for August.

In the Miscellaneous sections a demand sprang up for Mexico Tramways and Mexican Light and Power issues, and in the absence of sellers prices were marked substantially higher. Shipping things were firm, and Royal Mail improved to 84 on the announcement of an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. as against nothing a year ago. In Telegraphs the various Marconi issues were quiet and easier, although it was stated that the American company had secured a contract from the Standard Oil to substitute its service for that of the Telefunken Co. on the vessels of that undertaking. Canadian engineering shares were mostly quiet, but there was a little inquiry for Canadian General Electric, which lifted the price to  $118\frac{1}{8}$ , and Dominion Steels improved to 53, but Canadian Car and Foundry issues relapsed. Brazilian Traction were decidedly better at  $52\frac{1}{8}$ , and Shawinigan Water and Power were wanted, and improved to 143. Hudson's Bay were steady at 6, while Forestal Land again met with support at 40s. Coats' shares were bought steadily, and improved to  $41\frac{1}{8}$ , although the market is looking for a reduction in the quarterly dividends from  $7\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. to 5, but other Textiles were neglected.

Oil shares have for the most part been idle and dull. Shell touched 89s.  $\frac{1}{4}$ d., but fell back to  $47\frac{1}{8}$ , and Royal Dutch, after dropping to  $44\frac{1}{8}$ , recovered to  $44\frac{1}{8}$ , while Ural Caspian slipped back from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{8}$ . Anglo-Egyptian "B" were sold down to 2s. 6d., on the directors' statement that the company's funds were nearly exhausted. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference, and Eagle Transport preference were wanted, and a little support was also forthcoming for Burmah and Lobitos. A fair number of dealings were reported in Rubber shares, especially amongst the lower-priced issues, although some of the older ones, such as Highlands and Lowlands, Linggi, Anglo-Malay, and United Serdang were also inquired for. The most active business was in Soember Ajo, which were lifted from 11d. to 1s. 3d. on hopeful forecasts of the results for the 15 months to September 30. The proposal to write off 6s. per share of the Anglo-Java Rubber and Produce Co. was favourably received, as being likely to hasten the payment of good dividends, and the shares were bought up to 11s.  $7\frac{1}{8}$ d.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA THE PROGRESSIVE STATE.

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## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—A very steady tone continued in this market during the week, and a good inquiry existed, but with reserved sellers and only small supplies available, business was checked. Of British refined, Tate's No. 1 cubes sold at 50s.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 33s.; Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Cane sorts steady. Demerara crystallised sold, 28s. 6d. to 28s. 9d.; Trinidad, at 28s. 6d. to 28s. 9d.; St. Lucia, at 28s. 9d. Of foreign descriptions, white Java, on spot, sold, 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d.; American granulated, spot, 32s. 10½d. Cuban receipts for last week (all ports) amount to 1,400 tons, against nil at same time last year. Centrals at work, 1, against nil. Cane sales ruled quiet, but steady. Demerara crystallised, good mid to fine yellow, sold, 29s. 3d. to 30s.; Trinidad, fine colory, 30s.; Surinam, mid yellow, 28s. 10½d.

**COFFEE.**—In auction moderate supplies passed off very quietly. Vera Paz, good to fine bold, 75s. to 89s.; peas, 98s. 6d. Costa Rica, fair bold, 69s. 6d. Colombian, fair bold, 58s. Futures firm. March sold, 39s. to 39s. 3d.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies in auction experienced fair support at steady to rather firmer prices. Ceylon, ordinary to fine, sold, 74s. 6d. to 88s. Trinidad, mid, 85s. Grenada, common to fine 74s. 6d. to 83s. Dominica, ordinary to fine, 72s. to 80s. Jamaica, common to good, 73s. to 79s. St. Lucia, common to good, 74s. to 79s. Guayaquil, Caraquez, 81s. to 82s. Nicaragua, fine, 83s. to 85s. Costa Rica, fine polished, 83s. Privately, the market ruled firm. British West African, fair fermented, at 75s. St. Thome, fine, 79s. Tumaco, 78s. Guayaquil, Caraquez, 81s. 6d., 82s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week passed off with a quieter demand, and prices, with few exceptions, showed an easier tendency. Ceylon offerings met a generally fair demand, and late rates were not always maintained, though values showed no material alteration respecting the better qualities. Java sales met a good demand, at steady prices.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but rates maintained. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sellers, 6d.; Tellicherry, 6½d.; Lampong, 6d.; fair white Singapore, spot, sellers, 8½d.; Muntok, 10½d.; Penang, 8½d. To arrive, black Singapore, October-December shipment, nominally, 5½d.; Lampong, ditto, buyers, 5½d.; white Singapore, October-December shipment, buyers, 8½d.; Muntok, November-December, sold, 9d.; Penang, October-December, 7½d., c.f. and i. Cloves firm. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sold, 6½d. to 7d.

**FRUIT.**—The first sales of the season commenced this week. New crop Valencia raisins met with an active demand at full to occasionally dearer prices than ruling privately. Half-boxes realised 70s. to 75s.; quarters, 75s. to 96s.; eighths, 99s. to 102s. 6d.; seedless, 73s. to 83s. 16 one-eighth boxes for the benefit of the British Red Cross Society sold at £10 to £10 10s. per two boxes. Muscatels met with good competition at dearer prices, compared with those privately ruling. Very common to choice realised 58s. to 125s.; loose, 57s. to 77s. Spanish figs sold at 37s. to 39s. for boxes, and 30s. to 32s. bags. Privately currants ruled firm. Provincials sold at 38s. to 40s.; Zante, 42s. to 45s.; Gulf, 47s. to 48s.; and Vostizza, 50s. to 55s. Sultanias firm. Smyrna, common to fine, 80s. to 110s.; Afghan, 80s. to 84s.; Californian, 70s. to 72s.; Greek, 100s. to 120s. Muscatels: Californian, to arrive, loose, quoted 30s. to 34s., c.f. and i. Figs steady. Calamata, 43s. to 45s.; Malaga, 35s. to 42s.

**RICE.** steady, but generally quiet. Broken, C, one, November-December shipment, sold, 10s. 3d.; and C, three, ditto, at 9s. 3d., c.f. and i., U.K. 500 tons Rangoon bran, October-November, done 138s. 3d., ex ship, Liverpool. Rangoon beans advanced sharply. December-January shipment sold from £20 to £23 15s., c.f. and i.

**JUTE.** ruled firmer. Native first marks, October-November and November-December, sold, £25 to £25 10s.; Daisee 2, October-November, at £23 15s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Market for Manila descriptions firmer, and a good business passed. Fair, near, sold, £40 15s.; ditto, November-January, £40; medium, October-December, £37 10s.; coarse, October-December and November-January, £30 5s. to £31; coarse brown, ditto, at £28 10s. to £29, c.f. and i. New Zealand fully steady. G.F., October-December, buyers, £33, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot market quiet.—Fair T.N. orange, sold, 68s. to 69s.; A.C. granet, fair free, sellers, 65s. Futures dull. October delivery, done, 68s. 6d.; December, sold, 70s.; and March, sellers, 72s.

**GAMBIER.** quiet, but steady. Good marks, October-November shipment, sellers, 35s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**QUININE.** strong, with a good demand. Usual Continental brands, on spot, sold, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.

**INDIA-RUBBER.** dull and easier, but closed steadier. Plantation crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 5d.; October, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 5d.; November-December, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 5d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 4½d. Smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 4½d.; October, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d. and 2s. 5d.; November-December, 2s. 4½d.; January-June, 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 2s. 5½d.; November-December, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d.; December-January, 2s. 5½d. Soft fine, spot, buyers, 2s. 5d. Ball, spot and near, sellers, 1s. 11½d.; and scrappy, ditto, quoted 1s. 11d. per lb.

**COPRA.**—Market steady. For shipment to London: Ceylon, September-October and October-November, buyers, £27; Malabar, ditto, buyers, £27 15s.; F.M.S., Singapore, October-November-sellers, £26; South Sea Islands, September-October and October, November, buyers, £24 10s. To Marseilles, F.M. Straits, September-October, £25 5s.; Manila, ditto, £24 5s., October-November, £24 2s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**TALLOW.** remained firm. At public sale, 1,730 casks were brought forward, and 1,518 sold, prices being 6d. to 1s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 39s. 9d.; fair to good, 38s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; dark to dull, 34s. 3d. to 36s. 9d.; hard, 38s. 6d. Beef: fine, 39s. 6d.; fair to good, 37s. 6d. to 38s. 3d.; dark to dull, 34s. to 36s.; sweet, 40s. Market letter 9d. up for stuff. Tallow unchanged. Town tallow, 36s. 6d.; melted stuff, 26s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 7½d. per 8 lb.

**OILS.**—Linseed firm. Spot, pipes (landed), £28 15s.; barrels £29 15s.; Hull (naked), spot, £27. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £39 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £36 to £37. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), October-November, £34 10s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £30; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £34; sweet (barrels),

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 10 0	2 10 0	Australian	8 1/2-2 6	8 1/2-2 6
Ditto, No. 2	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Merino	10 1/2-1 8	10 1/2-1 8
Fine granulated	32 3-32 9	32 3-32 9	Scoured Cr. Sabor	5 1/2-1 4	5 1/2-1 4
Lyle's granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	5 1/2-1 3	5 1/2-1 3
Foreign granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	11-2 4 1/2	11-2 4 1/2
First marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	9 1/2-1 6	9 1/2-1 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	8 1/2-2 6	8 1/2-2 6
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	11-2 4 1/2	11-2 4 1/2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	8 1/2-2 6	8 1/2-2 6
prompt	nom.	nom.	<b>India-rubber</b> p. lb.		
Crystallised, West			Plantation, Spot		
India	27 9-31 0	27 9-31 0	Crepe	0 2 6	0 2 5 1/2
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Goal</b> —per ton.		
Tea—per lb., duty 1/4	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	9 1/2-1 0 1/2	9 1/2-1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	9 1/2-1 1 1/2	9 1/2-1 3	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	9 1/2-1 2 1/2	9 1/2-1 4 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	11-1 4 1/2	11-1 6 1/2	Stearns, best	19 0	19 0
Pekoe Souchong	8 1/2-1 1 1/2	8 1/2-1 2 1/2	Seconds	16 6-17 0	16 6-17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	9 1/2-1 1 1/2	9 1/2-1 2 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	9 1/2-1 1 1/2	9 1/2-1 2 1/2	English Pig	25 5 0	25 10 0
Orange	9 1/2-1 1 1/2	9 1/2-1 2 1/2	Foreign soft, Oct.	£24 1/2-£24 6	£25 7 6
Broken	10 1/2-1 2 1/2	10 1/2-1 3 1/2	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per		
Pekoe Souchong	8 1/2-1 0	8 1/2-1 1 1/2	bottle first hand	£16 1/2-£16 1/2	£16 1/2-£16 1/2
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1 1/4	s. s.	s. s.	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
Trinidad—per cwt.	82 0-87 0	82 0-87 0	English Ingots	150 1/2-151 1/2	152 1/2-153 1/2
Grenada	74 0-82 0	74 0-83 0	Do. bars	151 1/2-152 1/2	153 1/2-154 1/2
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Standard cash	£150 0 0	£152 0 0
Ceylon Plantation	74 0-90 0	72 0-90 0	Pin Plates, per box	17 9-18 0	18 9-19 0
Guayaquil Arriba	85 0-87 0	84 0-87 0	<b>Jopper</b> —per ton.		
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2 1/4	s. s.	s. s.	English, Tough	87 1/2-88 1/2	87 1/2-88 1/2
East India	62 0-94 0	62 0-94 0	per ton	87 1/2-88 1/2	87 1/2-88 1/2
Jamaica	47 0-120 6	46 0-120 6	best Selected	£87 1/2-£88 1/2	£87 1/2-£88 1/2
Costa Rica	55 0-82 0	55 0-82 0	Sheets	£103	£103
<b>Provisions</b> —			Standard	£72 7 6	£73 0 0
Butter, per cwt.			<b>Lute</b> —per ton.		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for		
Irish Creameries	168-176	156-167	shipt. Oct.-Nov.	£25 5 0	£25 10 0
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b> —		
Russian finest	136-142	134-140	Linseed, per ton.	£28 1/2-£29 1/2	£29 1/2-£30 1/2
Normandy baskets	114-164	108-158	Rape, ref. English,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Danish finest	184-190	160-182	casks	£37 1/2-£39	£39-£40
Brittany rolls	15 6-18 0	15 0-17 6	English	£37 1/2-£39	£39-£40
doz. lb.			naked	£35-£36	£36-£37
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Sott'n Seed, crude	£30	£31
Irish	100 0-105 0	100 0-105 0	Ditto, refined	£34-£39	£34-£39
Continental	98 0-107 0	96 0-107 0	Petroleum Oil, per		
Canadian	82 0-95 0	86 0-95 0	8 lbs.	9 1/2d.	9 1/2d.
American	78 0-94 0	78 0-93 0	Water White	10 1/2d.	10 1/2d.
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Linseed, Linseed		
Irish	118-128	120-130	Calcutta—per 4 1/2		
Canadian	86 0-91 0	88 0-90 0	lbs., Oct.-Nov.	2 18 6	3 1 3
American	55 0-85 0	55 0-89 0	lbs., Guzerat	3 3 0	3 3 0
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Sept.-Oct.		
Edam	nom.	nom.	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Canadian	76 0-77 0	82 0-86 0	Cleveland Cash	3 5 0	3 6 3 1/2
Gouda	nom.	nom.	<b>Flabaco</b> —duty		
English Cheddar	86 0-96 0	94 0-104 0	unmanufactured		
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb.		
New Zealand	75 0-78 0	nom.	Maryland & Ohio		
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—			per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
open charter,			Virginian leaf	0 5 1/2-1 6	0 5 1/2-1 6
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
cwt.			Latakia	0 4 1/2-1 0	0 4 1/2-1 0
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Havana	0 1-0 6	0 1-0 6
Bassain	nom.	nom.	Manila	3 6-2 1/2	0 6-2 0
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6		
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			per lb.	2 0	2 0
Dutch	19 0-22 0	19 0-22 0	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Russian	10 6-13 0	11 0-13 0	Antisig and		
Danish	18 0-20 6	18 0-20 0	Manuel Fir, per		

£37. £39. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £45. Cochin, spot, £46 £48. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, October-November, £25 15s., c.f. and i. Turpentine advanced sharply. American spirits, on spot, 39s. 6d. Spanish, spot, 36s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed market dearer. Calcutta, spot, 60s.; near, 60s.; October-November, 60s. 3d.; November-December, 60s. 3d. La Plata, October-November, 57s. 9d. Rape-seed firm. Brown Cawnore, October-November (pure), 55s. 9d. Guzerat, ditto, 63s. Toria (3 per cent.), 55s. Cottonseed quiet. London, Egyptian, afloat, £11 10s. Resin, common strained, on spot, 14s. 6d.

**METALS.**—Copper: Influenced by the statistical position the standard market, while unsettled at intervals, continued to move in an upward direction until last Tuesday, when cash delivery sold to



£73, late November to £73 5s., three months touching £73 7s. 6d., closing, cash, £72 17s. 6d., and three months £73 7s. 6d. The tendency continued firm to Thursday's session, when cash settled down at £73, and three months £73 5s. Electros, £87 10s. to £88 10s. Tin: The market exhibited irregularity, while firmer until the middle of the week, standard, cash, fluctuating to £152 15s., and three months £154. Moderate selling and an absence of buying orders lead to an easier tendency at Thursday's meeting, when values of these dates left off at £151 15s. and £153 respectively. Lead opened firmer, but declined. Soft foreign, October shipment to January, £25 2s. 6d. to £23 10s. Spelter rather steadier for near. October, £69; December, £58. Iron stronger.

**CORN (Mark Lane).**—The tenacity of this market remains undisturbed, even higher limits being imposed and paid since our last. Business continued moderate, with sellers again adopting some reserve. Wheat: English, both whites and reds, delivered, range up to 56s. per qr. 504 lbs.: Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 6d., ex ship; and due in a week, 58s. 6d. Plate, 57s. 6d., landed. Indian, 58s., ex quay. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s., upwards; and Manitoba patents, 42s. 6d. to 43s. 6d., both landed. Barley: Plate, 38s. 6d. ex ship, 40s. landed. American, 36s. 6d. ex ship. English malting, 55s., delivered, as to quality. Maize: La Plata (sound), 33s. 6d. ex ship and 34s. 3d. landed. Oats: Plate, 31s. 6d., upwards; and American white clipped No. 2, 33s., both landed terms.

**COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).**—The general outlook in the market is a little better than a few weeks ago, and although the improvement is not general, certain sections are meeting with a more encouraging demand. Only narrow fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton rates, and the steadiness of prices in New York and Liverpool is a favourable factor in the situation as regards business in yarn and cloth. More people are now of the opinion that the higher level of values compared with a few months ago is likely to be maintained. Some uneasiness has recently transpired with regard to the Government intentions relating to the restriction of exports of manufactured cotton goods, and according to the decision arrived at this week the embargo is not likely to be so serious as at one time feared. Further developments are expected in connection with the weavers' wages question, and certain employers are now more disposed to favourably consider the demand for a 5 per cent. bonus during the war. In cloth for export a considerable inquiry has been dealt with for India. In light fabrics such as dhooties and mulls, and also in printing and finishing cloths, a fairly healthy business has been done. There are now indications of more workable bids in shirtings, and sales have not been entirely absent. Scarcely anyone has a good word to say for China at the present time, but a little more inquiry is mentioned for bleaching cloths. The South American markets continue to give moderate support in a variety of fabrics. The outlook in the Near East is too uncertain for an active trade to be done. Burnley manufacturers complain of prices ruling, but their position is being fairly well maintained. Some firms in Preston and district are rather better situated than a little time ago. The position in Blackburn is not quite so bad as it was, but there is still plenty of room for improvement. The home trade continues healthy, and specialties of various kinds are moving off well. American yarns for home use have been firm in quotation, and a rather increasing trade has been done, the broadening of demand in the medium and finer numbers being very welcome. Some reselling of cheap yarns has rather annoyed spinners, but this sort of thing is not so pronounced as a week or two ago. In shipping counts very few practicable bids have been heard of for India, but a steady business continues to be done for the Continent. Bolton spinnings show very little change in price, and although buying has not been active a fair turnover has taken place.

#### FRIDAY'S MOVEMENTS.

**SUGAR.**—Refined goods unaltered, with a fair demand. Grocery cane crystallised, quiet, unchanged. Trinidad sold 28s. to 28s. 6d., and St. Lucia 28s. 9d., with some muscovado Barbados at 26s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—Terminal market slow but steady. December quoted 39s. 4½d., and March 39s., with May 39s. 3d.

**SPICE.**—Pepper market remains quiet at late rates.

**JUTE.**—Firm. Native first marks, October-November, sellers to Dundee at £25 15s., and buyers to London at £26 5s. for December.

**HEMP.**—Manila in demand and tone firm. Sales.—New graded fair shippers mark October-December at £4, coarse September-November £31, November-January £31 5s., brown October-December and November-January at £29 5s. to £29 10s.

**RUBBER.**—In demand, and rates firmer for plantation. Standard crepe spot sold 2s. 5½d., October 2s. 5½d., November-December 2s. 5½d., and January-June at 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet spot sold 2s. 5d. and buyers. Fine hard Para spot and near value 2s. 5½d.

**COPRA.**—Firm to dearer, good demand.

**QUININE.**—Spot lots sold 3s. 8d., 3s. 6½d., and then 3s. 7½d. Market irregular.

**LINSEED OIL.**—Spot pipes (landed), £29 15s.; barrels, £30 10s. Turpentine, American spot, 40s. 9d.

**LINSEED.**—Again firmer. Calcutta, all positions, 61s. 3d. Plate, October-November, 59s. Rapeseed, brown Cawnpore, 56s. 6d.

**CORN.**—Mark Lane.—Wheat. Upheld. English, both whites and reds, delivered up, range to 56s. per quarter, 504

lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 3d.; ditto, due in a week, 58s.; both ex ship. Flour firmer. American first spring patents range up to 45s. 6d., and Manitoba patents to 44s., landed. Grinding barley dearer. Plate, 39s., ex ship, and quite nominal landed. Sound Plate maize stronger, 34s. 6d. ex ship, and 35s. 6d. ex quay. Oats stiffer. Plate, 32s. upwards, landed.

**METALS.**—Copper dealings were restricted, but prices tended a shade steadier, closing about 2s. 6d. firmer compared with previous day's final. Standard cash sold £73, and middle of November at £73 5s., closing £73 cash and £73 5s. three months. About 300 tons sold. Settlement price, £73 2s. 6d. Electros, £87 10s. to £88 10s. Tough and best selected, £87 10s. to £88 10s. Strong sheets, £103. Tin quiet, but values ruled slightly firmer, settling down 5s. better since Thursday's close. Standard three months sold £153, £152 15s., and £153, closing £152 cash and £153 5s. three months. Some 85 tons changed hands. Settlement price, £152. In the East 150 tons sold on the basis of £154 10s., c.f. & i. Lead quiet but steady. English, £25 10s.; foreign, October shipment, sellers, £25 7s. 6d.; and buyers, £25 2s. 6d.; December sellers, £23 15s.; and January, £23 10s. Spelter dearer. G.O.B. officially quoted at £71 to £62 as to position. Antimony nominal. Tin plates I.C. cokes, 18s. 9d. to 19s. basis f.o.b. Wales. Iron steadier. Cleveland, cash 66s. 3½d., one month 66s. 8d., and three months 67s. 4d. Quicksilver, £16 5s. to £16 10s.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**Brazilian Traction, Light and Power.**—½ per cent., payable Dec. 1.

**Bristol United Breweries.**—Final of 12s. per share for year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 18, making 10 per cent. for the year, same as preceding year.

**Bryant and May.**—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1, against 6 per cent.

**Burmah Oil.**—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, same as last year.

**Ceylon Proprietary Tea.**—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary on account of 1915, payable Nov. 15, against 3 per cent.

**Clydesdale Investment.**—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

**General Accident Fire and Life Assurance.**—The directors announce that they are unable to pay any interim dividend on the ordinary shares. Last year also the ordinary share dividend was passed owing, it was stated, to the conditions arising from the war.

**Kaministiquia Power.**—1½ per cent., or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, on the common for quarter ending Oct. 31, payable Nov. 15, same as a year ago.

**Lisbon Electric Tramways.**—Interim of 2½ per cent., free tax, on account of earnings of current year, payable Nov. 12, against 3 per cent.

**London Bank of Australia.**—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on both the preference and ordinary, less tax, payable after 3rd prox., same as a year ago.

**Mold and Denbigh Junction.**—For the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of £2 15s. per cent. per annum on account of interest due on Debenture stock "B," as compared with the rate of £2 10s. per cent. per annum.

**Montreal Light, Heat and Power.**—2½ per cent., being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for quarter to Oct. 31.

**Moss Isaacs.**—For year ended Sept. 8, 1915, of 7½ per cent.

**Mysore Gold Mining.**—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share (less tax at 3s. 0½d. in the pound) on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 12, making 7s. per share, less tax, for first eight months of the current year, as compared with a similar distribution for the corresponding period last year.

**National Bank of South Africa.**—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (6s. per share) for six months ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 25, same as a year ago.

**Nundydroog Co.**—Interim of 1s. 2d. per share (less tax) on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 16, making 2s. 2d. per 10s. share (less tax) in respect of current year.

**Rani Travancore Rubber.**—Interim 4 per cent. (actual), payable, less tax, 30th inst., against 2½ per cent., less tax.

**Rembia Rubber.**—Interim on the ordinary of 6 per cent. on account of 1914-15, payable 30th inst., less tax at 2s. 4d. in the pound. The previous dividend on the ordinary shares was 7½ per cent. for 1911-12.

**Royal Bank of Canada.**—3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for three months to Nov. 30, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

**Royal Exchange Assurance.**—Interim of 4½ per cent., less tax, in respect of half-year ended June 30, payable Nov. 6, against 4 per cent. a year ago.

**Royal Mail Steam Packet.**—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (less tax) on the ordinary; the warrants will be posted on Nov. 4; last year no dividend was paid on the ordinary stock, the previous distribution being 6 per cent. for 1913, when the interim payment was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

**Second Scottish Investment Trust.**—Final on the deferred at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year, placing £2,000 to reserve, with £2,732 forward, against 9 per cent., £3,000 to reserve, and £2,223 forward.

**South Indian Railway.**—Final for 1915 of ½ per cent., less tax, payable from surplus profits on Jan. 1, making, with the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent., payable on the same date, 2½ per cent. for



half-year ending Dec., and a total payment of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the year, same as last year.

Taquah Mining and Exploration.—Interim for current financial year of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 29, same as a year ago.

### American Business Notes.

For the moment the squabbling between Berlin and Washington over the destruction of innocent lives in unarmed ships on the Atlantic by pirate submarines seems to have been drowned in the sound of marriage bells. President Wilson is about to lead a widow to the altar, and as that concerns him alone, we can only wish him joy and leave the worrying him about international politics for the present on one side. There is not even any commercial subject that calls for particular notice just at this moment, for the Anglo-French War Loan seems to have been placed, and were it not for a hint that the Government of the United States may have to put a tax upon munitions exported because of the decline in its other branches of revenue, especially in its Customs receipts, there would be nothing whatever to chronicle. That hint, however, has not yet taken shape, and so we are left with railroad reports to fill our space. Those available this week are quite interesting.

#### UNION PACIFIC.

This company has ceased to be an octopus and descended to the position of a steady-going business "proposition," as American speech would put it. Under compulsion from the United States Supreme Court it had to abandon its monopolist clutch upon the Southern Pacific, and also its too practical control of the Baltimore and Ohio. The surrender was carried out at a time when immense profit accrued for all concerned. Each common shareholder in the Union Pacific, for instance, got \$12 per share in Baltimore and Ohio preferred and \$22.50 per share in common stock, besides \$3 in cash as a consequence of the split up. Union Pacific shareholders also received a 20 per cent. dividend, or twice the then established rate. Owing to the dispersal of capital reliquified in this fashion, the income of the company from investments has naturally suffered, and as a self-denying order was passed that dividends on its own stock should be reduced to 8 per cent. per annum for the future, instead of the old 10 per cent., the report for the past year ended June 30 is without possibility of sensation in the way of making a lavish display of fine profits or the reverse. The shareholders get their 8 per cent., and we might leave the matter there. It is, however, interesting to observe how the vigorous management of such a fine corporation as this contrives to shield the proprietors from anything like inconvenience through a shrinkage in revenue. For the past year gross earnings from working fell off \$4,887,000, but so much was saved in expenses that the decrease in nett income from the railway was only \$1,446,000. As, however, the "all sources" revenue was cut into to the extent of \$4,133,000 through sales of investments, the nett losses on working and investment incomes made the entire shortage \$5,579,000 after meeting taxes. For all that there was \$4,544,000 left after the 8 per cent. dividend had been paid, and, moreover, \$1,083,000 was taken from income to meet cost of certain additions and betterments effected during the year. Such facts indicate that the company has attained to a position of solidity apparently making it impregnable within its sphere. Altogether the amount of common stock outstanding is now \$222,293,100, on which the accumulated surplus just mentioned is equivalent to an extra  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., which might, but had better not, be distributed. A good harvest is the main cause of last year's prosperity, and yet the entire revenue derived from goods traffic was smaller. In mineral tonnage there was a decrease of 428,000 tons, and in forest products of 711,000 tons carried. Passenger traffic also suffered, but thanks to a reduction of \$3,004,000 in the expenses, the results are quite velvety. Various controlled corporations, such as the Union Pacific Coal

Co. and the Green River Water Works Co., are still held as investments, apparently without any hint of interference from the Inter-State Commerce Commission or other authority.

#### ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE.

Here likewise there was solid prosperity, and that even to a greater extent than in the case of the Union Pacific, but two exhibitions—the Panama-Pacific and the Panama-California—stimulated the business on the Atchison system, and, above all, the "unprecedented wheat crop" of Kansas contributed to swell its receipts. So although the passenger revenue has shown diminution for each of the past two years, and was only \$27,823,000 for the year closed June 30 last, as compared with \$29,426,000 two years before, the complete results were eminently satisfactory to all concerned. Something like \$1,000,000 per annum is estimated to be the loss the company will suffer through the opening of the Panama Canal, but for the present that estimate will be pleasantly falsified by the misfortunes which one after another paralyse the efficiency of that competing waterway. In spite of all drawbacks, however, and thanks mainly to the splendid harvest of the past year in grain and other agricultural products, gross earnings rose by \$6,556,000, of which \$3,934,000 remained as increase in the nett income after paying expenses. In the previous year there was \$5,786,000 less earned, causing a decrease of \$1,613,000 in the nett income, but even so the gain is most satisfactory, and enables the board of the company to pay the customary 6 per cent. on its common stock with \$6,513,000 left over, the whole of which is, as usual, appropriated for additions and betterments, a plan which should do more to elevate the Atchison to the highest position amongst investment railroad property in the United States than any other single influence. It has had to raise much new capital, however, as President Ripley points out. Since January 1, 1896, when last the then feeble though promising undertaking was in difficulties, about £62,000,000 has been spent upon the property, and of this about £44,000,000 was found by the sale of bonds at a rate of interest averaging little more than 4 per cent. That is how the company is now able to pay 6 per cent. dividends with such a large balance over, for the nett earnings on the entire capital sunk in the undertaking are still not much more than 5 per cent., so that if the borrowed money had been costing 5 per cent. or thereby there would have been little or no chance of dividends for the holders of the common stock. Taxes alone amounted last year to \$5,497,000, and promise to mount year by year without halt or pause.

#### INTERBOROUGH RAPID TRANSIT CO.

No breach has been made in the prosperity of this New York underground railroad company and its subject affluents for the year closed June 30 last. Its gross revenue from working the line was indeed \$81,653 less at \$33,434,000, but working expenses rose only \$39,261 and outside income was slightly higher, while the effect of the debt conversion going on was seen in a reduction of \$206,000 in the fixed charges, bringing them down to \$10,914,000 for the year. All the first mortgage 5 per cent. 45-year gold bonds and all the sinking fund bonds of the same currency and bearing the same interest have now been redeemed, consequently the nett income, after meeting all expenses and interest charges, was enough to enable the directors to give the stock of the company 20 per cent. in dividends, or 5 per cent. more than for 1913-14. That is, a 10 per cent. usual and 10 per cent. extra dividend were paid. Even then the surplus left was \$1,068,000. Had only 10 per cent. been paid the surplus would have been \$4,568,000. At the end of all there was an increase of \$295,000 in the profit and loss surplus, but during the year the funded debt was increased by \$4,993,000, and now amounts to \$103,658,000, or £20,740,000. Into the details we have no cause to enter, nor have we the space.



**CHICAGO, ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS AND OMAHA RAILWAY.**

This comparatively small road lost \$369,000 in earnings last year closed June 30, bringing the total down to \$17,841,000, but \$727,000 were saved in expenses, which were only \$12,108,000, consequently the nett revenue of \$5,734,000 was \$358,000 better. Taxes increased by about \$42,000 to \$1,015,000, but the board was able to continue the 7 per cent. dividends both on the preferred and common stocks, and managed to end the year with a surplus of \$132,000, compared with a deficiency of \$65,000 the previous fiscal year.

For the year ended June 30 last the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Co. (commonly known as the Soo system) had to face a fairly heavy loss in traffic receipts, but it was able to compensate for this by an equivalent reduction in expenses, so that the nett results show comparatively little variation as compared with those for the previous 12 months. Gross earnings amounted to \$27,763,225, a decrease of \$1,542,998, and operating expenses were \$17,811,374, a decrease of \$1,542,885; so that the nett earnings were \$9,951,850, or only \$113 less. Miscellaneous income, however, dropped \$24,700, while fixed charges, taxes, &c., were \$235,600 higher, with the result that the surplus income of \$3,110,736 is \$260,460 lower, and after paying the usual dividends of 7 per cent. on the preferred and common stocks \$173,700 remains to be added to the unappropriated balance, which now amounts to \$14,750,600. Freight revenue fell off \$580,630, largely due to decreased shipments of lumber, manufactured iron, machinery and building materials, but there were increases in live stock and iron ore shipments. Passenger traffic declined \$859,000, or 13 per cent., while the passenger train mileage could only be reduced 5½ per cent. Maintenance expenses show a decrease of \$905,000, this reduction being made possible by the generous expenditure in previous years. Transportation expenses were \$466,000 lower, partly due to the decrease in the amount of traffic handled. During the year the company purchased the property of the Fairmount and Vebleu Railway Co., a line 87 miles in length, and also the 18½ miles system of the Minnesota North-Western Electric Railway Co. During the year bonds to the amount of \$3,637,000 were sold, while bonds to the amount of \$1,366,500 were retired. In the balance-sheet road and equipment stand at \$118,450,000, an increase of \$2,490,000, and the reserve for depreciation is \$2,860,600, an increase of \$585,000. Securities of affiliated companies are \$227,000 higher at \$5,680,000, and miscellaneous investments are up \$450,000 at \$2,430,000. Cash in hand shows an increase of \$1,569,000, but there is a drop of \$870,000 in debtor balances, while sundry creditors are \$700,000 higher at \$5,485,000. The company continues its efforts to assist in the development of its territory with very encouraging results, and it is in a position to economically handle a largely-increased business.

**Insurance News.**

There appears to be a growing feeling among members on both sides of the House of Commons that an inquiry is desirable into the working of the National Insurance scheme, and the present position of affairs under it is likely to call for early consideration. Mr. Handel Booth is organising the movement for an inquiry, as the view is that the administration of the Act is unnecessarily extravagant, and that the financial condition of many of the approved societies is extremely unsatisfactory.

The question of the responsibilities of public bodies cropped up at a meeting of the managers of the Metropolitan Asylums District in connection with the decision of the board not to insure their hospitals and other institutions against loss from air raids. The auditor of the Local Government Board has raised the question of the personal liability of the members in the event of loss or damage, the view taken by the auditor being that the members were in the position of trustees, and he has pointed out that trustees who neglected a duty might be held personally liable for

loss if it occurred. The matter has now been referred to the finance committee.

In commenting on the report of the Board of Trade upon the accidents occurring on the railways of the United Kingdom during 1914, the *Post Magazine* points out that between the subject of railway accidents and that of personal accident insurance there exists a somewhat close connection, not the least factor in which is the practice that has grown up in late years on the part of insurance offices of giving increased policy benefits in case of personal injury arising out of certain railway casualties. Following the unfortunate experience of 1913, when the accident list was heavy, partly by reason of the terrible disaster at Aisgill, the returns for the past year showed a welcome improvement in the number of fatalities and injuries to passengers, the numbers both as regards persons killed and those injured being well below the yearly average for the 10 years 1903-1912.

**The Week in Mines.**

Mexican shares have practically monopolised attention in the Mining markets this week, and the advances established in this comparatively small section have quite overshadowed events in other departments. The reason for the revival of interest in these shares is that the Carranza group, having definitely obtained a military ascendancy over its rivals, has received formal recognition from the United States; thus there is a prospect that some semblance of order will gradually be evolved out of chaos, which will enable the mining companies to resume their operations. Copper shares have been less firm, and the South African market has been rather irregular, and the same remark applies to other departments.

**SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.**

Business in South African shares has been quieter, Cape operators showing no disposition to increase commitments pending the result of the elections. Modders have remained at 15, but Modder Deeps have eased to 5½, and Brakpans at 3 3-32 and Springs at 25s. 9d. have been supported on the quarterly development reports. City Deeps have been in good request at 37-32 and upwards, and Gedulds have recovered to 31s. 9d. There has been further buying of East Rands, which have risen to 1½, and Van Ryn Deeps recovered to 2½ on a little Cape buying. Wolhuters spurted 1s. to 12s. on the dividend, which is the same as last year, but Crown Mines weakened to 3½. Goerz at 13s. and Johannesburg at 14s. have been in some request, and finance shares generally have received attention from buyers.

In the Rhodesian department Chartereds fell to 9s., but subsequently recovered to 9s. 3d. on it being understood that a block of shares which had been overhanging the market had been absorbed. Mashonaland Agencies have been a feature of strength, the price rising to 7s. 6d., buyers, on talk of a fresh reorganisation scheme being drawn up to replace the one recently abandoned. Globe and Phoenix have made a good recovery, the shares being nearly 2s. up at 25s. 6d. Amalgamated Properties have changed

**AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.**

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ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

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hands up to 1s. 5½d. Diamond descriptions have been quieter, with De Beers deferreds easier at 10½. West African shares have shown no particular feature.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares failed to maintain the advance made in the latter part of last week owing to profit-taking in Wall Street, but firmed up again later. Anacondas relapsed from 16½ to 15½, but then rose to 16½, while Utahs recovered from 14½ to 14¾, after having touched 15½. Rio Tintos have been exceptionally dull at 53, and Hampdens declined to 29s. In the Russian group Russo-Asiatics declined to 4, but Kyshtims improved to 129-32. On the other hand, Spasskys weakened to 11½. Among Westralians, Great Boulders have been in demand up to 14s. 9d., while of the Indian descriptions Balaghats rose 6d. to 4s. 6d., and Nundydroogs were firm at 26s. on the second interim dividend of 1s. 2d. per share. Champions, however, have tended lower, the price being no better than 10s. 6d. Broken Hill shares have been quiet, with Proprietary debentures a feature of strength at 101½. Sulphides advanced to 17s. 6d., and Amalgamated Zincs to 25s. 3d.

#### RISE IN MEXICANS.

Mexican mines have developed marked activity and strength, but the rise in prices has been largely due to a shortage of shares coming to the market at the recent low level. Esperanzas have been freely dealt in, and have advanced nearly 50 per cent. to 11s. El Oros have risen about 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., Mexico of El Oro ¾ to 4½, and Buena Tierra ½ to ¾. The last-named company only suspended shipments last month, so that it should soon be able to recover lost ground if the Carranza Government can restore order. Camp Birds have been well bought, and have risen from 4s. 9d. to 7s. 3d., and its subsidiary, the Santa Gertrudis, has jumped 2s. to 10s. Tomboys rose to 20s. 6d. on the report.

#### MINING NEWS.

**SPASSKY.**—The report for 1914 states that on the basis of a normal exchange the nett profit for the past year in Siberia amounted to £116,270, and after deducting other expenses, less receipts, the available balance is £115,502, which compares with £240,237 in the preceding 15 months. With £44,825 brought forward, a total of £160,328 is shown. Owing to the low exchange value of the rouble it has been impossible to remit the profits earned, but the directors recommend a dividend of 2s. per share, less tax, the date of payment being left to the discretion of the board. During the year 4,683 tons of copper were produced by the smelters, and the copper sold realised £444,563. The current year's operations have so far resulted in good profits being realised.

**TROITZK GOLDFIELDS.**—Last year's output was £46,379, as against £54,299 in 1913 and £26,009 in 1912; and the result is that the profit and loss account shows a debit of £8,759, which compares with a debit of £5,524. The total debit carried forward is thus raised from £68,512 to £77,271. Reserves of ore are estimated at 23,250 tons, against 22,430 tons, valued at 12.3 roubles per ton. In addition there are 8,000 tons of accumulated slimes and 3,350 tons of ore in pillars.

**TOMBOY GOLD.**—The accounts for the year ended June 30 show a realised profit of £79,705, which compares with £81,071 in 1913-14, and the dividend is reduced from 4s. per share to 3s. per share. After writing off sums amounting to £52,218, the amount carried forward is reduced from £47,792 to £20,778. There were milled 145,857 tons, as against 137,456 tons, the profit being \$372,877, against \$354,682. The ore reserves are estimated at 535,060 tons.

**CENTRAL AMERICAN MINES.**—The report for the period from November 26, 1913 (the date of registration) to December 31, 1914, states that operations resulted in a debit of £15,654, which is carried to the balance-sheet. Improved extraction and more efficient results from the plant and works generally are now being obtained. The ore reserves at the end of December were estimated at 83,606 tons, valued at 38s. 8d. per ton. Since the beginning of this year a profit has been made each month, and the whole of the floating liabilities have been discharged.

**ARIZONA STRIKE.**—According to mail advices, the strike on the Arizona Copper Co.'s property is the result of an agitation by the Western Federation of Miners. The *Mining and Engineering World* states that the companies have so far refused to treat with the unions, and will remain idle rather than submit to them. It is pointed out that while the shut-down continues some 5,000 men or so will be unemployed, and the production of copper will be stopped to the extent of 70 million pounds per annum, the Arizona, which employs 2,500 men and produces 35,000,000 lbs., being the principal mine.

We are not in possession of the details of the conflict, but on broad grounds it is a short-sighted policy to ignore the men's organisations.

**SOUTH AFRICAN REAL ESTATE TRUST.**—The report for the year ended June 30 shows a decrease in revenue of £887, but expenditure was also slightly reduced. The profit was £2,152, making with the sum brought in £8,347. The board thinks there is no necessity for withholding the dividend foreshadowed last year any longer, and it is therefore proposed to pay 3½ per cent. and to carry forward £7,327.

#### MINING RETURNS.

**Alaska Mexican.**—Ore crushed, 18,700 tons: concentrates saved, 402 tons; value, \$26,300; net profit, \$2,400.

**Alaska Treadwell.**—80,500 tons; value, \$148,800; net profit, \$52,600.

**Chino Copper.**—Output for Aug. 6,640,923 lbs.

**Kyshtim Corporation.**—Total blister copper produced 424 long tons.

**North Broken Hill.**—1,120 tons concentrates, containing 666 tons 19 cwt. lead and 21,504 ozs. silver.

**Ouro Preto.**—7,050 tons, 1,940 ozs.; value, £7,740.

**Ray Consolidated Copper.**—Output for Aug. 5,779,489 lbs.

**Spassky Copper.**—Production 253 tons refined copper.

**Utah Copper.**—Output for Aug. 15,966,543 lbs.

#### What Balance Sheets Tell.

##### ROSARIO DRAINAGE CO., LTD.

In good times and bad this undertaking continues to progress, and although conditions in the year ended June 30 were far from favourable, further additions were made to the number of house connections which brought the total up to 6,925. Gross revenue improved by £1,138 to £57,576, and at the same time there was a slight reduction in working expenses, so that, with £3,252 more at £10,134 brought forward, the nett revenue was £4,614 better at £54,951. The preference dividend, however, requires considerably more, owing to the shares ranking for the full year, and the available surplus, after providing for various charges, is therefore £940 down at £26,795. Of this £2,500 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, but nothing is written off compared with £4,025 for preference shares issue expenses, and the sum carried forward is £3,085 up at £13,219. Expenditure on extensions amounted to £65,226, and there is now a debit balance on capital account of £16,705, as compared with a credit of £11,394 a year ago. The directors state that the two principal sections of the new works are now on a revenue producing basis, and connections with the drains are making steady progress, while the construction of the third section is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Liabilities to sundry creditors have been reduced by £62,659 to £9,440, against which the deposit of £88,756 shown in the previous balance-sheet has disappeared and cash has been reduced by £5,190 to £13,048, but there is a new item of £10,610 for bills receivable.

##### MONTEVIDEO TELEPHONE CO., LTD.

Owing to the depressed business conditions which prevailed during the year ended July 31 nett profits showed a decrease of £2,749 at £25,776, which brings them back to about the level of two years ago. Adding £5,303 brought forward, the disposable total is £1,909 smaller at £26,737, out of which £8,000, or £1,500 less, is written off for depreciation, and £9,000, or £500 less, is transferred to reserve for renewals, and after repeating the dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £5,394 is carried forward. On balance property account has been reduced by £3,554 to £186,156, and stores are £4,636 lower at £6,789, while investments show an increase of £7,836 at £49,289. Debtors owe £723 less at £8,616, and cash is £4,048 down at £10,799, but bills receivable have risen by £5,200 to £11,000, and current liabilities have been reduced by £2,647 to £8,815.

##### FERRANTI, LTD.

Never a conspicuous success, this firm of electrical, mechanical and general engineers did very badly in the year ended June 30. The dislocation of business caused by the war, the heavy falling off in the export trade, and adverse monetary conditions, are blamed for a reduction of £9,687 to £38,314 in the trading profits. Part of this was offset by a decrease of £5,733 in expenses, and the outlay on repairs and renewals was cut down by £917, but after providing for interest charges and again setting aside £10,000 to depreciation reserve, the nett result was a loss of £1,022 as compared with a profit of £1,508 for the previous 12 months. As, however, £1,508 more at £2,050 was brought in, there is still a balance of £1,028 to carry to the new accounts. Contracts have been made with the Government for the supply of shells and fuses, and as considerable outlay will be necessary in buildings and plant, the Government has agreed to make certain advances for this purpose. Expenditure on equipment of shell department amounted to £11,856, and apparently £7,330 had been advanced against this under the agreement. Other loans, however, were reduced by £4,233 to £20,076, while current liabilities showed an increase of £3,291 at £41,172. Goodwill and patent rights stand in the balance-sheet at £69,547, or rather more than half the issued share capital, a proportion which seems wholly disproportionate to the company's earning power. Leasehold properties are valued at £53,548, and plant, &c.,



at £128,846, the latter item being £2,879 up. Work in hand comes to £67,428, or £1,766 more, but debtors owe £1,647 less at £58,123, and cash is £1,619 down at £2,793. The works of the company were declared a controlled establishment under the Munitions of War Act on September 6.

#### GOODE, DURRANT AND CO., LTD.

During the first half of the 12 months ended July 20 trade was adversely affected by the severe drought, and nett profits showed a decrease of £8,630 at £28,765, but as £6,820 more at £23,845 was brought forward, the amount available was only £1,810 down at £52,610. The dividend on the ordinary shares, however, is reduced from 10 per cent. to 8, and nothing is transferred to general reserve, compared with £5,000 a year ago, so that the balance carried out is increased by £6,490 to £30,336. The company has purchased the freehold of its Adelaide warehouse at a cost of £16,000, the necessary funds being provided by a first mortgage for £4,500 for three years at 5½ per cent., and a second mortgage for £11,500 for two years at 3½ per cent. Property account now stands at £94,978, or an increase of £27,261, and goodwill is valued at £40,000, against which there is a reserve of £110,000. Stocks are £10,345 smaller at £339,197, and cash has been reduced by £12,740 to £1,871, but a reduction of £24,507 to £38,878 in bills receivable is offset by an increase of £25,434 to £149,613 in sundry debtors, while liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable are £18,348 down at £180,790.

#### PATERSON, LAING AND BRUCE, LTD.

Like other Australian merchants, this company found its operations in the 12 months ended July 19 seriously hampered by the difficulties of obtaining and shipping supplies. Trading profits consequently fell off by £8,296 to £53,993, and after providing for administration charges and debenture interest, the nett balance, including £24,692, or £807 more, brought forward, was £7,489 down at £65,793. The dividend on the ordinary shares, however, is maintained at 6 per cent., but nothing is transferred to general reserve compared with £10,000 a year ago, while an extra £500 at £3,000 is put to pension fund, and the sum carried forward is increased by £2,011 to £26,703. Stocks show a reduction of no less than £67,882 at £460,130, against which there is a decrease of £27,428 to £237,885 in current liabilities, but debtors have risen by £41,805 to £258,417, and there is only a small drop of £474 to £13,607 in cash balances.

#### HOPE BROS., LTD.

As expected, this business was hit by war conditions in its year ended August 31, its gross profits showing a decrease of £10,339 at £34,344. The outlay on advertising, however, was nearly halved at £2,767, and after providing for administration charges, the nett profits, including £15,690, or £3,122 more, brought forward, were only £4,739 lower at £42,951. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again cut down by 1 per cent. to 4 per cent., and nothing is set aside compared with £500 transferred to the staff benevolent fund a year ago, while the balance carried forward is reduced by £1,239 to £14,451. Property account remains at £178,796, and goodwill also stands at the very high valuation of £275,073, against which the reserves and sinking fund only aggregate £80,539, figures which indicate a very heavy handicap. Stocks show a reduction of £12,472 at £193,664, but debtors owe £4,917 more at £14,055, and cash is £9,510 up at £17,559, while £31,567, or only £356 less, is due to sundry creditors.

#### TECKA (ARGENTINA) LAND CO., LTD.

Further progress was made in the year ended June 30 by this company, which now enters the dividend-paying lists with a distribution of 5 per cent., less tax. The clip of wool was 162,888 lbs. larger at 605,373 lbs., and most of it was disposed of in Argentina, but the directors say that the conditions ruling in the past year make any comparison with the previous year's prices impossible. Receipts from livestock were trifling owing to the greater part of stock trooped to the Province of Buenos Aires not being sold at June 30, but the nett profits from all sources were £5,843 larger at £10,333. Adding £5,805 brought in, the disposable total was £16,138, or £9,332 more, of which the dividend absorbs £10,000 and £538 is transferred to renewals reserve, leaving £5,599, or £206 less, to be carried forward. Lambs marked numbered 34,336, equal to an increase of 77 per cent., but losses were heavier owing to severe weather, and the total sheep stock was only 18,284 up at 108,589. A further 27 miles of boundary and divisional fencing were erected, and the company now has 324,319 acres enclosed out of a total of 383,000 acres. Property account is £5,489 higher at £191,645, and machinery, &c., is £1,877 up at £9,205. Debtors have risen by £5,283 to £5,554, and cash and bills come to £3,814 more at £22,283, but consignments in transit appearing in the previous balance-sheet for £6,510 have vanished. Current liabilities, including £5,500 for bills payable, show very little change at £11,080.

#### ERICSSON SHIPPING CO., LTD.

For the greater part of the year ended September 30 both of this company's vessels were employed in Admiralty work, and it was, therefore, unable to share in the exceptional conditions which prevailed in the freight market. Profits, however, showed an increase of £1,642 at £8,766, and after providing for debenture interest, the nett balance, including £394 brought in, was £1,715 up at £7,840. Of this, £1,000, as against nothing, is set aside for income-tax reserve, £964 more at £3,513 is written off for depreciation, underwriting and maintenance reserve get £200 each, after which a dividend of 15 per cent., or the same as a year ago, is paid, leaving £426

to be carried forward. In October, 1914, contracts were placed for two new boats of about 5,500 tons deadweight each, but it is impossible to say when delivery can take place, owing to the builders being occupied with Government work. Property account has been reduced by £2,536 to £34,513, but £2,091 has been paid on account of the new steamers, and in this connection the company recently made an issue of 5,000 £1 shares, increasing the paid-up capital to £20,000. Investments are £7,108 higher at £16,708, but cash is £2,154 down at £1,734, while, on the other hand, £2,000 of the debentures have been paid off, leaving £26,000 outstanding, and sundry creditors have been reduced by £1,316 to £2,811.

### Notes on Books.

*The Political Economy of War.* By F. W. Hirst. (London and Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. Price 5s. nett.)

No title more enticing to the thoughtful citizen could be hit upon than this. It excited many anticipations in the mind of the present writer, which he regrets to say have not been quite fulfilled. To deal with the consequences of any war upon the history and fate of nations demands a wide range of vision, much penetration and balance of judgment, as well as familiarity with history. The last essential Mr. Hirst undoubtedly has in a high degree. We know no journalist of the present day who displays a greater capacity for apt quotations. He first displayed this gift in an attractive form in his book, published anonymously, called "The Arbiter in Council." It was a book that, without knowing at all who the author might be, fascinated us when it first fell into our hands, just because of the skill displayed by its compiler in bringing together citations from many sources illustrative of what may be called the persistence of the peace and amity ideal amongst nations. In this newest volume by the editor of the *Economist* we get the same exhibition of adroitness in selection, wide range of reading and illuminative comment upon past wars, especially wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Also we get much information culled from many sources relative to the history of war itself in this and other countries, and consequently the result is a book full of interest and well worth reading. When, however, we come to the final portion of the book, dealing with the great war of 1914-15, we enter an arena where skill in selection of material does not help the author. He has to fall back on his own capacity to think and if possible to evolve estimates of the future out of what the past has taught him, aided by such indications as may be afforded by the study of current events. What is going to be the fate of Europe after this war is over? Will any com-

### CITY OF OSAKA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £3,084,940.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st November, 1915, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI,

Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,  
18th October, 1915.

### GOVERNEMENT IMPERIAL DU JAPON BONS DU TRESOR 5 PER CENT. DE 1913.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st November, 1915, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,  
18th October, 1915.



batant nation survive and be solvent? If solvent, will it be possible for the United Kingdom and France to maintain the existing social order and, at the same time, to live and expand beneath the stupendous weight of the mortgage war costs are busy laying upon the people? These are all questions of supreme importance that we cannot find any trace of a real attempt to answer in Mr. Hirst's final chapters, which are what the pedant would call informational chapters; but we want more than that if political economy is really to be an illuminative science helpful in guiding our steps among the pitfalls and amid the utter darkness which threatens to settle down upon our civilisation. We should have liked, for example, to have had Mr. Hirst's idea as to how what we call the "privileged" classes in this country are going to fare when the war is over. He does not seem to think that it will rid us of conscription, of enormous expenditure in maintaining armies and navies, but if it does not do that, then the war is certain to ruin us all, and in ruining us to lay low the mighty, the rich, the privileged in every country; to reduce our huge bureaucracies to the dimensions almost of parish vestries, and so to upset the foundations of public and private credit as perhaps to throw us back upon simple barter as the only practicable or safe method of exchange. We cannot bring the mind to contemplate such an appalling vision of ruin and economic impotence as Mr. Hirst's conclusions seem to foreshadow. In our view, unless the social consequences of the war are to level up we shall run danger of having fought in vain. Therefore, we seek continually for indications regarding the course to be followed to avoid the catastrophe, and would have been profoundly grateful to the writer of this book had he given us help. All we can thank him, and thank him sincerely, for is the diligent gathering together of much material out of which his readers may be able to get assistance in trying to clarify and illuminate their own judgment.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*A Guide to South America.* By W. A. Hirst. (London: Methuen and Co., Essex Street, Strand, W.C.) 6s. nett.

*The City July, 1914-5.* By H. C. Sonne. (London: Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle Street, E.C.)

*Elements of Foreign Exchange.* By Franklin Escher. (London: Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle Street, E.C.) 4s. nett.

### Answers to Correspondents.

\*. **A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

H. B. (Norfolk).—(1) This should be good in all circumstances, and ought to improve. (2) This also is a first-class security. (3) Were these bonds a first mortgage we should have no doubt about them, but they do not seem to be, and we, therefore, think they might be left out. (4) This is first-class if you can get it at the price, which you may do on a favourable chance. (5) Here, again, we have a security which is not a first mortgage, and this company, although very prosperous, has raised up a good deal of competition, and in one way or other owes a lot of money. (6) Substitute, say, the Havana Terminal 5 per cents., about 92½, or Mercantile and General Trust 4 per cent. debenture stock, as near 75 as possible. This exhausts your deposit and leaves you 1s. 8d. in our debt.

C. T. D.—We do not think you should. The road is still a long one, and there may be many set-backs, but ultimately prices should still further improve.

M. J. J.—Traffic receipts show a considerable shrinkage, but the outlook seems brighter, so we think you might hold on. There is some expectation that a dividend will be paid next half-year.

P. A. W.—Yes, we think so. The odd amount does not matter, but you can easily make it up at any time, if you wish.

F. W. M.—The charge varies, we believe, but the usual basis is approximately ½ per cent.; unless the amount is trivial much depends on the amount of work to be done. This is, as a rule, a separate charge.

An Old Subscriber.—We do not think this is a good time to sell, and would advise you to wait a little. The company has recently put more stamps to work, and should therefore be increasing its output.

### PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and October 16, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 16, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 17, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1:—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,952
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	23,271,000	18,189,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	30,320,000	19,950,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	17,972,000	13,761,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	3,394,000	4,401,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	18,688,000	9,196,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	60,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	16,800,000	15,950,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	210,000	220,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	767,960	792,767
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	2,351,471	2,736,181
Revenue .....	267,232,000	114,365,431	85,515,948
Total, including Balance .....		197,816,383	95,950,467
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		850,000	1,500,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		8,722,000	20,100,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		566,000,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,000,000	1,150,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,500,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		232,150,000	72,130,000
Total .....		1,042,582,961	190,830,467

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 16, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 17, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	16,496,471	14,008,602
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	5,201,513	514,469
Road Improvement Fund ....	1,431,000	694,395	817,695
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	4,177,521	4,098,659
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,000	1,183,425	1,086,910
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	718,533,360	145,775,018
Expenditure .....	1,054,676,000	746,286,685	166,301,353
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,275,000	1,895,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,950,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		160,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		50,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		80,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £88,098,000, in 1915-16) .....		88,098,000	15,000,000
	1915. Oct. 16.	1914. Oct. 17.	
Balances in Exchequer—	£	£	
Bank of England .....	17,426,429	4,453,955	
Bank of Ireland .....	592,839	466,539	
Total .....			1,042,582,961

NOTE.—The Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure are based upon the original Budget Estimate.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on October 16, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. ..	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. ..	£219,025,000
Total .. ..	£229,025,000

\* Includes £101,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, October 18, 1915.

Demerara Railway Co.—In consequence of the shortness of the staff in the colony, due to withdrawals for military service and to interruptions in the Transatlantic Mail Service, the half-yearly accounts have only just been received, and it will therefore not be possible to present the report and balance-sheet this month as customary.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LTD.  
EXPORTS FROM THE ARGENTINE.—PROSPECTS OF  
THE CURRENT YEAR.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, under the presidency of Sir Robert Harvey, the chairman of the company.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Albert K. Raphael) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have now the pleasure to move the resolution: "That the report and balance-sheet as distributed be adopted, and that a final dividend at the rate of 4s. per share, less income-tax, be, and is, hereby declared, payable on the 27th instant." When we last met I was able to inform you that our Belgian colleagues were safe and well, and I am happy to be able to repeat that statement to-day, although Mr. Edward Bunge has remained in Antwerp practically the whole time since we had the pleasure of seeing him with us at our last meeting. As regards our staff, I regret to tell you that the English members of our Hamburg staff have been interned by the German Government, and we have done all we can to mitigate the inconvenience under which they are suffering by supplementing the supplies of necessities and comforts of life as far as is permissible. (Hear, hear.) The total number of our staff who have now joined his Majesty's forces is 120, of whom about one-half came from South America for that purpose. (Cheers.) It is with much regret that I tell you that no less than six of them have been killed in battle, and we feel sure that the devotion to their country which resulted in their sacrifice, in common with so many others, will be as highly appreciated by you as it is by the board and their colleagues. (Cheers.)

## THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

The financial arrangements which had been made by the English Government with so much efficacy a year ago have since been supplemented from time to time, as became needful, in order to meet the changing circumstances, and I am sure you will all have regarded with admiration their effectiveness. So far as they have affected trade, they have been ample, and in respect of the Argentine have resulted in our receiving from that country all the foodstuffs that we required at prices which, while naturally higher than former values, have yet represented by no means so great an increase as might otherwise have been expected. In regard to the financial arrangements, I should like to refer especially to two points. Firstly, the issue of the War Loans, so enthusiastically received by the public, and in which I may mention we have taken altogether £200,000—an operation which, with all confidence, we submit to you for your approval. (Cheers.) Secondly, the loan recently arranged in New York for the purpose of adjusting the American exchange, which has already had a marked effect.

## CHANGES IN BUSINESS METHODS THROUGH THE WAR.

The war has brought about many changes in business methods, and in particular caused important developments in the trade between the United States and the South American countries, resulting in an extension of direct financial operations between the two parts of the Western Continent, in which we have, by means of our New York office, the opportunity to take our part, and we are closely watching the trend of events, with a view to securing our proportionate participation in that direction. (Hear, hear.)

A year ago I was able to indicate to you that there were good prospects for the crops in the Argentine. This outlook has become an accomplished fact, and I may tell you that the export of wheat during the year has been 2,500,000 tons, as compared with 900,000 tons in the previous year—(cheers)—and there is available for export 5,000,000 tons of maize—of which only 3,000,000 tons up to now have been shipped—as against total shipments of 1,800,000 tons for the former year. It is not only in the quantity that the Republic has benefited, but in the price, which has been considerably higher. Wool has been shipped in about the equal quantity of last year, but here again the value has been favourably affected to the extent of probably 50 per cent. The actual value of the exportation of meat shipped exceeds that of the previous year by reason of the improvement in price, although the quantity shipped is somewhat less. The benefit of all this exportation to the agriculturists and graziers cannot fail to show its effect in a little time by enabling the payment of mortgage and other debts, for which they were in many cases being somewhat urgently pressed. Even already the effect is being felt, and the general position of the whole community has very much improved. The importers have had a very bad year, the quantity of goods bought by the Argentine being small in comparison with former years, but should the coming crops prove up to expectation, there will no doubt be a tendency to develop in the importation.

## PROSPECTS OF THE COMING CROPS.

The prospects of the coming crops are probably not equal to what they were last year, as at the critical time of sowing rains were badly wanted, and although this has been in part modified quite recently, the rainfall is still under the average. We have a telegram from our Buenos Aires manager, received to-day, which states:—"Crop prospects.—Wheat in general excellent. Oats very good, owing to further rains. Linseed average. Maize too early to report, but expect some damage from locusts. Local financial position steadily improving."

The province of Mendoza, which, as you know, depends almost entirely upon wine production, has not been in a favourable condition for a year or two past, owing to over-production and low prices. This has now to a certain extent improved, partly by certain effective local measures taken by the Government of the province, and partly by the ability of the producers to raise the selling price of the wine to a point at which it shows a moderate profit.

## THE DEMAND FOR NITRATE—THE CHILE EXCHANGE.

In Chile the falling off in the demand for nitrate for agricultural purposes by the belligerent countries—who, as you will probably remember, formerly took about 60 per cent. of the supply—has been in some measure counterbalanced by the demand for nitrate for making explosives, and it is anticipated that the total consumption during this year will be about 40,000,000 quintals, as compared with 60,000,000 quintals previously. The price of the commodity has improved very considerably, and is now 9s. 3d. per quintal, as compared with 6s. 6d. last year. The companies have to face a considerable increase in the cost of manufacture, but we believe that in a great many cases this leaves, at present prices, quite a reasonable profit. The mineral resources of Chile are being increasingly developed, whilst in agriculture and cattle the country has had the benefit of improved prices. Megallanes, in Chile, and the corresponding district of Patagonia, in the Argentine, which depend chiefly on sheep farming, have derived great benefit from the improved prices of wool and meat, and our branches in that district have rendered us excellent service during the year.

You will observe that at the date of making up our balance-sheet the Chile exchange had fallen to 7½d. per dollar. It is now 9d., and, as you are aware, our capital in that country has already been written down to 10d., which leaves only a moderate difference, with which we do not on this occasion propose to deal.

## THE ACCOUNTS: LARGE CASH SURPLUS.

I will now direct your attention to a few items in the accounts, and, before doing so, I wish to remind you that we are making comparison with the period up to June 30, 1914, when we were not in any way affected by the war. In these circumstances, we are very glad to see that profits are reduced only by £10,000—from £279,000 to £269,000—and this is more than accounted for by an increase of £12,000 in income-tax. Expenses show a reduction of £23,000, part of which is due to the enforced exclusion of the figures at Hamburg office, and a further part to the lower rate of exchange at which the charges in Chile were converted into sterling. There is, however, outside these two items a certain reduction in our expenses, and although it is very difficult to do much more in this direction, the point will continue to receive our very close attention, more especially during the time when our earning power remains at the present level. I am afraid that I cannot hazard a forecast as to what our profits may be in the current year. Conditions of business have so entirely changed that it is unusually difficult to see far ahead, but I am pleased to tell you that the results for the quarter ended September 30 are very encouraging—(hear, hear)—and we, therefore, indulge the hope that we may, when we have the pleasure to meet again, have figures to submit to you which will be deemed satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) Our earning power has been affected considerably by the large surpluses of cash held by our branches in South America, who were unable to find the usual employment for them in the discounting of trade bills, owing to the great shrinkage in imports, and the result is evidenced by the fact that our cash in hand had increased by over £500,000 in the year.

## THE INVESTMENTS.

You will observe that our investments in first-class securities have increased by £260,000, and I have already explained to you in what way this chiefly arises. I am sorry to say that we have to deal with a depreciation in the general value of securities, which will, indeed, I expect, not surprise you, and we have thought it best to write down the book prices out of the profits to those current at the date on which we make up our accounts, because in present circumstances it is impossible to foresee if the values will eventually reach their former level. Personally, I think that, with the great wastage of capital that is involved in the war, they will not do so, although there may, and probably will, be a certain amount of recovery, of which, if it should come to pass, we shall feel the benefit in future years. I may mention that the values at the present date are fully equal to those at June 30, so that you can rest assured that at the present moment the item of £1,850,000 at which our investments figure is the actual value to-day. (Hear, hear.) Our bills payable and bills receivable show a large shrinkage, due to the smaller turnover in exports and imports. Our deposits show a slight increase, which, in the circumstances, is very gratifying.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROFITS.

Regarding the distribution of our profits, we have decided to propose the same dividend as in April last—namely, 4s. per share, making 8 per cent. for the year. We make the usual contribution to the staff pension fund, write down the investments, and have to carry forward £133,000, or £23,000 more than was brought in. We consider that the correct and prudent policy at present is not to exceed this percentage of dividend until conditions have become more normal, and, in the meantime, to steadily increase the amount carried forward, so that an appreciable amount may be available to meet any contingencies which may arise, although at present we have no definite indications thereof. I cannot conclude without specially mentioning the services of the staff abroad and at home. They have served us loyally and well in a time of undue anxiety, and it



gives me special pleasure to mention the fact in a year of such stirring events, requiring exceptional and strenuous effort. I now beg to move the resolution which I have read, and when this is seconded I shall invite any comments which you may have to make in reference to the report now submitted. (Cheers.)

Mr. Thomas Woodsend: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

No questions being asked, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now beg to move—"That Mr. Auguste de Lantsheere and Mr. Thomas Woodsend, two of the retiring directors in accordance with the articles of association, be and hereby are re-elected."

Mr. Alfred Naylor seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. J. Russell Gubbins, seconded by Mr. Urquhart, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. were re-elected auditors for the year ending June, 1916.

#### APPRECIATION OF DIRECTORS' SERVICES.

Mr. M. B. Snell: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I should like to say a few words before we part, if you will allow me to do so. I was very pleased indeed to hear the remarks made by the chairman with reference to the staff. His words that "they have served us loyally and well in a time of undue anxiety" were apt. I am sure that we all agree with your remarks, sir, but I should like to add that I am certain it is the wish of the shareholders present to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the directors for the way in which they have carried on our business during the past 12 months. We all know—people in the City more particularly—the very anxious times we experienced a year ago, and what, therefore, must it have been for the directors of a large bank like this? They must have had a very trying and anxious time. I think that we cannot be too thankful for the mercies which have been vouchsafed to us up to the present, and we hope that before the year is over peace may be re-established, and that we may then hope to go ahead again, and make improved profits. In that case I cannot help thinking that North America and South America will prove to be among the most prosperous parts of the world. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. Wentworth Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman: I thank you very much indeed, ladies and gentlemen, for your most kind and complimentary vote of thanks, which I am sure we all appreciate very much. In my speech I made no remarks with regard to any particular members of the staff, but now I have much pleasure in saying that the heat and burden of the day has fallen chiefly on the shoulders of the managing director, who has met the difficulties of the situation in the most admirable way. He and the managers abroad and at home with their staffs are as much to be thanked as the directors, and probably more so. I very much appreciate your kind vote of thanks, and I hope that we shall have an equally good, if not a better, showing when we next meet. (Cheers.)

The proceedings then terminated.

#### ERICSSON SHIPPING CO.

The sixth general meeting of the Ericsson Shipping Co., Ltd., Newcastle, was held on Monday at the company's offices, St Nicholas Buildings, Mr. A. F. Ericsson, chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the directors' report, and said he was glad they had had another satisfactory year, although the result would have been greatly improved if the steamers had been free to benefit by the freights ruling in the general freight market. However, as it was, they had done fairly well, and he reminded them that for the six years of the company's existence they had paid 71 per cent. in dividends, or an average of nearly 12 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. Besides this, they had during those six years written off, placed to reserve, &c., £20,318, or more than the present total paid-up ordinary share capital of the company, with the result that the values of the company's steamers had been reduced. The *Monitoria*, which cost £22,526, now stood at £15,000, and the *Hyltonia*, which cost £23,591, now stood at £16,000. In other words, the cost per ton deadweight was £6 19s. 1d., and is now £4 13s. 6d. per ton, which was less than half the market value of these steamers to-day. There was every prospect, he thought, that freights would continue high. They had contracted for two Monitor steamers of about 5,500 tons each on very favourable terms indeed. With respect to taxation of war profits, this would not touch them to any extent, and, seeing they had done Government work, and thereby earned less money than they otherwise would have done, he thought they and other owners similarly situated should be exempt from such taxation.

Mr. Louis Zollner seconded the motion. They were not, he added, receiving any of those big plums which shipowners were getting nowadays, more especially the Scandinavian shipowners, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that the company's boats were doing excellent work for the Government.

The report was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. C. W. Ormston, seconded by Mr. A. E. Belmont, a final dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, was declared on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent. for the year, and a *pro rata* dividend of 5 per cent. free of income-tax, was declared upon the 5,000 ordinary shares issued in June last.

The retiring director, Mr. Robert Detchon, was re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. John M. Winter and Sons, were re-appointed.

#### DICK, KERR AND CO.

##### ADAPTATION OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Dick, Kerr and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Claud T. Cayley (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. D. Johnson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Just over a year ago, when we last met, I fancy the large majority of us fully anticipated that before we met again the war would be over, and we would be in a position of considering our own affairs from a normal point of view. As it is, the position remains much as it was. We are in a state of suspense, living from hand to mouth, as it were; all our normal development is stopped, and our energies are transferred to the special requirements of the time. I told you last year that, in the opinion of your directors, the company would experience some lean years after the war before we could hope for the re-establishment of our standard business, especially in heavy manufacturing, and I have no reason to alter this opinion. The profit on this year's trading is principally derived from orders and contracts taken before the war, and these are gradually falling in to a finish. As can be readily understood, they are not being replaced by others of a similar nature, so that, although we are busy now on abnormal work, there is bound to be a transition period occupied in re-establishing normal conditions, and it is because of this that your directors cannot see their way to recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares. They feel that some reserve must be made to bridge over that period. I have mentioned that we are busy now, but not on normal work, and, although your directors are primarily pleased because they believe we, as a company, are assisting the Government to a material extent, they are also hopeful that some reasonable profit proportionate to the efforts being made will be permitted—sufficient, at all events, to make it unnecessary next year to put such a large percentage of profit to reserve for contingencies. Clear indications, however, have been given, first in the Munitions Act, and secondly in the Budget, of the Government's intention to absorb excess profits, especially if derived from work due directly to the war. No person can object to this principle, but at the same time no one, at all events outside of the Government, can predict to what extent it will be applied, and it therefore behoves us to be ultra conservative in dealing with our accounts at the present time.

##### CONTRACTS INCREASED.

There is no abnormal change to draw attention to in the accounts. Contracts are larger than they have been for some years. One cause is found in the Metropolitan Water Board contract, where a very large amount of plant is required, which is going on, although suffering to some extent for want of labour. Another cause is in connection with certain changes and developments on the manufacturing side of the business, respecting which, however, I cannot go into details. I do not know that there is anything in the balance-sheet to which I need draw special attention. You will observe that it is made up to June 30, 1915, and during the period covered by that document we were not as heavily engaged in the manufacture of war material as we are at the present time and probably shall be in the immediate future. You will observe that contracts figure at £460,365, which, as I have said, is larger than in many previous years. The capital position remains about the same, and you will notice that we have placed £25,000 to a special reserve for contingencies. I will now move: "That the audited accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, together with the report of the directors thereon, be and they are hereby adopted."

Mr. R. H. Prestwich (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The payment of the dividend on the preference shares having been confirmed,

The Chairman, in proposing the re-election of the retiring directors, remarked that it did not need any words from him to recommend the reappointment of Mr. David C. Ellis and Mr. John Sampson.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Prestwich and unanimously approved.

The auditors (Messrs. Gane, Jackson, Jefferys and Freeman) were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, management, and staff.



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## Passing Events.

By continuing to display sweet reasonableness Mr. McKenna will succeed in getting his Budget through Parliament with but slight modification. A considerable debate arose on Wednesday evening over the excess profits tax, and one small concession was the result. It was conceded, for instance, that the excess profits tax should be imposed on war profits exceeding pre-war profits of £200 instead of £100 as fixed in the clause as it stood. This would involve a substantial loss in revenue, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but as it would also afford relief to small traders generally he gave way. It was otherwise with the various attempts made to limit the operation of the tax so as to exclude all businesses not deriving their profits in some way from war, and Mr. Lough's demand that only special firms should be taxed had really no sound reason behind it. As Mr. Montagu pointed out, the limitation would be most unfair. Large fortunes would escape which were being made by the operation of economic forces out of inflated prices for wheat, flour, meat, and other commodities. There was also a discussion as to the date when the reckoning of profits should begin, and it was proposed by Mr. J. M. Henderson, the member for West Aberdeenshire, that the excess profits should begin to be reckoned from the commencement of the war, excluding the pre-war period. Here, again, it was pointed out by Mr. Montagu that if the amendment were accepted the Government might as well drop the tax altogether, as they would lose something like £20,000,000 of revenue by it. We agree with Sir Charles Warner in thinking that it was a miserable sight to see members cavilling at the introduction of taxes while thousands of lives were being lost in the fields of battle. Their business, he added, was to beat the Germans and not to put hindrances in the way of the Government. That is the truth, and the amendment was defeated by a majority of 161 in a House of 217, a quite satisfactory conclusion. Money must be found, in short, and if, in the end, the Government has to demand all excess profits beyond what might be called "the living wage of the wealthy," no one would have a right to grumble. Money and munitions save lives and win the war.

It is no business of ours to speculate on the reasons why our Ally, France, has had to change the composi-

tion of its Ministry, but one motive is obvious on the surface. In M. Viviani's Cabinet two civilians held the offices of Ministers of War and Marine. In the new Cabinet formed by M. Briand, the one post is held by a soldier and the other by a sailor, the able military Governor of Paris, General Gallieni, being appointed Minister of War, and Admiral Lacaze Minister of Marine. This shows that the determination of France to fight to the finish increases rather than diminishes as the long-drawn conflict progresses. In another respect the new Cabinet is significant of national concentration, national unity of purpose. It contains some of the oldest and most venerated living statesmen in France, including even M. Meline, whose appointment to the Ministry of Agriculture may perhaps be taken as significant of the pressure of rural interests in favour of continuance of Protection, and M. de Freycinet, the great designer of civilising public undertakings. All the wise and experienced statesmen of France of whatever party or creed may be said to be gathered around M. Briand, and as he has already proved himself to be a resolute and capable statesman we can accept the change as of good augury for a vigorous prosecution of the war. It is also a lesson to us in our Cabinet chopping and changing. Instead of reducing the size of the Cabinet, as there is clamour for here, the French are enlarging theirs, and for every member of it, whether with a portfolio or without, there is a superabundance of work to do. Let us give it our uninterrupted hearty and loyal support.

There is nothing to be down-hearted about in Friday morning's war news. It was to be expected that the Austro-Germans and Bulgars would in a manner push everything before them at the beginning, especially if they were reckless of the lives of the pawns they sent to the shambles. Therefore, exaggerated ideas about their progress ought not to be entertained, and we need have no fear of slackness on the part of any of our Allies in going to the rescue of the sore-pressed Serbians. We need not even be afraid of Greece, because the allied fleets can contain her ambitions and circumscribe the scope of her Government's treacheries to the extent needed. Away north in Russia all goes well, and it looks to-day as if, within another week or two at the longest, we might be able to hail Hindenburg the Held as Hindenburg the Hided. It is unnecessary to say anything further



about the Franco-Belgian frontier, where *les Bosches* are steadily being ground down. We are reliably told that the aspect of the prisoners now taken when the German assaults fail on the Allied trenches is entirely different from what it was a year ago. The lame, the halt, and the blind are now found fighting in the German ranks. That proves that exhaustion must be near. So also would the news, if true, that the Kaiser himself is to take command against the Allies in Flanders. One more effort is to be made to get through to Calais, the Central News man says, and we should be delighted to think his information official. We should prefer to behold the Kaiser a captive, put on his trial, sentenced to death, and hanged, but still, should he court and meet the fate of Charles the Rash at Morat we shall find it impossible to weep.

General Botha, and not only General Botha, but all free men in South Africa are to be congratulated on his victory at the polls. The fight has been a strenuous one, but not more so than the multitude of contradictory aims and ideals in the South African Union led us to expect, and the triumph looks all the more solid. According to the final results, the South African party—General Botha's—will have 54, the Conservative Unionist party—whose precise gospel we cannot define—40, the Nationalists 27, Independents 5, and Labour 4 votes in the new Parliament. As apparently General Botha's Cabinet can count on the support of the Unionists on most Imperial questions, the adhesion of South Africa to the British Empire and its endorsement of the conquest and annexation of what was German South-West Africa is emphatic. That the Free Staters and their General Hertzog should cling to old separatist ideals is natural enough in the circumstances—and forgivable, for they have suffered much at our hands—but we hope they will now gradually reconcile themselves to the inevitable, and begin to learn by experience that the Briton is not by habit or training and disposition a ruthless tyrant, nor yet a man always bent on interfering with other people's freedom. By their vote the electors of the Union have endorsed the Imperial policy of their Prime Minister, and assured their place as a free community within the British Empire.

Probably our Government's offer of Cyprus to Greece as a bribe to induce her Government to fulfil its treaty obligations to Serbia was maladroit in diplomacy and certainly far too much indicative of our incorrigible habit of trustfulness, but it at least served to reveal the real temper of the Greek King and his German upholders. They, we fully believe, have never had the least intention of coming to the aid of Serbia, of joining the Allies. Constantine is probably rival candidate to Ferdinand and the Fox for the throne of Constantinople, and ready to betray Bulgaria as he has betrayed Serbia when his brother-in-law thinks the ripe moment has come. He has tricked Venezelos and tricked the *Entente* Powers, and presently, if we are not on the alert, he is more likely than not to use the army Venezelos was simple enough to permit him to mobilise in attacking the French and ourselves from behind. It is not the Turk or the Bulgar, it is not even Mackensen and his hordes, we fear, but the treacherous Constantine and his Teutonised Greeks. The Allied Governments must change their attitude and tone in Athens, and also see to it that the military base at Salonika is well secure against treacherous attack. The Kaiser, remember, is desperate; he is making wild plunges on all fronts in quest of peace, and Constantine the Dane is his creature. *Timeo Danaos*, in short, whether they bring gifts or not.

It will be an assuagement of pain, not only to every right-minded citizen within the British Empire, but to humane people the world over, to learn that the cold-blooded murder of Miss Cavell is not to be forgotten when the day of reckoning comes, as it will before long. Lord Robert Cecil, in answer to a question in the House of Commons, told the country that the

Prime Minister's assurance given to the House on May 5 last, that "due reparation would be exacted from all persons, whatever their position, who can be shown to have maltreated our prisoners in Germany," still holds good. It applied with twofold force in the case of the "savage murder under legal forms of a noble woman"; but we must wait a little yet, and meanwhile endure such loathsome displays of the German Kultur as that statement in exculpation put forth through the reptile Press Agency of the Kaiser's Government by Herr Zimmermann, the German Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It is quite on the model laid down when lies were being impudently elaborated with which to try and delude President Wilson and the American people about the submarine pirate attacks on Atlantic liners. Only one thing in the story somewhat disappointed us. We are sorry to have to give up that yarn about the squad of soldiers refusing to shoot a woman. It hardly looked probable in view of the habitual conduct of the German troops everywhere. Still, we thought it possible that some few Rhinelanders or Saxons, or Hanoverians had by chance been told off to commit the crime, and had possessed enough human feeling to revolt before its loathsomeness. Herr Zimmermann says, "No, nothing of the sort; no word of the story is true." The official report upon the execution told him that it took place "entirely in accordance with the established regulations," and that "death occurred immediately after the first volley, as the physician present attested." Well, we are sorry, because it only remains for us to brace ourselves all the more resolutely and ruthlessly to the ghastly work of destroying off the face of the earth as many of these Junker-formed monsters in human shape as we possibly can, by every means invented or inventible.

As was inevitable, grumblings are constant with regard to the rise in our food prices. If it be any consolation we can at least say that the people here are not suffering in any degree comparable to those in Austro-Hungary and probably in the German Empire. In proof, take the subjoined official tables, the one giving the British, and the other the Austro-Hungarian, prices of certain articles of food at the dates given. Mr. Runciman's table, supplied in answer to a question, gives the average prices paid in towns of over 50,000 population. How the Austro-Hungarian tables are compiled we do not know, but they are official as testified by the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, and show advances of from 300 to 400 per cent. That means currency depreciation as well as scarcity, and both in the Habsburg Empire and the Hohenzollern one famine impends.

#### THE RISE IN PRICES.

Article.	BRITISH.			AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN.		
	July, 1914.	Oct., 1914.	Oct., 1915.	June 10, 1914.	Oct. 12, 1915.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
Beef, British—						
Ribs .....	0 10	0 10½	1 1½	1 4	5 0	
Thin flank .....	0 6½	0 7	0 9½	1 0	4 4	
Beef, chilled or frozen—						
Ribs .....	0 7½	0 8½	0 11	0 10	4 2	
Thin flank .....	0 4½	0 5½	0 8	0 10	2 7	
Mutton, British—						
Legs .....	0 10½	0 11	1 1½	1 6	5 4	
Breast .....	0 6	0 7	0 9	0 1	0 3½	
Mutton, frozen—						
Legs .....	0 6½	0 7½	0 9½	1 1½	7 0	
Breast .....	0 4	0 5	0 6½	1 2½	6 10	
Bacon (streaky) .....	0 11	1 0½	1 2½	1 3	7 6	
Flour (households) .....	0 10½	1 0	1 3	1 8	10 2	
Bread .....	0 5½	0 6½	0 8	10 0	2 10 2	
Sugar (granulated) .....	0 2	0 3½	0 4	1 7	4 4	
Milk .....	0 3½	0 3½	0 4½	1 6½	4 4	
Potatoes .....	0 4½	0 4	0 4½	1 10½	8 4	
Margarine .....	0 6½	0 7½	0 7½	2 5	5 0	
Butter—				1 8	1 8	
Fresh .....	1 2½	1 3½	1 7½			
Salt .....	1 2½	1 2½	1 6½			
Cheese .....	0 8½	0 9	0 10½			
Eggs .....	1 2½	1 3½	1 11½			
Tea .....	1 6	1 6	2 3			

Herr Ballin, the master of that Hamburg-Amerika Steamship Co. which suffered so much and paid such mean dividends before the war through the obstruction of the British, has again been holding forth to the Hamburg shippers in his usual style—arrogant, impudent, insincere, and blustering, all as before. To



read what he has been saying one might suppose that the German Navy had really swept the seas clear of the British fleet. Also that the work of that fleet before the war had been to interfere with the liberty of commerce so dear to Germany on all seas. The outburst would not be worth noticing at all except for the light it throws upon what may be called the rigidity of the German mind. It seems to have been run into a mould by its Junker masters and their servile professors, and out of that mould it can no longer be drawn. It will have to be smashed in pieces, mould and all. When peace comes—as Ballin put it in a telegram the League of Hamburg Shippers, to whom he was speaking, allowed him to send to the Kaiser:—“We confidently hope that the result of the war will be such as to secure for the merchant shipping of Germany and the neutral States the freedom of the seas, which the Imperial Chancellor in his last speech in the Reichstag proclaimed with so much emphasis as our war aim—a freedom secured, not by treaties and conventions, but by the acquisition of bases for our fleet in Europe and overseas.” To this the little fellow added another telegram to von Bethmann-Hollweg, in which it was declared that the Shippers of Hamburg “were convinced that the Governments of neutral States, whose trade and shipping have been treated with such unheard-of violence in this war, are at one with Germany in this desire of the freedom of the seas.” As for Grand-Admiral von Tirpitz, chief pirate and grotesque braggart, whose fleet lies snug in the Kiel Canal, he was told “the confident hope was cherished that the result of this war will procure for our navy the bases in Europe and overseas which will secure to it for all time the outlet to the world seas. Such security alone can guarantee to Germany and the neutral States the freedom of the seas without which merchant shipping also must find its development miserably prevented.” The trick in this is the harping on “neutral” States, but it merely displays the hollowness of the entire parade, rehearsed doubtless for home consumption. For the little Jew is too clever really to imagine that mankind is going to be bluffed in this way, or that the purpose of the Allies will be deflected one hair’s breadth by such rhodomontade. It is by no means improbable, though, that the after-war “freedom of the seas” may be entirely different for the Germans from what it was before.

Circulars have been issued by Barclay and Co., Ltd., and the United Counties Bank stating that a joint working agreement between the two banks had been provisionally arranged. The original intention was to amalgamate the two undertakings, and provisional arrangements were made earlier in the year under which Barclay and Co. were to sub-divide the existing 454,000 “B” shares of £16 each, £4 paid, into 1,800,000 “B” shares of £4 each, £1 paid, and to create a further 900,000 “B” shares of like denomination. Of these new shares, 894,998 credited with £1 per share paid, together with 24,861 “A” shares of £4 each credited as fully paid, were to be allotted to the shareholders of the United Counties Bank in exchange for the 298,333 shares of £20 each, £4 paid. This would have given the United Counties Bank shareholders three “B” shares for each share held, together with one “A” share for every 12 shares held. In addition, 200,139 “A” shares were to be created and offered at a premium to the shareholders of both banks. The effect would have been to increase the paid-up capital of Barclay and Co. to £5,400,000, divided into 675,000 “A” shares of £4 each, fully paid, and 2,700,000 “B” shares of £4 each, £1 paid. In order, however, that the new capital should be granted full Stock Exchange privileges, it was necessary that the consent of the Treasury Committee for dealing with new capital issues should be obtained, and this was found to be “impracticable,” although the directors offered to confine the new issue to the shares actually required for the exchange. This refusal of the Committee to sanction the arrangement is a most extraordinary proceeding, even for a body which has become noted for its arbitrary methods of giving or withholding its sanction to a

project. On several occasions recently surprise has been caused by the Committee permitting appeals for capital to be made by what at best were very speculative undertakings, and yet a scheme like this, which did not depend in the slightest on the raising of the new capital, is promptly blocked.

The directors being thus prevented from carrying out their original intention, have found a way to obtain the greater portion of the benefits which they expected to derive from the amalgamation. A joint working agreement has been made, under which the two banks, while remaining distinct, will use their best endeavours to promote the interests of each other. Under this arrangement it is stipulated that the dividends payable by each bank in any one year are to be paid only out of the profits of that year, and, except by mutual consent, are not in the case of Barclay and Co. to exceed 10 per cent. per annum on the “A” shares and 17½ per cent. on the “B” shares, less income-tax in each case, and in the case of the United Counties Bank are not, except by mutual consent, to exceed £13 19s. 2d. per cent., less tax. If the profits of the United Counties Bank in any one year are not sufficient to allow of a distribution at this rate, Barclay and Co. are to make good the deficiency to the extent of £10,000. Surplus profits, subject to depreciation of investments, are, as from January 1 next, to be divided in the proportions approximately of three-fourths to Barclay and Co. and of one-fourth to the United Counties Bank, but are to be held in reserve. To all intents and purposes, therefore, the amalgamation may be considered as having been effected, and the combination will raise Barclay and Co. to the fourth place amongst the large joint-stock banks. The last balance-sheet of Barclay and Co. shows that on June 30 the liabilities on current and deposit accounts amounted to £76,431,069, while on December 31 last the similar liabilities of the United Counties Bank were £15,564,192, giving an aggregate of nearly £92,000,000.

What! The directors of the Aerated Bread Co., Ltd., “have pleasure” in submitting a report which shows a decline of £39,123 in the year’s profits and a total available balance £41,844 less at £64,546? Well, it does look a little anomalous at first blush, but when we come to examine things we find the expression justified. A bigger business was done last year than the year before, but the increased cost of everything dealt in and used by the company as well as higher wages and war bonuses paid together with the allowances bestowed upon dependents of employees who are serving their country largely help to account for the reduction in nett income. Gross earnings were only £26,327 down, but expenses rose £12,796, and as the balance brought forward was £2,721 lower at £28,543, the clear revenue of £64,546 from all sources was not nearly so discouraging as it looks. Nevertheless, the shareholders get 10 per cent. less than they did a year ago—17½ per cent. against 27½ per cent.—and although the usual £8,000 is credited to depreciation, nothing is available to lay aside otherwise, whereas a year ago bakery improvements, &c., got £20,000. Even so, the balance left to carry to the new account is £1,945 less at £26,598. The interim dividend paid, it may be explained, was 2s. instead of 2s. 6d., and the final rs. 6d. instead of 3s., all less tax. It is explained that the board bought £42,700 of the new 4½ per cent. War Loan in order to convert the company’s Consols, and that accounts for the new entry in the balance-sheet—“Loan from Bankers, &c.; £35,224.” Sundry creditors, moreover, are owed £18,384 more, part consequence of higher prices, we presume.

The Trafford Park Estates has been carefully fostering the development of a number of undertakings which have been established on its properties, and as a result of this policy it is able to show a steadily improving revenue. For the year ended June 30 the increase in receipts from chief and other rents was



£1,731 at £48,722, and as dividends and interest also yielded more, the total ordinary revenue was £4,733 higher at £58,215. Management expenses, debenture interest, and other charges took a good part of this, mainly because rates, taxes, and insurance payments were heavier, but the nett profits still showed a gain of £2,432 at £20,792, and with £4,405 or £2,804 more brought in, the total was £5,236 up at £25,197. The company, however, had a considerable windfall in the shape of the redemption of the chief rent payable by Messrs. Guinness, which set free a profit which had been accruing over a series of years. After paying the trustees £1,000 per acre in respect of the transaction, and providing for expenses, this special profit amounted to £44,763, and brought the divisible surplus up to £69,960, but the directors content themselves with raising the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 4, and carry forward £40,665 more at £45,070. During the year £118,306 was paid to the debenture trustees in respect of land sold, reducing the cost of the estates to £727,925, and the cash in the hands of the trustees was increased by £116,691 to £119,153. Expenditure on capital account was £46,897, but the total outlay is £15,515 down at £206,991, partly, no doubt, owing to the transfer of the fireproof safes to the Port of Manchester Warehouses, Ltd., in exchange for shares and debentures, which would also seem to account for the addition of £47,609 to £185,100 in the book value of the investments. A further £20,000 of the 4 per cent. first mortgage debentures was issued, completing the authorised amount of £600,000, and the small bank overdraft of a year ago has given place to an increase of £37,691 to £38,740 in cash balances.

In view of the remarks made in these notes last week as to the languishing efforts of those who sought to extend the lead and zinc smelting industry in this country, little surprise will be felt at the announcement that the attempts to sell lead concentrates in the United Kingdom have completely failed. Particulars of the Broken Hill production—which before the war was bought by German smelters—were widely advertised in this country, but unfortunately without a single sale resulting, while the freight difficulty prevented sales to French smelters. It is suggested that this result may be attributed to German influence which dominates the metal markets in this country, and those who support this view point to the absence of any action by the Metal Exchange with regard to Merton and Co. after what passed in the Law Courts recently. But, in any case, the failure to do anything here confirms the practical wisdom of the Broken Hill companies in taking steps themselves to extend the smelting industry in Australia as the only sure means of surmounting the difficulty of disposing of their products. The Port Pirie works, having been acquired by the four principal companies, are to be worked on co-operative lines, and the lead smelting works, which had a capacity of 3,000 tons per week, is being extended to 5,000 tons. Other extensions are being carried out, the total cost being £100,000. The four companies have contracted to deliver all their lead concentrates to the works, and the number of supplying companies will be increased later as the extensions are completed, because the average weekly production of lead concentrates on the Barrier Ranges is 6,000 tons per week. Extensions of the zinc smelting plant on a co-operative basis are also being considered in conjunction with the large zinc producers. The new smelting company has been formed to guarantee British control, and no alien can be a shareholder. Heretofore the control of the lead market has rested with Germany, but now that the Broken Hill production is to be treated locally, the companies will themselves be able to control the market so far as their own products are concerned.

The Municipal and General Securities Co. announces that, in consequence of many members of its staff being on active service, the business of the company has been transferred to G. Cloak Lane, Cannon Street, London, E.C., for the duration of the war.

## By-the-Way Notes on War and Politics.

In all directions the onslaught upon the Government continues, directed principally from Carmelite Street and Printing House Square, and sustained by the mob of would-bes. From one point of view it is depressing to read the daily tirades to which the public is treated from these sources, but could anything else be expected, and is there not some consolation to be found, as we have more than once indicated, in the fact that encouragement to the foe is probably good for our purpose? Take this Serbian catastrophe, if you like to call it that—which it is not yet. The charge now laid against the Ministry is that it neglected to provide for the Austrian invasion and the treachery of Bulgaria, Greece, and, we may say also, Rumania. "If we had had an army of 300,000 men in the Balkans none of this would have happened," the men of lack-wisdom bawl at us. How can they know? Was it not the duty of this Government, of all the Allied Governments, to persevere to the utmost in the effort to keep the peace in that quarter, to reconcile the rivalries in the Balkans without bringing a new war upon the unfortunate peoples there? We think it was, and shall support the Government on this ground. It may be, as the *Daily News* has been pointing out, that the Harmsworth newspapers have done much to encourage the Bulgarians in their treachery, but that can do us no harm in the long run. We have only to bear in mind this fact that the Central Empires, as the Austro-Germans call their perishing dominions, have got to be beaten down until they fall utterly to pieces.

This involves a far longer and more difficult task than any of us imagined at the outset; but we now realise what we have to do, and from our point of view the more enemies Germany manages to raise up against us, the better will the ultimate conclusion be. The Kaiser is three months behind in this last dash of his. Is there any probability that the belated Austro-German invasion of Serbia is going to help these empires? There is none. It was quite sure—we hold it was inevitable—that the attempt should be made; that the Bulgar and Teuton should join hands soon after the Austrian hosts had managed to force the passages over the Drina and the Danube was also certain; but what will it be, winter being upon them, when these united armies proceed to invade the mountainous interior of Serbia? Have readers forgotten the fate of the last Austrian invasion—its triumphant beginning, its occupation of Belgrade, the driving south into the mountains of the Serbian troops, and soon after its utter rout? Yes, Carmelite Street and sundry idle peers or lords have quite forgotten. How are these aggressors to maintain themselves in a difficult, mostly foodless, and poverty-stricken country, denuded, we may be sure, of every local supply? The Harmsworth Press and its imitators in their ignorance write as if it were the simplest thing in the world to feed and munition three or four hundred thousand men in a country often as bare as the Sahara, whereas every mile of advance increases their difficulty, and once amongst the mountain passes the big artillery to which their faith is pinned will be of precious little use to them. Perhaps it might have been better had we seen what must come with greater promptitude, and if the French and ourselves had sent 50,000 men each instead of perhaps little more than a quarter of the number six weeks ago, but even as it is long before the Bulgar traitors and their German masters can do vital damage to Serbia, or get near opening the way to Constantinople, there will be ample forces ready to bar the way, and to assist in their destruction. And always we have the ocean.

And what about finance all this while? The same type of writers who scribble continually of German might and forethought and skill and resource—with a certain show of reason, we quite admit, because the Prussian Junker is an animal of infinite cunning, divested of moral qualities other than those of the mere animal—write as if he could live without money and conduct his commerce on nothing but paper and gas.



How is he really taring in pocket? There has been precious little information given about German finance in recent months. But the last loan was impudent make-believe so far as securing fresh supplies of cash was concerned, and consequently the position must now be desperate. We can measure to some extent how desperate by the stories coming through with regard to scarcity of food and rising prices in both empires. Depreciating currency has its share in raising prices, but that only makes the scarcity more cruel for the poor. It has always been our conviction that, time given, our command of the ocean thoroughly and rigidly applied would drive the two aggressor empires into starvation. It is doing that now, and they have no money left with which to buy supplies, even if such could be obtained from abroad. There is nothing but paper money left in either empire. We are sure of this because, as a matter of fact, there was little else except paper even in Germany before the war began. The whole banking system of Germany has been a gigantic bluff. The large banks dovetailed their enterprises into each other, supported each other, organised industries upon credit, lived upon credit, fought rivals on credit, extended credit to customers in a reckless manner, and developed new and old lines of business by help of credit—our credit too often—with a fury that paid no regard to the capacities of the natural and, what might be called, give-and-take outlets. How could a system of this forced, unreal description, buoyed upon mere credit, be in a position to stand the strain of the most gigantic conflict humanity ever had to suffer from? It could not stand the strain. The whole position is absolutely hollow, and meanwhile the expenditures in providing food, clothing, and munitions of every description upon the fronts in France and Belgium, the Alpine frontier of Italy, the long—almost thousand-mile long—battle-line in Russia, and now for this final desperate and belated inroad upon Serbia, must be terrific, in excess even of our outlay, which is appalling enough. All that remains of German industrial capacity and all the remaining credit her banks can fake together are being swept into the bottomless pit.

And look at Austria. She is now trying to raise money in Holland, it would seem, offering the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. bonds of her new loan there at  $62\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., whether redeemable or not we do not know. Assuming there is no redemption—and probably the bonds will never be repaid—that is an attempt to borrow at something like 9 per cent.—probably at more than 9 per cent. if bankers' commissions are allowed for—and Dutchmen will not buy the bonds. We hope they are refusing to buy from the spirit of humanity, but even as a mere business proposition there is no attraction in the offer, for they are the bonds of a bankrupt State. Altogether the Habsburgs seem to have raised £240,000,000, perhaps a fifth of the amount needed. They want another £120,000,000, and actually the family thinks it may find another £100,000 from its own means, but neither at home nor abroad will they raise two-thirds of it. By subscribing the banks only add to their already hopeless insolvency. The war is as likely to be brought to a conclusion by the utter bankruptcy and the imminent starvation of the populations of these two empires as by the fighting on the various fronts.

Meantime the fighting proceeds, on the whole, satisfactorily enough, and after nearly two months Hindenburg the Held is still outside Dvinsk, still prevented from crossing the Dwina, and losing men by scores of thousands every week. Riga continues safe, and the Russian and British warships in the Baltic are masters of all approaches from the sea. A winter campaign in Russia is, therefore inevitable for the German armies, and as we have always said, that will kill off more of the miserable serfs than a dozen big battles. In the West also wastage continues far greater on the part of the Germans, than on our side, and it is wastage that can no longer be made good. Effectives are of a lower quality, as is proved by the ease with which the French and ourselves drive the mobs off when they try

to attack us; and their numbers must soon diminish; therefore, patience, courage, hope, a determination to hold on and fight on should characterise the spirit in which we regard this conflict, and cheerful confidence the temper should pervade our criticism of the Government. Who amongst us could have done better than the present Ministry? All men are liable to error, but surely every man in the Ministry has striven, is striving, his best and fullest to do his duty. That was Lord Robert Cecil's testimony, and we believe him. They have had to learn by their mistakes, even as the rest of us always have, but just by virtue of what they have passed through, they are more capable to-day of conducting this conflict to a successful finish than any substitutes possibly could be. We must bear with the malcontents, ignorant cavillers, and the unpatriotic Opposition, but let it strengthen the nation's determination to stick by the Ministry. "It did not act with promptitude enough in Serbia." Ay, and did the Germans? Probably the Kaiser dreamed dreams in the *Daily Mail* style of a triumphant entry into Constantinople, and of a progress in the manner of Alexander the Great towards India to turn us out there, and it was all to come about with the ease of a circus procession once he had smashed Russia, France and England. But the dream faded, and now the lunatic thinks he can realise it by fighting. He is too late, much too late, as will soon be patent everywhere except in the purlieus of the Fleet ditch.

### The Foreign Trade of Japan.

Quite an elaborate report has been compiled by Mr. E. F. Crowe, Commercial Attaché to our Embassy at Tokio, on the trade of Japan for 1914. He is as minute and painstaking as a university-disciplined Teuton, and the result is a valuable document from which many things may be learned. Naturally, the trade of Japan suffered last year through the war, but the decline was only £17,870,000, and that made the total still £121,156,000. As recently as 1911 it was only £98,127,000. The following year, 1912, in fact, was the first in which the total exports and imports of Japan exceeded £100,000,000. It is a remarkable fact when we consider how recent the awakening of Japan is, that last year her people should have been able to export nearly £61,000,000 and import almost as much. But for the last few years the country's trade has seemed to us rather forced—that is to say, imports have been helped and expanded, as in Australasia and Canada, by recourse to the foreign moneylender, by financial expedients, and accordingly we find on looking at the table which exhibits what Mr. E. F. Crowe calls "the foreign trade of Greater Japan," that in the three years ended December 31 last the excess value of imports over exports aggregated nearly £27,500,000. From this it might be easy to draw unpleasant inferences, but Japan is so energetic, her people so astute and also so eager to develop their producing capacity in all directions, that we shall not take up space in discussing probabilities where we have only imperfect data to go upon. What, for instance, is the position between Japan and the outlying territories of Formosa and the Corea, with which in each of the past three years a trade of £15,000,000 to £15,645,000 has been carried on by her? How does that trade affect the apparent adverse balance shown in the foreign trade whether of Japan proper or of Greater Japan? We do not know; but it is clear that the excess value of imports, always a dangerous thing for a country largely in debt abroad, has not yet put any material strain upon the finances of the country. At any rate, the gold reserve has remained at between £22,250,000 and £23,734,000 in the last five years. Its proportion to the note issue has never been much below 56 per cent., and was 57.44 per cent. at the end of last year. Japan must draw large unrecorded revenues from outside, from her people living abroad, and from her great mercantile navy, for which a larger field of activity than ever should be open after the war.

Meantime the debt of Japan is undoubtedly burdensome for a country so young in an economic sense,



and amounted at the close of last year to £261,410,000, of which £105,733,000 was internal and £155,637,000 external debt. Nominally £4,169,000 of the foreign and domestic debt was redeemed last year, but against that fresh loans were issued to the extent of £3,998,000, consisting almost entirely of railway notes issued in London, so that the nett decrease in the debt of the year was only £171,000. No Treasury bills were issued during the year, although the Government had a good deal to do in the way of sustaining certain branches of the nation's wealth production, notably the silk-growers. According to the old Japanese system of reckoning, says Mr. Crowe, 1914 was "the year of the tiger," and in conformity with Japanese superstition, should have been a year of tragedy and disaster. It was so to a large extent, and domestic afflictions like the eruption of the Sakurajima volcano and the death of the Empress Dowager, as well as the financial scandals that came to light during the year, bad enough in themselves, were all overshadowed by the outbreak of war. This had an immediately disturbing influence upon Japanese business, and naturally on finance. In the matter of imports trade was falling off before war broke out, partly because there had been over importing and rather excessive speculation in many directions during the previous year. A halt was therefore called, and up to the end of July the decrease in the value of imports was £3,363,000, and it would have grown proportionately larger as the year advanced. This, Mr. Crowe explains, was the natural result of the Government's policy of economy and retrenchment which meant the curtailment or postponement of many public works. The Government, in fact, was slowing down, and very wisely, because it would have been causing the nation to run too great risk of financial collapse if public undertakings had been pushed forward on the scale of the ambitious plans originally laid down. There was not in the country itself sufficient accumulated wealth to provide the means for the completion of railways and other costly undertakings, planned or under way, and to have further recourse to the foreign money would have been anything but prudent on the part either of the Government or the nation. For years past it has been pointed out in our columns that Japan was running great risks by overtrading, and by increasing her foreign debt in order to maintain a show of expansiveness and prosperity that could not be maintained through good times and bad; that, moreover, had the direct effect of increasing the dependence of the empire on foreign money. Last year the better course was entered upon with courage, and therefore we must not blame the war for the diminution in trade, at least in the import trade.

While imports were deliberately being reduced in magnitude by the wise policy of the Government, exports were suffering from other influences totally beyond its control, and most of all from the outbreak of war. Silk, for example, which in ordinary years accounts for nearly 40 per cent. of the total Japanese exports, was hit severely. France, the greatest buyer next to America, almost ceased to be a customer, and prices fell with great severity in spite of continued large American purchases. Up to the end of July there had been a gain over the preceding year of £1,380,000 in the value of the silk exports, but by December this had been converted into a deficiency of £2,760,000. In other respects, however, the partial setback is likely enough to be made good, because Japan is capable of supplying many commodities that the belligerents and other countries want. We hear vaguely, though Mr. Crowe says nothing about it, of enormous contracts for armaments and munitions for Russia taken on by Japanese factories, and apart from these, were there plenty of shipping facilities, which there is not, Japan would be able to send rice, peas, oats, and barley to Europe, wheat and bran to Australia, and Manchurian maize to the Pacific coast in large quantities. Doubtless the freight is being found to some extent, and we therefore look to find the trade of Japan showing considerable expansion in the current year.

What is the general characteristic of Japanese trade,

what does the empire buy, and what sell? It buys, one may say, first of all, whatever will help it to develop its own industries. For example, spinning and weaving machinery, agricultural implements, lathes, engineering tools of every description as well as yarn and textiles. Every year, however, Japan appears to be becoming increasingly capable of "doing for herself," as we say, and one of the most noticeable facts continuously brought forward in this report is just this tendency of Japan to dispense with the foreigner. During a period of over two or three years it is perhaps impossible to give definite facts about the extent of the progress, but there can be no doubt that Japan is now manufacturing many articles of consumption which a few years ago had to be imported. In some cases she has begun to export what she formerly imported. And in regard to machinery, Mr. Crowe makes the suggestion that we should try to maintain our position by arranging for the production of the heavy parts of our large machines within Japan itself. Good castings are obtainable, he says, and pattern-making is not very expensive, and there are a few works which could be relied on to do accurate machining, so that in cases where there is a probability of a demand for considerable numbers of the same machine, it might be advisable for manufacturers to send out their own patterns or to arrange to have these heavy parts made to drawings. How far the suggestion is practicable we cannot say, but that it should be put forward is significant of the tendency of things in Japan. We are her principal source for the supply of machinery, and altogether the United Kingdom may be said now to enjoy more than 50 per cent. of her business.

And where does Germany come in? Germany up to the time when the war broke out had 25½ per cent. of Japan's foreign trade, but by December the percentage had dropped to 21½, and it would not have been anything like so great but for the fact that large quantities of German goods already ordered and in transit were held up in neutral ports after the war broke out, and seem afterwards to have been delivered. It should be our business, and the business of the Allies, to supplant Germany by an endeavour to discover what the articles and commodities were which she supplied, and to furnish them as cheaply as, and if possible of better quality than, Germany could, so as to deprive her of the market. Japan, we must never forget, has entered the confraternity of civilised peoples for good and all. In this war she has behaved to her Allies with a loyalty beyond praise, and in the future, when peace returns, it must no longer be rivalry and cut-throat competition, which is to determine shares in industrial and commercial interchange of products. The Allies must lay hold of and improve upon the German cartel system, and devote their business energies and enterprise to the discovery of what each country can do best to supply the wants of other countries so that all may benefit.

### American Business Notes.

It is unnecessary to say anything as yet about the latest "Note" which Washington is preparing to hurl at our Government on the question of treatment of neutral ships, or, rather, of United States ships, under our blockade, or on the legality of that blockade. The Note has not yet come to hand, and we do not know except by rumour what it contains. One thing, however, the American people should try not to overlook. The more their Government assumes an attitude towards our Government which seems unreasonable, captious, and unfriendly, the harder will our determination become to take our own way. This may be inferred from our decision to revert to our old plan of dealing with foreign shipowners. The flag sailed under is henceforth nothing. Americans must not run away with the idea that because we have grumblers in plenty—a measure of discontent, an influential and noisy section of the Press full of cavilling and sedition—that the nation is slackening in its determination to see this



fight through and to obtain its own peace. They should remember their own attitude in the Civil War. Ours in this war is just as determined. There will be no peace for the Teuton except the peace of surrender at discretion.

#### LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD.

Depression in the Southern States struck this property pretty severely in its fiscal year closed June 30 last. Gross earnings fell back \$8,300,000 to \$51,606,000, and although \$5,580,000 was knocked off working expenses, bringing them down to \$39,432,000, the nett revenue of \$12,174,000 was none the less \$2,720,000 below that of the preceding year. The company, however, was able to pay the usual 5 per cent. dividend on its shares, and had a good balance over, for the dividend absorbed only \$3,600,000, whereas the free income was \$4,860,000. All branches of traffic suffered, but on the whole agricultural products fell off least, and the centres of depression were in such cities as Cincinnati, Louisville, Evansville, St. Louis, and East St. Louis, Birmingham, and Montgomery. In these the shrinkage of freight traffic ranged from 22 to over 30 per cent. How far the reduction in expenses shown was legitimate we have no means of knowing, but it is noticeable that the fall of about \$2,000,000 in passenger earnings was not accompanied by any appreciable decrease in passenger traffic expenses. The line, however, is well managed, and some compensation was, as customary, found in the economy of working illustrated by that remarkable increase in the train load which has been making progress on the best United States railroads for a good many years past. Over 50 tons was added last year to the average load carried by the train on this system.

#### ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

This is also in large part a Southern line, since it may be said to run from Chicago to New Orleans, although its lines in the Southern States are worked under another name. Naturally, therefore, prosperity was not in evidence in the figures for the past year, and all sources of income show declines, the most notable being in lumber, general merchandise, and miscellaneous traffic. There was actually a small gain in the weight of agricultural tonnage carried, but that did not do much to help matters, for the gross revenue of \$61,700,000 showed a decrease of \$4,174,000 on the preceding year. Expenses were reduced by \$3,205,000 to \$47,570,000, but the nett revenue was still nearly \$1,000,000 under that of the previous year at \$14,130,000. In the matter of expenses, maintenance was reduced by nearly \$1,000,000, of which \$366,000 was saved on buildings and permanent way. There was also a smaller proportion of new rails laid, and the decrease in the cost of maintenance of equipment was quite  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Moreover, what are called transportation expenses were nearly 8 per cent., or \$1,850,000 less, but it is explained that part of this decline represents an important saving through the use of what are called "superheated locomotives" of greater tractive power, and accordingly the train load was again increased to 445 tons, or 28 tons per train more than the load of the previous year. If freight carried for the company's own use be included, the train load was actually 523 tons, which shows remarkable progress, and helps to account for the fact that in spite of the larger amount of low-grade traffic carried and the diminished business, the earnings per ton per mile declined very little, were 5.48 mills as against 5.63 mills in 1914. And if we come to the actual earnings per freight train per mile, we find it up, it being \$2.43 last year, against \$2.34 for 1913-14, and \$2.17 in 1912. The property is, therefore, in a very sound position, and when the exports of cotton can be resumed on their old scale, its recovery from the past year's depression should be rapid. The board was able to give the stockholders 5 per cent., as for the previous year, but the surplus was only \$1,240,000 against \$2,632,000 the year before. For 1911-12, however, the accounts showed a deficit of \$4,246,000, but the dividend paid was then 7 per cent.

## The Week in Mines.

The most interesting events in the Mining markets this week have been the strength of diamond shares and the activity of Mexican descriptions, which have doubled in price in several instances within the past fortnight or so. The tone of the mining sections generally has been quite firm, and the amount of business transacted has increased. Rand gold shares, especially the Deep Levels, have been in good request, and copper shares have advanced on the further reduction in the visible supplies of the metal here, which has stimulated bullish operations in Wall Street. More interest has also been taken in the Broken Hill group.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

General Botha's victory in the elections had, of course, a stimulating effect on the South African market, and prices in a good many instances have advanced somewhat. Brakpans have been in particular demand, and rose 5-32 to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , and Springs have advanced 1s. to 26s. 9d., and the Options to 8s. The rise in these shares induced buying of Transvaal Coal Trusts, which rose  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 2 3-32. Consolidated Mines Selection rose to 9s. 3d. for the same reason. The shares of this group have proved rather difficult to obtain owing to the recent steady buying. City Deeps have also been in good request, and have risen to 3 11-32, and Van Ryn Deeps, on Cape inquiry, have been a good market at 2 17-32. As to the Modder group, New Modders recovered to  $15\frac{1}{8}$ , Modder Deeps have spurted from 5 to  $5\frac{1}{8}$ , and Modder "B's" from  $5\frac{3}{8}$  to  $5\frac{9}{16}$ . East Rands at  $1\frac{1}{16}$ , Gedulds at 32s. 3d., and Kleinfonteins at 24s. have been in request, and Central Mining advanced to  $6\frac{3}{16}$  buyers. Knight Centrals, after touching 13s. 3d. on news that the South reef had been met with assaying 12.5 dwts. on the 17th level crosscut in the west shaft south of the dyke, reacted on profit-taking to 12s. 6d. Village Main Reef

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shares were not much affected by the news of a further accident at the mine, the quotation being about 21s 6d. A short while ago the shares fell rather sharply on news of a serious shifting of ground, but it was hoped to effect repairs on the main incline between the 9th and 10th levels by the end of this month. Unfortunately a week ago the hanging wall collapsed in a stope, resulting in five deaths, but the accident is not attributed directly to the recent shifting of ground. The life of this mine is now very short, and the capital invested has been repaid over and over again in dividends. Nigel shares fell  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  on the statement that milling will continue on a reduced scale, while development is being pushed ahead. With few shares on offer, diamond shares quickly responded to demand, and De Beers deferred advanced to 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ , the preference to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ , Premier deferred to 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ , and the preference to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Charteredds have been dull at 9s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Globes advanced to 25s. 9d., but relapsed to 25s., but Amalgamated Properties have been firm at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. West African shares have been steady, with no special feature.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Renewed buying on American account has brought about a recovery in copper shares; Anacondas spurted to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  and Utahs to 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ , but Rio Tintos have been dull at 52 $\frac{1}{2}$  on Paris advices. Hampdens weakened to 27s. 9d. on a few sales. Russians have been inclined to dulness. Among Westralian issues, Ivanhoes have been bought up to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  on news of good borehole results at depth. In the Indian group, Mysore weakened to 4, but Nundydroogs advanced further to 26s. 9d. on the dividend. Balaghats put on another 6d. at 5s., and Ooregums were firmer at 23s. for the ordinary and 31s. for the preference. St. John del Reys have been advancing steadily lately, and are at 16s. approaching the highest level touched this year. Alaska Treadwells have improved to 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ .

#### ACTIVITY IN MEXICANS.

There was a fair amount of activity in Mexicans again, but profit-taking has rather blunted the market. Rumours that Villa's adherents had seized the American Smelting Co.'s plant at Chihuahua reminded the market that this brigand may for some time yet prove a disturbing element in the country and hinder the restoration of order. Camp Birds and Santa Gertrudis advanced to 8s. and 10s. 6d. respectively on the dividend declarations, while Esperanzas, after rising to 12s. 6d., reacted to 11s. 6d. El Oros have touched 10s. 9d., and Mexico of El Oros have risen  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ . Among Broken Hills, Proprietaries have been in steady request, partly on colonial account, and have advanced to 44s., while Norths rose to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  on the report.

### MINING NEWS.

**RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.**—Last month's output of gold amounted to £321,085, an increase of £11,687 over the corresponding month of last year. The following table shows the production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January ..	£ 207,903	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133
February ..	203,055	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789
March ..	231,947	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686
April ..	221,206	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541
May ..	211,413	234,407	242,454	290,062	318,898
June ..	215,347	240,514	241,303	306,421	322,473
July ..	237,517	237,573	249,301	320,670	336,505
August ..	243,712	239,077	250,576	316,972	344,493
September ..	225,777	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085
October ..	218,862	230,072	247,068	337,241	—
November ..	214,040	225,957	239,036	311,711	—
December ..	217,026	218,661	254,687	309,669	—
Totals	2,647,894	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	2,838,663

The number of producers last month was 225 against 245 in August; and the output of other metals was 15,267 ounces of silver, 3 tons of lead, 37,368 tons of coal, 309 tons of copper, 6,735 tons of chrome ore, and 50 carats of diamonds.

**MEXICAN MINING DIVIDENDS.**—The announcement that the Camp Bird and Santa Gertrudis companies are resuming the payment of dividends must not be attributed to the improved position in Mexico, for that is much too recent to have had any important effect on the operations of these companies, though doubtless the recognition of Carranza has not been ignored by

the directors in coming to their decision. These companies have, indeed, suffered rather less from the revolutionary disturbances than other mines, for the Santa Gertrudis has been able to make a profit of £4,000 to £5,000 a month, whereas other companies have been compelled to suspend operations. The reason for the resumption of dividends is that the companies have recovered from the effects of the Grenfell failures of last year. In consequence of these failures, a grave crisis arose in the affairs of both concerns last summer, and very considerable amounts had to be written off loans, with the result that it was impossible to pay dividends last year. The Camp Bird holds over a million shares in the Santa Gertrudis, and the fact that the latter pays a dividend of 1s. per share explains the former company's distribution of that sum.

**WEST AFRICAN GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The output of gold last month amounted to £135,744, a decrease of £18,372 as compared with Sept., 1914. For the year to date the total now shows an increase of only £3,517. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Jan. ..	£ 143,649	£ 128,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262	£ 66,107
Feb. ..	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,070	63,081
Mar. ..	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376	67,673
April ..	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796	70,880
May ..	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678	96,409
June ..	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697	92,174
July ..	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,800	91,955
Aug. ..	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407	103,753
Sept. ..	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397	109,039
Oct. ..	—	159,410	137,153	142,414	109,503
Nov. ..	—	154,674	132,694	137,700	99,299
Dec. ..	—	147,699	127,472	144,382	99,569
Totals	1,284,241	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179	1,069,442

**BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.**—The report for the half-year ended May 31 states that the output of bullion was 59,742 tons, of which 47,679 tons were dealt with in the refinery. The cost of smelting decreased substantially, owing to the increased quantity of material dealt with, which was 115,374 tons, as against 76,769 tons in the preceding six months, mainly due to the increased quantity of concentrates treated on behalf of other Broken Hill companies. Refinery costs increased, owing to the higher price of spelter, which is used in refining operations. Gross profit rose from £144,847 to £223,312, and after deducting £27,084 for depreciation, against £19,236, the net profit was £70,617 higher at £196,228. Liquid assets exceeded current liabilities at the end of May by £646,319, against £741,756. The total output of silver declined from 1,559,146 ozs. to 1,226,779 ozs., and the net average price fell from 2s 2 15-32d to 2s. 0 9-64d. per oz. Lead produced was 17,758 tons, against 27,031 tons, but the price realised rose from £18 os. 2d. to £19 7s. per ton. In the current half-year some changes will be recorded, for the Port Pirie smelting works have now been transferred to a new concern, jointly owned and controlled, but the revenue received from the company's interest therein will be added to by the first profits from the iron and steel works.

**NORTH BROKEN HILL.**—The profits for the half-year ended June 30 amounted to £99,816, as compared with £162,534 in the corresponding period of 1914, and £55,790 in the last six months of 1914. After applying £10,000 to the contingency fund, and £10,000 to the reserve for depreciation and general purposes, and adding the sum brought in, there is an available balance of £121,332. Two dividends of 1s. per share each have been paid as against nil in the preceding six months, and 5s. per share in the first half of 1914; and £91,332 is carried forward. During the period 24,430 tons of concentrates were produced against 19,063 tons, and deliveries to the smelters amounted to 23,441 tons. Operations were governed entirely by the capacity of the Port Pirie works, the time worked being 78 per cent. of full time. As the capacity of the smelters is still much below the productive capacity of the various mines the company may be unable to work full time this half-year.

**NIGEL GOLD.**—In view of the disappointing results of crushing during the last few months, the manager suggested that the battery should be temporarily shut down while development was extended. The board consulted its technical advisers, and have decided that this is not necessary at present. The technical advisers reported that the issue depended entirely upon the continuance and payability of the large shoot lately exposed in the 11th drive east of No. 3 shaft. If the shoot continues in 14th and 22nd drives it should be well into it in two months' time, when the position of the mine will be reconsidered in the light of the information gained. Meanwhile, milling will be continued on a reduced tonnage basis of highest-grade ore so as to meet expenses.

A second issue, or "first supplement," has been made of the particulars issued by Lloyds Bank, Ltd., setting forth the names and position of directors and members of its staff serving with his Majesty's forces and with bodies affiliated to the Central Association of Volunteer Training Corps, as special constables, &c., and other matters. It shows that since the outbreak of the war more than 1,400 members of the bank's staff, or 33 per cent. of the whole, has joined his Majesty's forces. That is, in other words, about 45 per cent. of those of military age, and others who wish to enlist are being relieved as quickly as possible. Of those on active service, 29 have been killed, 59 wounded, and four are prisoners of war. The record is a remarkable exhibit of patriotism.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	—	£	—	£	—	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 22	3,146	—	316	—	156,949	+	10,878
Grand Canal ..	" 22	1,226	—	128	—	18,712	+	1,282
Great Northern ..	" 22	23,635	+	185	—	984,600	+	30,600
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 22	36,458	—	1,760	—	1,403,823	+	98,595
Midland Great Western ..	" 22	13,713	—	1,795	—	542,582	+	12,860

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	—	£	—	£	—	£
Beira ..	Aug. *	33,224	—	4,472	—	2,407,100	+	535,800
Canadian Northern ..	Oct. 21	791,800	+	292,800	—	35,663,000	—	2030,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	3,068,000	+	1028,000	—	6,544,114	+	523,287
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	163,080	+	5,172	—	1,228,542	+	38,937
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	37,254	+	7,665	—	445,359	+	30,502
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	13,999	+	2,287	—	267,946	—	23,280
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	" 14	47,200	+	26,763	—	382,897	—	165,025
Mashonaland ..	Aug. *	49,470	—	1,940	—	11,068	—	7,361
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Sept. *	5,800	—	3,082	—	69,167	+	732
New Cape Central ..	" 25	2,073	+	595	—	521,774	—	177,439
Rhodesia ..	July *	77,976	—	11,294	—	1,404,667	—	333,316
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Oct. 7	43,239	+	14,465	—			

\* Months.

† July 1.

† Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	—	\$	—	\$	—	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Oct. 14	835,000	+	42,000	—	13,001,000	+	1,303,000
Chicago G. W. ..	" 14	342,000	—	15,000	—	4,330,000	—	158,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 30	418,000	+	21,000	—	3,565,000	—	13,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 14	577,800	+	79,200	—	7,749,000	+	416,000
Louis'v'e & Nash'v'e ..	" 14	1,152,000	+	136,000	—	16,144,000	—	33,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	Sept. 30	956,000	+	25,000	—	7,962,000	—	63,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Oct. 14	654,000	—	36,000	—	8,951,000	—	513,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 14	1,281,000	+	73,000	—	17,755,000	—	723,000
Southern ..	" 14	1,331,000	+	51,000	—	18,677,000	—	801,000

† 9 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	—	Rs.	—	Rs.	—	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Sept. 18	1,32,000	+	2,586	—	31,33,541	+	54,604
Barsi Light ..	" 304	24,000	—	11,400	—	5,46,200	—	26,600
Bengal & N. W. ..	" 18	2,62,290	—	36,072	—	84,81,853	—	14,01,471
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 304	12,07,000	—	9,000	—	1,97,77,000	—	1,54,000
Bombay, Baroda ..	Oct. 23	11,35,000	+	1,54,000	—	37,80,000	+	5,48,000
Burma ..	Sept. 18	3,29,163	+	46,999	—	89,71,109	—	12,21,490
Delhi Umballa ..	Oct. 23	66,000	—	—	—	230,630	—	15,406
East Indian ..	" 23	17,05,000	—	1,34,000	—	64,31,000	—	1,20,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 23	14,77,300	+	2,79,300	—	48,14,800	—	6,67,400
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Sept. 18	24,176	+	1,955	—	9,06,685	+	1,567
Madras and S. ..	" 304	13,50,000	+	2,42,332	—	2,31,62,640	+	15,94,127
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 236	78,550	+	48,765	—	31,03,915	—	6,202
Rohilkund and ..	" 236	51,924	+	26,275	—	18,68,121	—	3,66,472
Kumaon ..	" 18	25,826	+	2,295	—	8,53,517	—	11,859
South Indian ..	" 18	5,41,209	—	65,449	—	1,36,80,541	—	81,951
Southern Punjab ..	June §	6,37,843	+	75,436	—	14,34,236	—	35,543

a 12 days.

b 5 days.

† April 1.

§ Month.

† October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		
		Dols.			Dols.			
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	Aug.	3,601,000	+	206,000	2	6,950,000	+	648,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	89,000	—	15,000	3	327,000	—	94,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	Sept.	3,194,000	+	560,000	3	9,666,000	+	1,992,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	662,600	+	71,900	3	1,186,500	—	79,400
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,745,000	+	378,000	3	10,988,000	—	521,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug.	713,000	+	139,000	3	1,971,000	—	642,000
Chicago & N. W. ..	"	2,391,000	—	266,000	2	4,010,000	—	561,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	2,675,000	—	506,000	2	4,635,000	—	965,000
Chicago G. W. ..	"	331,000	—	92,000	2	573,000	—	63,000
Chicago Mll. & S. P. ..	"	2,510,000	+	350,000	2	5,322,000	—	778,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,273,000	—	335,000	2	1,931,000	—	678,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	386,000	—	20,000	2	654,000	—	53,000
Cuba ..	"	416,634	+	73,147	2	836,724	—	110,692
Do. ..	"	125,386	+	64,134	2	263,198	—	110,739
Delaware & Hud. ..	July	833,000	—	107,000	7	4,364,000	—	600,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug.	840,600	+	258,603	7	1,477,000	—	338,000
Erie ..	"	2,269,000	+	769,000	8	10,559,000	—	2,026,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	1,241,700	—	18,000	9	11,749,250	—	1,130,500
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	4,46,150	—	1,97,300	9	13,195,000	—	1,973,000
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	1,13,400	—	1,15,850	9	1,20,100	—	1,61,700
Gt. Northern ..	"	2,623,000	—	600,000	9	4,989,000	—	1,130,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,123,000	—	137,000	9	1,665,000	—	312,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	Sept.	318,000	—	67,000	3	927,000	—	76,000
Lehigh Valley ..	Aug.	1,230,000	—	55,000	2	2,397,000	—	57,000
Louisville & Nash'v. ..	"	1,326,000	—	341,000	2	2,506,000	—	445,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	"	833,000	—	191,000	2	1,582,000	—	211,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	791,000	—	15,000	2	1,262,000	—	173,000
Missouri Pacific ..	July	1,161,000	—	540,000	2	1,161,000	—	540,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Aug.	5,273,000	—	897,000	8	27,980,000	—	8,872,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,114,000	—	482,000	2	4,309,000	—	1,115,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	318,000	—	14,000	2	730,000	—	60,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,534,000	—	489,000	2	3,222,000	—	1,083,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,770,000	—	598,000	2	4,565,000	—	236,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"	10,858,000	—	1,245,000	8	49,405,000	—	5,253,000
Reading ..	"	567,338	—	9,853	2	1,134,787	—	16,491
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,137,000	—	4,000	2	2,124,000	—	16,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	339,000	—	24,000	2	723,000	—	74,000
Southern ..	"	1,611,000	—	285,000	2	3,159,000	—	438,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,597,000	—	1,242,000	2	9,190,000	—	2,553,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,403,000	—	53,000	2	6,252,000	—	120,000
Wabash ..	"	910,000	—	62,000	2	1,414,000	—	174,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

\* Gross earnings.

† Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 23	Pa. 8,000	+	1,200	Pa. 510,200	—	Pa. 25,550
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 24	27,650	—	10,580	1,015,445	—	333,595
Arauco ..	Sept. 24	7,200	—	1,425	62,575	—	8,549
Argentine N.E. ..	Oct. 23	7,915	+	3,915	113,309	+	35,339
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Sept. *	5,368	—	256	44,453	—	1,826
Bolivar ..	"	7,750	+	3,202	22,000	—	5,081
Brazil ..	Aug. *	M3,706,000	—	M13,664,91	M25,821,000	—	M786,137
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	"	M18,33,750	—	M 4,900	M274,600	—	M23,000
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Oct. 23	74,000	—	19,000	1,313,000	—	278,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 24	95,000	—	31,000	1,388,908	—	255,967
Do. Western ..	" 24	48,000	—	13,000	723,000	—	124,000
Central Argentine ..	" 23	117,700	—	16,000	1,866,000	—	230,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 23	11,867	—	4,209	177,512	+	36,723
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 23	3,965	—	1,552	57,280	—	16,609
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 23	2,013	—	858	29,372	+	7,018
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 23	1,333	—	1,097	26,511	—	6,682
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	12,700	—	2,000	82,342	—	492
Cordoba Central ..	Oct. 23	27,300	—	5,105	541,250	—	87,765
Costa Rica ..	Aug. 28	5,340	—	1,303	39,812	—	25,727
Cuban Central ..	Oct. 24	8,472	—	1,542	127,189	+	17,550
Dorada Extension ..	Sept. *	8,400	—	1,400	71,300	—	5,300
Egyptian Delta ..	Oct. 10	6,274	—	2,076	81,440	—	18,877
Entre Rios ..	" 23	11,100	—	3,600	153,300	—	26,900
French Sante Fé ..	Sept. 23	77,880	—	9,321	676,192	—	68,344
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 16	Pa. 48,105	—	Pa. 9,181	Pa. 462,851	—	Pa. 303,475
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 23	10,900	—	1,600	399,800	—	103,700
Havana Central ..	" 23	5,687	—	941	88,729	—	9,363
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Sept. c *	6,370	—	3,501	174,377	—	39,465
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	6,250	—	250	61,000	—	22,250
Leopoldina ..	Oct. 23	34,950	—	5,601	1,243,848	—	10,884
Manila (Northern) ..	" 23	3,190	—	898	218,256	—	40,775
Do. (Southern) ..	" 23	3,150	—	78	158,740	—	16,746
Midland Uruguay ..	Sept. *	9,468	—	2,241	32,234	—	7,857
Mogvana ..	Aug. *	M2,705,000	—	M14,726,70	M15,079,000	—	M17,494,82
N. W. of Uruguay ..	Sept. *	822,000	—	7,416	68,500	—	16,357
Nitrate ..	Oct. 15b	20,191	—	6,452	267,991	—	227,175
Paraguay Central ..	" 23	542,000	—	326,000	87,438,000	—	33,550,000
Paulista ..	Aug. *	M3,400,000	—	M1,743,972	M16,950,000	—	M16,602,11
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Sept. *	575,280	—	514,784	32,299,157	—	56,218
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	" *	2,792	—	637	32,216	—	306
Salvador ..	Oct. 23	16,100	—	2,600	324,850	—	350,844
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 16	34,100	—	6,763	583,716	—	163,297
Sorocabana ..	Aug. *	M1,692,000	—	M778,777	M 1072,400	—	M 878,843
Taltal ..	Sept. *	21,375	—	10,245	47,753	—	4,890
United of Havana ..	Oct. 24	25,777	—	7,417	398,193	—	84,157
West'n of Havana ..	" 23	4,209	—	98	79,878	—	6,620
Zafra and Huelva ..	Sept. *	10,156	—	2,614	72,973	—	43,285



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

The principal incident in the Money market this week was the announcement on Wednesday that the rates for Treasury bills at the Bank of England had been advanced from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for all maturities to  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for three months,  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. for sixes, and 5 per cent. for nines and twelves. These changes were in accordance with expectations, and were followed by an appreciable increase in the demand, not only from the ordinary sources but from other quarters which included the private investor. At the present value of money there is a good margin of profit on the shorter-dated maturity, but the twelve months' bills were considered to be even more attractive, regarded as a short-term investment, as they yield about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

It is possible that the Government will be able to finance its requirements in this way for some little time to come, but in view of the already heavy floating debt it is doubtful whether it would be prudent to rely upon it for very long. Objections have been made to the raising of the rates for Treasury bills and at the same time taking steps to make money artificially dearer, and it is asserted that if the old rate had been retained and money had been allowed to find its natural level, the demand for the bills would be very much larger. Those, however, who take this view overlook the possibility that by making the bills more attractive the recipients of funds which have been paid out for imports may be tempted to leave them here for the time being. It is possible that the plan may not be successful in face of our enormous indebtedness abroad, but it is at least worth trying, even at the expense of some inconvenience to the market.

Business in the discount market was practically at a standstill in the early part of the week as brokers were waiting to learn the decision of the Government with regard to Treasury bills. Pending action in the matter brokers quoted  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for sixty-day and  $4\frac{7}{8}$ - $4\frac{11}{16}$  per cent. for ninety-day maturities, but it was not easy to get the three months' paper at the higher figure, and a few of the less patient buyers took a few parcels at  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. The official intimation that the rates had been advanced was followed by a firmer tone in the quotations for ordinary bank paper, but the supply remained scanty, and although most houses continued to quote  $4\frac{7}{8}$ - $4\frac{11}{16}$  per cent. for three months' bills sellers at anything over  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. were difficult to find.

While the discount market was waiting developments its funds were accumulating, and lenders were seeking temporary employment for their balances. Most of them asked  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for overnight advances, but there was a good deal of surplus credits available at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. or less. Owing partly to the large amounts held up and partly to the release of money which had been taken off the market last week, the payment of the

final call on the War Loan had very little effect on floating supplies. The demand for Treasury bills, however, absorbed some part of the balances, while money was again being withdrawn under special arrangements. Last week the Bank of England was working through the clearing banks, but it is understood that it is prepared to pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to other institutions which are willing to lend amounts of £50,000 and upwards for a period of not less than a month. So far this has not produced much effect, and although the clearing banks hold to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. as the charge for weekly fixtures, there is still plenty of such accommodation to be obtained at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

It would appear that up to the present no use has been made of the Anglo-French loan in America to influence the New York exchange. During the week the cable rate fell as low as 4.61 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but it has rallied to 4.63 $\frac{1}{2}$ , partly on a report that bankers were making arrangements which would improve the position. The Paris cheque has fluctuated between 27.47 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 27.55, and closes at 27.53, and the Dutch exchange, although above the lowest point touched, shows a considerable decline on the week at 11.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Christiania has also relapsed, but Petrograd has remained steady round about 139 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Gold withdrawals for abroad during the week ended on Wednesday were very heavy at £3,049,000, but the process of replacing sovereigns with currency notes appears to be continuing steadily, and £394,000 came in from this source. The stocks of coin and bullion were £2,655,000 lower at £56,231,000, and as there was an expansion of £221,000 in the note circulation, the reserve showed a decrease of £2,876,000 at £41,886,000, the proportion to liabilities being 1 per cent. down at 30 per cent. Apparently the War Loan instalment was again not paid over to the Treasury within the week, as Public Deposits were £6,243,000 down, of which £2,053,000 went in reduction of "Other" securities, and £1,289,000 was added to "Other" Deposits, bringing their total up to £99,670,000.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended October 27 £3,945,075 in £1 notes, £1,360,585 in 10s. notes, and £750,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £2,457,647 in £1, £831,746 in 10s. notes, and £230,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £2,536,267, leaving a total of £81,851,541 outstanding, made up of £56,969,178 in £1 notes, £20,062,363 in 10s. notes, and £4,820,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £445,852 8s. 9d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £44,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £8,727,830 6s. 10d. at the Bank of England, while £194,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £255,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

In addition to the purchases for coinage purposes on home and Continental account, there has been a renewal of the demand for silver from the Far East. At the same time, supplies were smaller, as American offerings were affected by the weakness of the exchange, and the quotations steadily hardened to 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. To-day there was rather less inquiry for the metal, and the final price was  $24\frac{1}{8}$ d. lower.

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 13,25,000 in bills, Rs. 2,47,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 84,35,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 82,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 35,62,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 3,56,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. receiving about 71 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 1,35,000 in immediate transfers at 1s. 4 3-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is increased to Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 26th inst. the total sales were Rs. 6,97,95,268, realising £4,652,637, compared with Rs. 5,98,74,861 for £3,994,576 to October 27 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 27, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued .. ..	74,523,815	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	56,073,815
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£74,523,815		£74,523,815

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,895,502
Reserve .. ..	3,207,448	Other Securities .. ..	96,565,260
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	41,728,955
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	156,894
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	39,835,367		
Other Deposits .. ..	99,670,341		
Seven Day and other Bills	30,455		
	£157,346,611		£157,346,611

Dated Oct. 28, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Oct. 29.		Oct. 20, 1915.	Oct. 27, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,210,364	Rest .. ..	3,184,384	3,207,448	23,064	—
24,993,910	Pub. Deposits ..	46,128,445	39,885,367	1,289,427	6,243,078
126,736,326	Other do. ..	98,380,914	99,670,341	796	—
11,826	7 Day Bills ..	29,959	30,455	496	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
19,427,087	Gov. Securities.	18,895,781	18,895,502	279	—
14,868,463	Other do. ..	98,618,396	96,565,260	2,053,136	—
45,219,070	Total Reserve ..	44,762,225	41,885,849	2,876,376	—
				6,243,078	6,243,078
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,112,670	Coin and Bullion	32,573,345	32,794,860	221,515	—
61,872,740	Proportion ..	38,885,570	56,230,769	—	2,654,861
292 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	5 p.c.	5 p.c.	—	1 p.c.
5 "		5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £3,049,000 out.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,900,000	—	328,636,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,057,000	380,936,000	—
Oct. 6 ..	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
" 13 ..	269,450,000	243,921,000	25,529,000	—
" 20 ..	270,952,000	248,954,000	21,998,000	—
" 27 ..	258,662,000	258,472,000	190,000	—
Total ..	11,011,730,000	12,700,059,000	—	1,688,329,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidate! Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties ..	Supply Services .. ..
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. ..
Crown Lands .. ..	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. ..	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	Issues under Section 1 of
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	War Loan Act, 1915 .. ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Act, 1913 .. .. .
1913 .. .. .	Under Post Office (Lon-
Under Military Works Acts,	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
1907-1903 .. .. .	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
Under Housing Act .. ..	Old Sinking Fund 1911 ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Under Military Works Acts,
East Africa Protectorate	1897-1903 .. .. .
Loan repayments .. ..	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Concord Loan—repayment on	penses Act, 1903 .. ..
account of principal ..	E Africa Protectorate Loan
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Deficiency advances repaid
China Indemnity .. ..	Ways and Means Advances
Ways and Means Advances	repaid .. .. .
Decrease in Exchequer	Increase in Exchequer
balances .. .. .	balances .. .. .
£42,321,990	£42,321,990

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
£	£
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—Misc. (set aside) ..
756,000	175,000
	Egypt .. ..
	100,000
	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	865,000
	Wednesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	455,000
	" Continent .. ..
	100,000
	" Misc. (set aside) ..
	75,000
	Thursday—Misc. (set aside)
	50,000
	Friday—U.S.A. .. ..
	175,000
	" Misc. (set aside) ..
	150,000
Nett Efflux .. ..	
1,389,000	
£2,115,000	£2,145,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

During the week ended on the 9th inst. £17,434,000 Treasury Bills were repaid, and £11,547,000 were sold, leaving the total outstanding £5,887,000 down on balance.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1916.	
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 17 1/2
*213,138,000			
223,138,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 8, 1915.	Oct. 1, 1915.	Sept. 24, 1915.
£	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	45,553,800	45,452,600	45,594,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	242,400	240,400	240,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	11,170,000	11,036,000	11,810,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	4,260,400	3,295,600	4,534,000
Total reserves .. ..	61,226,600	60,027,600	62,178,800
10-day bills and loans ..	1,178,600	1,155,400	1,497,400
30-day bills and loans ..	2,761,200	2,454,800	2,399,400
60-day bills and loans ..	3,038,400	3,153,400	3,112,200
90-day bills and loans ..	1,830,800	1,775,400	1,634,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	264,000	441,400	242,600
Total .. ..	9,073,000	8,980,400	8,886,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	1,896,600	1,865,800	1,865,600
Municipal Warrants ..	5,405,800	5,476,200	4,989,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,104,600	3,075,600	2,973,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks. ..	—	—	—
nett. .. ..	1,544,600	2,198,600	1,481,800
All other assets .. ..	624,800	663,600	715,400
Total assets .. ..	82,876,000	82,267,800	83,540,000
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,956,200	10,945,600	10,949,600
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	65,357,400	64,949,400	65,988,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,045,000	2,859,000	3,069,600
All other liabilities .. ..	517,400	533,800	532,600
Total liabilities .. ..	82,176,000	82,267,800	83,540,000
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	81.5%	82.7%	82.2%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	8.6%	8.7%	88.7%

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 24, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	601,254,000	574,342,000	560,976,000	432,098,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	103,710,000	102,634,000	100,280,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	31,770,000	30,216,000	29,352,000	88,676,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	9,248,000	6,494,000	6,698,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	615,832,000	586,440,000	572,628,000	—
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	27,812,000	27,618,000	25,282,000	384,186,000
Circulation .. ..	7,116,000	7,128,000	7,200,000	29,088,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	38,126,000	37,842,000	37,520,000	1,692,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 24, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	120,450,000	119,162,000	116,754,000	113,400,000
Specie .. ..	10,312,000	10,272,000	10,210,000	8,140,000
Deposits .. ..	125,986,000	124,444,000	123,210,000	111,220,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,842,000	1,820,000	1,772,000	2,840,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver .. ..	12,187,968	12,191,520	12,187,580	9,708,576
Bills .. ..	5,367,156	5,697,448	5,953,756	9,392,534
Note circulation .. ..	16,883,436	17,109,520	17,430,724	16,854,448
Current and deposit				
accounts .. ..	3,197,224	3,112,016	2,887,660	3,320,428

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 24, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold .. ..	32,793,140	32,778,585	32,554,359	13,706,409
Silver .. ..	202,006	185,617	152,054	147,241
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,815,294	13,237,326	13,031,854	26,740,190
Note circulation .. ..	45,958,440	45,642,368	45,339,535	38,706,680
Deposits .. ..	1,567,893	1,556,365	1,171,130	1,663,031



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 28, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.	Oct. 14, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	189,199,160	187,706,960	185,894,680	184,053,600
Silver in hand ..	14,529,840	14,531,630	14,530,720	14,544,960
Bills discounted ..	11,210,800	10,733,040	10,968,360	10,697,250
Advances ..	22,718,840	23,020,480	23,291,880	23,598,960
Note circulation ..	554,702,160	553,279,760	550, 85 720	546,563,400
Public deposits ..	1,538,040	3,303,760	2,377,400	2,771,080
Private deposits ..	101,834,520	102,961,120	104,471,600	105,080,600
Foreign Bills ..	51,160	58,800	52,840	71,920

Proportion between bullion and circulation 352 per cent., against 356 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £276,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £37,294,120, decrease £394,040, and at the branches to £39,360,400, decrease £169,600.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	123,322,300	123,127,150	122,925,950	92,908,650
Treasury Notes ..	56,272,700	41,539,600	44,395,250	37,078,750
Bills discounted ..	196,172,350	219,518,850	218,798,450	146,433,950
Advances ..	741,150	688,800	718,150	1,335,200
Note circulation ..	283,750,850	288,863,000	293,877,150	198,397,650
Deposits ..	80,929,700	83,880,550	80,771,150	77,752,900

Clearing House returns during Sept. £270,499,060 against £240,675,490 in August.

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 24, 1914
Gold ..	31,186,713	30,944,171	30,414,961	22,064,731
Silver ..	29,473,984	29,348,646	29,316,463	27,719,754
Foreign Bills ..	4,145,862	4,136,054	4,259,743	6,991,918
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,893,954	27,214,033	27,316,753	33,095,646
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,576,019	29,326,770	29,251,506	28,842,671
Notes in Circulation ..	82,693,027	82,918,310	82,623,617	79,546,194
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,310,865	25,417,494	25,276,305	24,340,642
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,688,195	1,639,915	1,776,870	1,677,933
Government Securities ..	1,398,138	1,637,983	1,821,674	4,275,465

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 2, 1915.	Oct. 17, 1914.
Gold ..	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	5,763,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,677,000	6,750,000	6,614,000	4,803,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,030,000	3,043,000	3,066,000	1,201,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,967,000	5,040,000	5,248,000	8,877,000
Notes in circulation ..	16,257,000	16,357,000	17,340,000	15,268,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,664,000	4,342,000	3,357,000	3,886,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Sept. 30, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1914.
Gold ..	3,684,000	3,555,000	3,465,000	2,347,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,694,000	3,657,000	3,705,000	1,559,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,060,000	4,143,000	4,045,000	6,831,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,338,000	8,324,000	8,220,000	7,295,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,354,000	1,301,000	1,254,000	1,299,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 26, 1915.		Oct. 28, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland ..	Three months' bills ..	11.43	11.118*	11.32	11.37*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.22	11.28	11.11	11.17
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	29.88	29.94	30.27	30.35*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.27	30.35*	29.94	30.01
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	342	352	342	342
Do. do. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.82	27.92*	27.89	27.97*
Paris ..	Three months' bills ..	27.45	27.50	27.52	27.55
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	1392	1402	1392	1402
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	17.78	17.05	17.40	17.75
Scandinavia ..	Three months' bills ..	18.05	18.35	17.75	18.20*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	462	462*	46	462*
Spain (Bnk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	27.77	24.87	24.87	24.97
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.30	25.40*	25.20	25.30*
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	24.85	24.05	24.75	24.85
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..				

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	chqs.	27.53	27.53	Antwerp ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy ..	sight	29.95	20.90
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.372	11.10	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	1222d.	1222d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	498d.	498d.
Vienna ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta ..	T.T.	140d.	140d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	1392	1392	Bombay ..	T.T.	140d.	140d.
New York ..	sight	4.67	4.632	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	140d.	140d.
Lisbon ..	sight	352d.	352d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	242d.	242d.
Madrid ..	sight	24.85	24.90	Singapore ..	T.T.	242d.	242d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	242d.	242d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Six months ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Nine months ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Twelve months ..	4 1/2	4 1/2

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	48-42	48-42
Three months ..	48	48
Four months ..	48-42	48-42
Six months ..	5	5
Three months fine inland bills ..	52-50	52-50
Four months ..	50	50
Six months ..	50-6	50-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
.. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
.. 7 and 14 days' notices ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4 1/2-4 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2
.. for call loans ..	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2

## The Week's Stock Markets.

For some little time back the pressure upon stock-brokers' offices, with their much-diminished staffs, has been very severe over the War Loan and the conversion proceedings. To-morrow is the last day for accepting the terms of conversion offered, and we do not yet know to any degree what the success of this clever arrangement has been. We hope, however, that the amount of old stocks converted into the new has been great, because in all probability the operation will have to be gone through again when the next War Loan comes to be launched. That cannot be very long hence, for the power of our market to supply £30,000,000 to £35,000,000 a week of new credit to the Government will not last very many weeks longer. It will doubtless endeavour to postpone the issue of a large new loan to as late a date as possible, but its action in this respect must be governed by the power of the banks and financial institutions surrounding them to bear the strain. Whatever happens, our credit must be kept inviolate, and if a further loan is necessary to support the market, then it must be arranged for resolutely on the best terms possible.

A certain amount of speculation has gone on in various sections of the market concurrently with the great business in Government stocks, and amongst other movements there has been a notable advance in American Railroad securities. They have come back a little towards the end of the week, and it was well they did. The decline is not yet pronounced, but it should notify to all holders of the more speculative categories among these securities that the time has come to sell. Wall Street has lost its head somewhat over the war munitioning profits, and it need not surprise anybody should the consequences of indiscreet buying there now bring about a severe reaction by and by. Therefore, where profits can be secured on American Railroad shares, the wise man will be prudent to see that he gets them.

There has been some play, too, in Mexican Railway securities, but they have dropped from the top figures and may very well go back further still. It might be all right for Mexico that the United States should throw its shield over General Carranza and be graciously pleased to recognise him as potential ruler of Mexico, but more than a mere condescending nod of this kind is necessary to enable him to assert his sway for the good of his country, and efficient help from Washington is, we fear, the last thing to be expected under President Wilson's régime. He will be full of correct moral sentiments, but it is the strong hand that is needed in Mexico, and therefore we cannot yet say it is time to average or time to buy.

In other markets there is really nothing happening which calls for special emphasis at our hands, and it is useless to elaborate minute points of no general importance. Home Railway stocks hover around near their lowest prices, and we cannot say that there is much reason for disturbing them. They are not to be thrown away, but neither are they to be bought indiscriminately, although some of the preferred stocks which have had severe declines should perhaps repay the investor who is capable of buying to lay away for a future day.

A fair amount of activity developed in Stock Markets in the beginning of the week, mainly because of the demand for War



Loan for conversion purposes. Business in this was considerable, especially in the cum. rights stock, and the price rose to 99½, while the ex rights stock touched 98½, but the excitement had subsided by Wednesday, and with the advance in the rates for Treasury bills, the quotation for ex rights stock relapsed to 98½. A keen demand existed for the "rights" during the first day or two, and on Tuesday the price rose to 1, but the market for these practically came to an end after that, and the quotation is now purely nominal at ½. Colonial Government securities weakened on the issue of the South Australian prospectus, and although there was some recovery later, the 4½ per cent. issues

Home Railway stocks remain in a very dispirited condition, and prices have again given way, the only exceptions being Metropolitan 5 per cent. preference and Underground 6 per cent. income bonds, for which there was enough inquiry to lift them ½. Canadian Pacific shares moved upwards sharply until they reached 180½ on buying induced by a good traffic return and by the improving outlook, but they finished a little under the best. Grand Trunk stocks, however, were firm throughout, and show substantial gains. American Railroad shares were also good, although the top prices were not held, owing to the rise in the exchange. Erie were in strong demand on the report of the mining engineers that the company's coal properties contained enormous quantities of the mineral, and there was also an inquiry for Atchison, Baltimore, Southern, and Union Pacific. U.S. Steels gave way on the absence of any dividend announcement. Less interest was taken in Mexican Railways and Mexican ordinary, and first preference relapsed to 18 and 67. Business in Argentine Railways was rather better, and both Leopoldina and San Paulo improved with other Brazilian things. United of Havana rose to 76 on the announcement of a dividend of 5 per cent. in cash, as against a like distribution in debenture stock last year, with larger appropriations to the various funds.

In the Miscellaneous sections Shipping securities were fairly active, Royal Mail being lifted to 86 xd., while P. and O. deferred rose to 277½. International Mercantile Marine issues were heavy at first, but have since recovered part of the declines. The Canadian industrial group was also inclined to give way, Canadian Car and Foundry common, Dominion Steel, and Canadian General Electric being all lower. Brazilian Traction met with good support, and touched 59, but they closed a shade lower on balance at 57½ xd. Mexico Tramways and Mexican Light and Power bonds were also unable to maintain the advances recorded in the beginning of the week. Amongst Land shares, Hudson's Bay improved to 6½, and Forestal Land were higher at 40s. 6d. Birmingham Small Arms are quoted at 37s. ex the bonus of one new share for every two held. British and Argentine Meat and Smithfield and Argentine Meat both attracted a little attention, and Van den Berghs and Maypole Dairy were slightly higher, but J. Lyons' shares relapsed. Bank shares moved irregularly, Barclay and Co. "B" being up to 10½ on the arrangement with the United Counties, and Parr's improving ½, while Lloyds and London Joint Stock were easier. London and Brazilian were in request, and improved to 23½, but African bank shares were the turn easier.

Oil shares have been quiet and prices have fluctuated within very narrow limits. Shells dropped to 47½ and remained at about that level, but Royal Dutch changed hands at 44½, after being down to 44, while Spies and North Caucasian were both a shade lower on the week. Anglo-Egyptian "B" met with a little support on a rumour that the new capital required might be less than was anticipated. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference and Eagle Transport preference were bought early in the week, but finished below the best. Rubber shares have been steady, with business mostly confined to a few favourites of the moment, such as Anglo-Java, Djember, and Soembar Ajoie. Sumatra Para improved on the annual report, but Kuala Lumpur, which has also issued a good report, gave way a little. Linggi were a shade easier, and Port Dickson steady on the abandonment of the proposed amalgamation.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was a fair business stirring in this market during the week, and values remained steady, except for Tate's cubes. Of home refined, Tate's cubes No. 1 sold, 40s. 6d.; No. 2, 40s.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 33s.; Lyle's white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Cane descriptions in fair request, at full rates. Crystallised Demerara sold, 28s. 6d.; and Trinidad, 28s. 4½d. to 30s. With regard to foreign kinds, white Java, on spot, sold, 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d. Cuban receipts for all ports last week, 2,350 tons, against nil at same time last year. Centrals at work, 1, against nil. Cane sales went steadily. Demerara crystallised, sold, 28s. 6d. Demerara syrups, 23s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—Auctions of moderate extent ruled very quiet. Vera Paz, good bold, sold, 80s. 6d. Colombian, fair bold, 57s. to 57s. 6d. Futures idle.

**COCOA.**—In auction, fair supplies experienced good support, values being 2s. to 5s. per cwt. dearer. Ceylon, fair to good, 82s. 6d. to 84s. 6d. Grenada, common to fine, 79s. to 84s. 6d. Jamaica, good to fine, 81s. 6d. to 82s. 6d. St. Vincent, fine, 82s. Samoa, fair to fine, 79s. to 86s. 8d. Cameroons, ordinary to fine, 71s. to 83s. 6d. Guayaquil, Ariba, 90s. Tumaco, 80s. to 80s. 6d. St. Thome, fine, 83s. Bahia, superior, 90s.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week met with moderate support, and prices, with few exceptions, again showed a downward tendency. Common kinds in particular being much easier, mainly due to inferior quality. Ceylon auctions experienced a slow demand for common kinds at easier prices. Other descriptions, however, met a fair sale at steady rates. Java offerings passed off with a fair demand, but prices were rather easier.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but prices steady. Fair black Singapore, on spot, sellers, 6d.; Tellicherry, 6½d.; Lampong, 6d.; white Singapore, spot, 8½d.; Muntok, 10½d.; Penang, 8½d. To arrive: black Singapore, November-December shipment, sold, 5½d. to 5½½d.; Lampong, ditto, 5½½d., buyers; white Singapore, ditto, value, 8½d.; Muntok, afloat, sold, 9½d., c.f. and i. Cloves, firmer. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sold, 7½d. to 7½d.; October-December shipment, at 5½d. to 6d., c.f. and i. At public sale

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.	97½	97½
— War Loan 3½%.....	92½	92½	— " 4½% 1922-7.	96½	96
69½ India 3%.....	13 dis	98½	95 New Zealand 4% ..	95½	95½
80½ " 3½%.....	69½	69½	92 Queensland 4% ..	92	92
92 Canada 4%, 1940-60	80½	80½	— " 4½% new	98½	97½
— " 4½%, 1920-5	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	—	—
92 N.S.W. 4%.....	98½	98	4½%, 1920-5 .....	98	97½
— " 4½%.....	95	95	— Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	98	97½
66 Belgian 3%.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes ....	66½	65½
— Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½% (1st) ...	91	91½
— " New Funding .....	70½	77	83 " (2nd) .....	90½	90½
— Chinese 1896 .....	94½	94½	— Russia 4% .....	73	73½
— " 1913 .....	82	82	— " 4½% .....	74½	74
— Egypt Unified 4%...	85	85	— " 5% .....	92	92
Brighton defd. ....	53	51½	London and S.-W. dfd. .	22½	22½
Caledonian defd. ....	109½	111½	Do. new pf. ....	100	100
Chatham ord. ....	7½	7½	Metropolitan .....	22½	22½
Gt. Central pfd. ....	111½	122½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	95	95½
— dfd. ....	6½	6½	Met. District .....	13	13
Gt. Eastern .....	32½	32½	Midland dfd. ....	56	56
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	37½	37½	Nth. British dfd. ....	148	142
Gt. Western .....	92½	91½	Nth.-Eastern .....	100	100
Lancs. and Yorks. ....	68	67½	Nth.-Western .....	100½	100
— " .....	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	22½	22½
Canadian Pacific .....	179½	186	Chesapeake .....	60½	61½
Do. 6% Notes .....	109½	111½	Erie .....	37½	42½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% deba.	94½	94½	Milwaukee .....	98	99
Grand Trunk ord. ....	109½	111½	N. Y. Central .....	106½	108
Do. 3rd pf. ....	25	28	Southern .....	21½	24½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	98½	98½	Southern Pacific .....	104½	105½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " .....	98	98½	Union Pacific .....	143½	145
Atchison .....	113	113½	U. S. Steel .....	94½	91½
Baltimore .....	98	99½	— " .....	—	—
Antofagasta dfd. ....	122½	121½	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	83½	84
Do. 6% Notes .....	102½	102½	Do. 5% Notes .....	100½	100½
Brazil Common .....	69½	69½	Do. 6% " .....	103½	104
B. A. & Pacific .....	45	44½	Leopoldina .....	35	39
B. A. Gt. Southern .....	80½	80½	Mexican ord. ....	20½	18
B. A. Western .....	83	81½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	171	170½
— " .....	—	—	United of Havana .....	73½	76
Bank of Australasia .....	107	106½	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A" .....	8	8	London County & West ..	14½	14½
Do. "B" .....	10½	10½	London Joint Stock .....	188	182
Capital & Counties .....	19½	19½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	22	22
Chartered of India .....	52½	52½	Do. (£12 pd) .....	26	25½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	73½	73½	Parr's .....	29½	29½
Lloyds .....	21½	21½	Standard of S.A. ....	10½	10½
London & Provincial .....	14½	14½	Union & Smiths .....	23	23
London & S.W. ....	11	10½	— " .....	—	—
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestal Land .....	40½	40½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	34½	34½	Furness, Withy .....	32½	32½
Associated Cement .....	38	38	Hudson's Bay .....	6	6½
Birmingham Small Arms	55½	37½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	22½
Borax dfd. ....	22½	22½	Do. dfd. "A" .....	35½	35½
Bovril .....	19½	19½	Kynochs .....	27½	27½
Brazil Traction .....	52½	57½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	64½	64½	Lyons, J. ....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27½	27½	Marconi .....	18½	18
Brunner, Mond .....	32	32	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	23½	24½
Cammell-Laird .....	5	5	Mond Nickel ord. ....	32	32
Castner-Kellner .....	61½	60½	National Steam Car .....	11½	11½
Coats .....	42½	44½	Nobel Dynamite .....	15½	15½
Cunard .....	59½	60½	Pears, A. & F. ....	14½	14½
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	28½	P. & O. dfd. ....	267½	277½
Dorman, Long .....	22½	22½	Royal Mail .....	84	86½
Eastmans .....	7½	7½	South Durham Steel .....	27½	27½
English Sewing Cotton ..	31½	31½	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	70	71
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	23½	23½	Vickers .....	32½	32½
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ....	3½	4½	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	18	18
Baku (ros) .....	2½	2½	North Caucasian .....	26½	24½
Burmah .....	31½	31½	Roumanian Cons. ....	12½	12½
Lobitos .....	28½	28½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44½	44½
Maikop Combine (ros) ..	3½	3½	Shell .....	47½	47½
Maikop Pipeline .....	5½	5½	Spies (10/-) .....	12½	13½
Mexican Eagle .....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian .....	18½	18½
Anglo-Malay .....	8½	8½	Linggi .....	13½	14½
Batu Caves .....	11½	11½	London Asiatic .....	5½	5½
Bukit Mertajam .....	2½	2½	Malacca .....	32	32
Bukit Sembawang .....	2½	2½	Malayalam .....	20½	20½
Damansara .....	2½	2½	Mr. Limau .....	4½	4½
Gula Kalumpung .....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	9½	9½
Highlands .....	2½	43½	United Serdang .....	9½	9½
Johore Rubber Lands ..	13½	13½	Vallambrosa .....	12½	13½
Abontiakoon (10/-) .....	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros) ..	10½	11½
Brakpan .....	38	38½	East Rand .....	17½	17½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	42½	44½	Gt. Boulder (2/-) .....	14½	14½
Cam & Motor .....	14½	13½	Meyer & Charlton .....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) ..	6½	6½	Modder "B" .....	5½	5½
Chartered .....	9½	9½	Do. Deep .....	5½	5½
City Deep .....	32	32½	New Modder (£4) .....	15½	15
Cons. Gold Fields .....	25½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-) .....	48	48
Cons. Langlaagte .....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5) .....	52½	53
Crown Mines (10/-) .....	38	38	Van Ryn Deep .....	28	28½

of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Africa all show losses of ½ to ¾. South American issues have been most prominent in the Foreign Government section under the lead of Brazilian things, which were said to be wanted on New York account. Brazil 1914 Funding Loan jumped from 70½ to 77, and the 4 per cent. 1910 rose 7, while the 1889 and 1911 showed gains of 2 and 1½ respectively. Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury notes, on which six months' interest is due on November 15, were bought up to 102, but finished a shade below the best. The demand for Japanese loans continues, the 4½ per cent. first series being lifted to 91½ and the 4 per cent. 1910 to 71.



West India nutmegs met a good demand at steady to firmer rates. Mace generally steady.

FRUIT.—Currants ruled firm, with a good demand. Provincials and Pyrgos quoted 38s. to 40s.; Amalias, 41s. to 43s.; Gulf, 45s. to 48s.; and Vostizza, 48s. to 55s. Sultanias firmly held. Smyrna, common to fine, ranged from 85s. to 100s.; Afghan, 80s. to 84s.; and Greek, 102s. 6d. to 115s. Figs steady. Calamata, quoted 43s. to 45s.; and Malaga, 35s. to 42s. Muscatels: Californian, loose, on spot, quoted 55s. to 60s., duty paid; and to arrive, 1914 crop, 37s. to 39s., and 1915 crop, 32s. to 36s., c.f. and i.<sup>9</sup>

RICE steady, but quiet. Rangoon beans easier. December-January shipment, sold £24; and April-May, at £19 10s., c.f. and i.

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 29, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt. duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb. Australian	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 10 0	2 0 6	Scoured Merino	1 8 1/2	1 0 1/2
Ditto, No. 2	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 9 1/2	1 0 1/2
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Greasy Merino	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2
Lyle's granulated	32 3—32 9	32 3—32 9	Greasy Crossbred	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2
Foreign granu- lated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 1—2 1/2	1 0 1/2
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9 1/2	0 11 1/2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 8 1/2	0 5 1/2
Crystallised, West India	27 0—31 0	27 0—31 9	Indian rubber p. lb. Plantation, Spot	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 7/- lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton. Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9 1/2	0 8 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1/2	0 8 1/2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9 1/2	0 8 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1/2	0 8 1/2	Steamers, best	19 0	20 0
Pekoe Souehong	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	Seconds	16 0—17 0	16 6—17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton. English Pig	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	Foreign soft, Oct.	25 7 6	24 15 0
Orange	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£ 16 1/2	£ 16 1/2
Broken	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	<b>Cin</b> —per ton. English Ingots	152 1/2—153 1/2	153 1/2—154 1/2
Pekoe Souehong	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	Do, bars	153 1/2—154 1/2	153 1/2—154 1/2
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt. duty 1 1/4 per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Standard cash	£ 152 0	£ 158 15 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	82 0—87 0	85 0—92 0	Cin Plates, per box	18 9—19 0	19 4 1/2—19 7 1/2
Grenada	74 0—83 0	76 0—86 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton. English, Tough	£ 87 1/2	£ 88 1/2
West Africa	nom.	nom.	per ton	£ 87 1/2	£ 88 1/2
Ceylon Plantation	72 0—90 0	74 0—92 0	Best Selected	£ 87 1/2	£ 88 1/2
Guayaquil Ariba	84 0—87 0	87 0—90 0	Sheets	£ 103	£ 103
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt. duty 21/- per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Standard	£ 73 0	£ 72 17 6
East India	62 0—94 0	56 0—94 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton. Native firsts for sh'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£ 25 10 0	£ 26 5 0
Jamaica	1 6 120 6	1 6 120 6	<b>Oils</b> — Linseed, per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Costa Rica	55 0—82 0	55 0—82 0	Rape, ref. English, casks	29 1/2—£ 30 1/2	30 15 1/2—31 10
<b>Provisions</b> — Butter, per cwt. Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Brown English, naked	£ 39—£ 40	£ 39—£ 40
Irish Creameries	156/-167/-	148/-158/-	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 31	30 10—30 15
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Oil, refined	£ 34—£ 39	£ 34—£ 39
Russian finest	134/-140/-	128/-134/-	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9 1/2	9 1/2
Normandy baskets	108/-158/-	107/-156/-	Water White	10 1/2	10 1/2
Danish finest	160/-182/-	160/-164/-	Almonds, Linseed Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 1 3	3 2 3
Brittany rolls— doz. lb.	15 0—17 6	15 0—17 6	Rape, Guzerat Kaps, Sept.-Oct.	3 3 0	3 3 0
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt. Irish	100 0—105 0	98 0—105 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton Cleveland Cash	3 6 3 1/2	3 7 1 1/2
Continental	96 0—107 0	96 0—105 0	Tobacco—duty, unmanufactured 5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb. Maryland & Ohio	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Canadian	36 0—95 0	36 0—95 0	per lb. bond	0 5 1/2—1 6	0 5 1/2—1 6
American	73 0—93 0	81 0—91 0	Virginia leaf	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt. Irish	120/-130/-	126/-132/-	Kentucky leaf	0 4 1/2—1 0	0 4 1/2—1 0
Canadian	38 0—90 0	39 0—94 0	Javana	1 0—6 0	1 0—6 0
American	55 0—89 0	56 0—92 0	London	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt. Edam	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Canadian	82 0—86 0	81 0—86 0	<b>Timber</b> —Wood. Dantzig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150, 13 1/4—150/-	280/-600, 28 1/4—600/-
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak	280/-600	28 1/4—600
English Cheddar	94 0—104 0	88 0—100 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack. Town households, official	46/-	44/-
White loaf	nom.	nom.	American, 1st p. tents	45 1/2 upds	45 1/2 upds
New Zealand	nom.	82 0			
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon— open charter, new crop, per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
Moulmein	nom.	nom.			
Basen	nom.	nom.			
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.			
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120. Dutch	19 0—22 0	19 0—22 0			
Russian	11 0—13 0	11 0—13 0			
Dutch	18 0—20 0	18 0—20 0			

JUTE firmer. Native first marks, November-December, London, sold, £26 2s. 6d. to £26 10s.; ditto, Dundee, at £25 12s. 6d. to £25 15s.; Daisee 2, October-November, Dundee, at £23 15s. to £23 17s. 6d., c.f. and i.

HEMP.—Manila ruled firm. Fair, October-December and November-January, sold, at £41; medium, ditto, £39; coarse, £31 15s. to £32; and coarse brown, £30. New Zealand firm. H.P.F., October-December, sold, £33 to £33 5s., c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Market for spot parcels firmer. Fair T.N. orange sold, 69s. to 72s. Futures dearer. December delivery, sold, 69s. 6d. to 74s.; March, 72s. to 76s.; and May, 74s. to 77s.

GAMBER firm, but quiet. Good marks, November-December, quoted 36s. c.f. and i.

QUININE advanced sharply. Spot sold, 3s. 7d. up to 5s.

INDIA-RUBBER.—Market firm. Standard plantation, crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 5 1/2d. to 2s. 5 1/2d.; November delivery at 2s. 5 1/2d. to

2s. 5 1/2d.; January-June, 2s. 4 1/2d. to 2s. 5 1/2d. Smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 5 1/2d. to 2s. 5 1/2d.; January-June, 2s. 5 1/2d. Fine hard Para, spot, 2s. 5 1/2d.; October-November and November-December, at 2s. 5 1/2d. Ball, November-December, sold, 1s. 1 1/2d.

WOOL.—The seventh series of Colonial wool sales for the current year opened this week. With a full attendance of buyers brisk competition was experienced for all desirable qualities. As compared with the closing rates of last sales there was no material change in values excepting that fine crossbreds were a shade dearer. Low burry and short merino sorts displayed considerable irregularity. Total net first-hand stock available for these sales amount to 138,500 bales, also 6,000 bales Punta Arenas and 650 bales River Plate.

COPRA firmer. To London: Ceylon, October-November shipment, £28 5s.; Malabar, September-October, £29 5s.; F.M.S., Singapore, October-November and November-December, £27 5s.; South Sea, ditto, buyers, £26 5s.; Cebu, September-October, £26 10s.; Manila, ditto, £25 10s., c.f. and i.

TALLOW remained firm. At public sale, 1,748 casks were brought forward, and 1,547 sold, prices being 1s. 3d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 41s.; fair to good, 38s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; dark to dull, 34s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; hard, 40s. 6d. Beef: fine, 40s. 9d.; fair to good, 38s. 6d. to 39s. 9d.; dark to dull, 35s. 6d. to 37s.; sweet, 41s. Market letter 1s. dearer for tallow and 9d. up for stuff. Town tallow, 37s. 6d.; melted stuff, 27s. 3d. per cwt. Rough fat, 8d. per 8 lb.

OILS.—Linseed dearer. Spot, pipes (landed), £30 10s.; barrels £31 5s.; Hull (naked), spot, £28 5s. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £39 to £40; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £38. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), October-November, £35, c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £31 10s.; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £33 10s.; sweet (barrels), £37, £39. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £45. Cochin, spot, £46, £48. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, October-November, £27, c.f. and i. Turpentine, American, spirits, on spot, 39s. 9d. Spanish, spot, 36s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 9 1/2d.; water-white, 10 1/2d. per gallon. Linseed again dearer. Calcutta, spot, 62s. 6d.; October-November, 62s. 6d.; November-December, 62s. 6d. La Plata, October-November, 59s. 9d. Rape-seed firm. Brown Cawn-pore, October-November (pure), 56s. 6d. Guzerat, ditto, 63s. Toria (3 per cent.), 55s. Cottonseed quiet. London, Egyptian, afloat, £11 5s. Resin, common strained, on spot, 15s. 6d.

METALS.—Copper: There has been less disposition for business in the speculative market during the past week, moderate realisations until last Tuesday, with adverse financial reports from America leading to slightly easier rates, cash declining to £72 2s. 6d., and three months £72 12s. 6d. During the middle of the week the tendency improved a little, this being, however, lost at Thursday's session, while values of these dates left off at £72 2s. 6d. and £72 12s. 6d. respectively. Tin: The contango was practically wiped out in standard last Tuesday, both cash and three months reaching £154 15s. During the middle of the week cash receded, slightly forward on balance being unaltered. At Thursday's session prices moved in an upward direction, fair support being accorded, and sellers somewhat reserved, cash touching £156 5s. and three months £156. Lead maintained. Foreign, £25 5s. to £23 7s. 6d., as to position. Spelter dearer. G.o.b., November, £74; December, £67. Iron easier.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The tendency of the market remains very firm, prices in most cases being again higher this week respecting spot and near positions, sellers exercising the same reserve and business moderate. Wheat: English, whites, delivered up, quoted at 52s. to 57s., and reds at 52s. to 56s. per qr., 504 lbs., as to quality. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s., ex ship, arrived, and ditto, due in a week, 58s. 3d. Plate nominal. No. 2 hard winters, 55s. 6d., and No. 2 club Calcutta, 58s. ex quay. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 45s. 6d. upwards, and Canadian export patents up to 44s. 6d., both landed terms. Barley: Plate, 39s. 6d. ex ship, and 40s. 6d. landed. American, 38s. 9d. ex ship. Oats: Plate, 32s. upwards, landed. American white clipped (new), 33s. 6d., landed terms. Maize: La Plata (sound), 36s. 9d. ex ship, 37s. 9d. ex quay. White flat South African nominal at about 37s. 6d., landed terms.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Spinners and manufacturers in the market during the past week have not been at all disposed to give way in price, and the rather easier tendency in raw cotton rates has had scarcely any effect whatever upon the quotations in yarn and cloth. The shortage of labour, which has been a serious problem in the spinning section for some time, is now becoming still more pronounced owing to further enlistments in the Army. There is a possibility of scarcity of certain counts and qualities before very long, and to some extent the weaving branch of the industry is likely to be similarly affected. The weavers' demand for a war bonus on wages has again been discussed informally with Sir George Askwith, and it is quite possible that within the next few days some important developments in connection with the matter will take place. Some employers are rather more inclined to favourably consider the application compared with a little time ago. In cloth for shipment abroad most of the demand has been unworkable, and it seems quite impossible to get our customers on the other side to realise that prices are on a high basis and are likely to remain so. Scattered sales have been arranged for India, chiefly in light cloths, but numerous bids in shirtings are still a long way out. The general inquiry for China continues disappointing, and in both staples and fancies a very limited trade has been done. Opportunities of doing business with the Near East are becoming more restricted owing to the spreading of the war area, but a fair amount of demand has been experienced for Egypt. The business offering in printing cloths continues rather more encouraging. Many complaints are to be met with from producers of T-cloths and Mexicans. American yarns for



home use have been stiff in quotation, and in some quarters users have purchased rather more freely. This policy has been partly due to the fear of smaller supplies being available in the near future. An irregular business has been done in shipping yarns. Bolton spinnings have been firm, with a fair amount of inquiry in some directions.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and October 23, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 23, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 24, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,065,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	25,016,000	19,079,000
Excise .....	54,050,000	33,229,000	21,045,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	18,543,000	14,107,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	3,465,000	4,461,000
Land Tax and House Duty .....	2,650,000	340,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	19,354,000	9,386,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	61,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	16,950,000	16,200,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	210,000	300,000
Receipts from Suez Canal .....	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans .....	2,002,000	767,966	792,767
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	2,643,461	2,967,291
Revenue .....	267,232,000	120,569,421	88,653,058
Total, including Balance .....		204,020,373	99,087,577
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,010,000	1,670,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		20,330,000	35,100,000
For War Loan 1915-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1945 .....		571,000,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,000,000	1,150,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		500,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		251,000,000	72,770,000
Total .....		1,084,904,951	209,777,577
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 23, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Oct. 24, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	16,544,128	14,008,602
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	5,555,829	794,574
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,431,000	691,395	817,695
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	4,477,521	4,398,659
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,697,000	1,183,425	1,086,610
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	742,271,360	153,505,018
Expenditure .....	1,054,876,000	770,526,658	174,611,468
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,375,000	1,995,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,950,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		160,000	21,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		630,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		50,000	10,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		80,000	55,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	83,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £105,532,000, in 1915-16) .....		105,532,000	15,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915 Oct. 23, 1915.	1914 Oct. 24, 1914.	
Bank of England .....	£ 17,891,446	£ 14,815,951	
Bank of Ireland .....	545,839	641,538	
Total .....		1,084,904,951	209,777,577

NOTE.—The Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure are based upon the original Budget Estimate.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on October 23, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	213,138,000
Total .. .. .	£223,138,000

\* Includes £40,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, October 25, 1915.

## Insurance News.

The Treasury has issued a new table of Government annuity rates. The previous rates were applicable only so long as the average price of Consols was under 83, those now current hold good when the average price of Consols is under 66½. Needless to say, the cost of immediate annuities has been considerably reduced. For example, for an immediate annuity of £10 on a male life of 45 the sum of £151 4s. 2d. is now charged in place of £164 15s. heretofore.

There appears to have been misconception in some quarters respecting the attitude of life assurance companies towards war risks, as it has been suggested that by enlistment policyholders would lose the benefit of the premiums they have paid on life policies. As a matter of fact, the general practice of the offices is to make no additional charge for war risks to those who effected life insurance contracts before the war as civilians and have since enlisted, even though by the terms of their policies war risks were excluded. All policies issued since the outbreak of hostilities on male lives of military age are subject to clauses providing either for an additional premium to cover the extra risk, or in the event of the assured being killed, the annulment of the policy and the return of the premiums without interest.

The extremely useful work of the British submarines in the Baltic, which has already deprived Germany of tens of thousands of tons of badly needed war materials, especially copper and iron ores, has, according to advices from Stockholm, made a great impression in Berlin, where the insurance companies are substantially increasing insurance premiums, and in several cases have even refused to cover risks. Other messages from Stockholm state that Swedish rates of war insurance on Baltic shipping have been raised very considerably, and that ships proceeding to German harbours must now pay double as much as heretofore.

The insurance fund of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., which was started in 1879 with about £100,000, has now grown to more than £1,800,000, despite the fact that the premium rates are less than half those usually charged by insurance companies for railroad insurance. On an average the annual loss on the company's system is about £70,000, over an average valuation of some 57 millions sterling; the schedule valuation of the property at risk in 1914 was more than 80 millions. Adding the liability risk for personal injuries to passengers and employees, and for goods lost or damaged and other miscellaneous items, the total amount of risk assumed by the company's insurance fund is roughly 200 millions sterling. The insurance fund of the Pennsylvania system, it may be noted, is greater than the nett surplus of the third largest fire insurance company in the United States.

## Critical Index to New Investments.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOAN.

The new standard of investment values set up by the raising of the rate on the last War Loan to 4½ per cent. is reflected in the terms which this colony finds it necessary to offer to obtain funds for the redemption of maturing loans. In order to provide for the redemption of £552,000 4 per cent. bonds, due on January 1, 1916, and £1,365,300 due April 1, 1916, £2,000,000 South Australian Government 5 per cent. bonds has been created, and is issued at 99. Holders are offered by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia the opportunity of exchanging into an equal amount of the new bonds, with an immediate cash payment in the case of the January maturity of £1 10s. 8d., and of the April maturity of 9s. 4d., for difference between the par value and issue price and of interest. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is also authorised to invite subscriptions in cash for an amount sufficient to make up, with the bonds converted, a total of £2,000,000.



The bonds are repayable at par on April 1, 1923, but the Government has the option of repaying them at par after April 1, 1920, on giving three months' notice, while they may be converted into 5 per cent. registered stock at any time up to April 6, 1916. In view of the favourable terms offered for conversion and of the fact that the loan is a trustee security, it is not likely that holders will leave much of the amount for the ordinary investor.

"The High Commissioner for New Zealand has received from his Government particulars respecting the £2,000,000 public works debenture loan being issued in the Dominion. The issue is at par, with interest at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., free of income-tax. Debentures have currency of 5, 10, 15, 20, or 25 years at subscriber's option. Subscriptions not exceeding £5,000 payable on application. Subscriptions exceeding £5,000 payable 10 per cent. on application, balance on allotment. Interest commences November 6. Applications close November 6, 1915. Debentures issued under New Zealand Loans Act, 1908, and maturing during 1916, may be converted at par into  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debentures, 1915, providing application made before December 1, 1915. Interest payable at new rate after payment of coupons for current half-year, and if paid in New Zealand will be free of income-tax."

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

A more conservative system of tapping was adopted by the Kuala Lumpur Rubber Co. in the year ended June 30, and at the same time a good deal of thinning out of the trees was done. While these steps will ultimately be of considerable benefit, their immediate effect was to cause the crop to fall short of the estimate by about 113,000 lbs., and the output only exceeded that of the previous 12 months by 92,781 lbs. at 1,286,673 lbs. Notwithstanding the necessity of making provision for the exceptional loss on exchange in connection with the balances in the hands of the Antwerp agents, which represented about 0.50d., and the heavier freight charges, the "all-in" cost was reduced by 1.58d. to the very satisfactory level of 1s. 0.55d., and the company at the same time was fortunate enough to secure a slightly better price of 2s. 3.49d. Nett profits consequently showed an improvement of £4,069 at £64,299, and as the directors do not think it necessary to set aside anything this time, compared with £12,500 transferred to reserve a year ago, they are able to increase the dividend from  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 30 per cent., tax free, and still have £12,969, or £1,299 more, to carry forward. The cost of the property stands at £178,089, against which the reserve, including £67,500 from premiums, amounts to £120,000. Expenditure on development was £11,829, making a total of £112,519, but buildings, machinery, &c., was reduced by £5,998 to £36,069. Rubber in hand is valued at £45,491, or £10,899 more, balances in hands of agents in London and Antwerp have risen by £18,483 to £34,033, and cash is £23,270 up at £30,312, against increases of £8,209 to £27,032 in sundry creditors and £12,660 to £14,660 in drafts payable. Notwithstanding the thinning out of the trees, which have been reduced on the portions dealt with to between 67 and 75 per acre, the crop for the present year is expected to reach 1,575,000 lbs.

In the year ended June 30 the Sumatra Para Rubber Plantations increased its crop by 116,244 lbs. to 532,233 lbs., and the "all-in" cost was brought down by 2.17d. to 1s. 1.56d. This was very satisfactory, but the price, which was exceptionally high in the previous year, was reduced by no less than 5.43d. to 2s. 3.02d., so that the nett profit showed a gain of only £460 at £32,851. As, however, £1,140 more at £9,536 was brought forward, the available balance was £1,600 larger at £42,387, out of which the dividend is increased from 6d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per share, or 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and after writing off £1,389 for depreciation of investments, as against nothing a year ago, £7,143, or £2,393 less, is carried forward. Expenditure on

the property, less depreciation, amounted to £6,735, making a total of £155,897, against which there is a reserve of £80,000. Produce on hand was valued at £20,031, or £8,067 more, and the company has temporarily invested a good part of its surplus funds into Treasury bills, which appear in the balance-sheet at £27,642, with the result that cash has been reduced by £39,696 to £11,163. For the current year a crop of 620,000 lbs. is expected, and a forward contract has been made for the sale of 5 tons per month, from November, 1915, to October, 1916, inclusive, at a price equivalent to 2s. 4d. gross in London, so that the results for the present year should show a marked improvement.

The Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber Co. met with several misfortunes in its year ended June 30. A hurricane on April 5 completely uprooted over 14,000 trees, and another 5,000 were snapped off or otherwise damaged, with the result that the crop fell considerably below expectations, and was only 10,090 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 543,356 lbs., and of this 22,380 lbs. were lost in the *Troilus*. The average gross price was 1.15d. lower at 2s. 3.53d. per lb., but in spite of its difficulties the company was able to reduce the "all-in" cost, including 1.05d. for depreciation, by 2.41d. to 12.38d., so that it worked remarkably cheaply. Thanks to this a reduction of £4,695 in gross receipts was converted into an increase of £1,363 in the nett profit at £33,845, and with £3,065 brought in, the available surplus was £795 up at £36,91. The directors, therefore, are able to maintain the dividend at 45 per cent., and also to repeat the appropriation of £2,000 to reserve, while leaving £3,861 to be carried forward. Expenditure on the estates, after allowing for £2,284 written off depreciation, amounted to £2,486, making the total £91,388. A new item of £11,693 for investments appears in the balance-sheet, and cash has been reduced by £11,744 to £20,219.

The Tangoel Rubber Estates had the very satisfactory experience in its year ended June 30 of obtaining an increase of no less than 3.25d. to 2s. 3.88d. in the price of its rubber. Owing to the severe drought, tapping was suspended for nearly three months, but the crop only fell short of the estimate by some 9,000 lbs., and at 146,039 lbs. was 28,256 lbs. in excess of the previous season, while the f.o.b. cost was reduced by 2.25d. to 9.97d. The "all-in" cost is given as 1s. 4.85d., as against 1s. 3.81d., but the apparent increase is due to the fact that the figure this time includes depreciations, whereas a year ago neither these nor staff commissions were reckoned in. Coffee has been gradually cut out, and is now all uprooted, but receipts from this source were £1,642 higher at £4,161, and the total income showed an increase of £7,242 at £21,131, of which £8,237, or £5,167 more, was retained as nett profit. Adding £744 brought forward, the amount available was £5,237 up at £8,981, and the company pays a dividend of 4 per cent. as its first distribution. Out of the balance, £3,329, or £329 more, is written off preliminary expenses, extinguishing that item, and the directors' percentage absorbs £412, leaving £2,240, or £1,496 more, to be carried forward. No change has been made either in the cost of the estates or in the development account, which stand at £57,131 and £12,455 respectively, against a paid-up capital of £75,000. Stocks are £4,818 up at £10,776, and cash is £1,823 higher at £2,194, while current liabilities have been reduced by £1,691 to £8,911. A crop of 210,000 lbs. is expected this year.

At the adjourned meeting of the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates on Wednesday, Sir Wm. Hood Treacher stated that the proposal to sell the undertaking to the Linggi Plantations, Ltd., had fallen through. The directors had received proxies representing 767,156 shares in favour of the scheme, and proxies representing 255,093 against it, so that the necessary three-fourths majority had been obtained, but a further 83,654 proxies against the proposal had to be rejected because they were not stamped. On this being brought to the notice of the



directors of the Linggi Co., they declined to take advantage of the technical flaw, and withdrew entirely from the proposition.

**JONG-LANDOR RUBBER.**—The output for the year ended June 30 was 113,548 lbs. up at 375,141 lbs., and although the average price was  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. smaller at 2s.  $\frac{3}{4}$ d., the profits show an increase of £10,103 at £18,458. Including £2,998 brought forward, the available surplus, after making sundry adjustments, was £10,707 larger at £21,555, out of which £1,000 is written off for depreciation, and a like sum is transferred to reserve, compared with £1,690 written off a year ago. The dividend is then made up to 17½ per cent., tax free, as against 8 per cent. for the previous year and 5 per cent. for 1912-13, and the balance carried forward is increased by £3,082 to £6,080. Of the increase in profits the greater part was held in cash, which at the date of the balance-sheet was £10,024 higher at £13,395, while the stock showed an increase of £5,006 at £12,450, against which £3,726 more at £4,821 was due to creditors. The crop for the current year is estimated at 480,000 lbs.

**NORTH HUMMOCK (SELANGOR) RUBBER.**—In the year ended June 30 this company was able to reduce its "all in" cost by 2.64d. to 1s. 2.61d., while the gross price realised was only 0.92d. smaller at 2s. 2.84d. With an increase of 85,798 lbs. to 377,195 lbs. in the output, nett profits were £5,780 larger at £19,664, and the dividend, which a year ago was cut down from 25 per cent. to 15, is now increased to 20 per cent., while £2,000 is again transferred to general reserve, and £4,081, or £1,664 more than was brought in, is carried forward. The crop for the current year is estimated at 445,000 lbs., of which 118,517 lbs. were secured in the first three months. After allowing for depreciation, the capital account is £4,284 up at £102,481, and cash balances are £4,372 smaller at £12,690, but stocks show an increase of £8,146 at £4,082.

**KORALE TEA ESTATES.**—In the year ended June 30 the crop showed an increase of only 18,580 lbs. at 640,625 lbs., but the company derived substantial benefit from an increase of 2,01d. to 10.75d. in the price. The rubber crop was 10,796 lbs. larger at 22,768 lbs., and was secured at an "all in" cost of 1s. 2.92d., but the average price was 5.82d. down at 2s. 3.15d. Nett profits, including £940 more at £1,339 brought forward, were £5,047 up at £10,323, and after again writing £2,500 off improvements to estates, a dividend of 10½ per cent. is paid on the cumulative preference shares, reducing the arrears to 40 per cent., and £2,795, or £1,456 more, is carried forward.

**CAROLINA TEA CO. OF CEYLON.**—This company was able to take full advantage of the better market for tea, as its crop for the year ended June 30 exceeded that of the previous season by 16,959 lbs., and was only 9,178 lbs. below the "record" output of 1912-13. The average price rose by 1.29d. to 9.10d., and was easily the best obtained during the past five years, while the cost, which was exceptionally heavy last year, was reduced by 0.34d. to 5.88d. An increase of 27,594 lbs. to 81,491 lbs. was also obtained in the rubber crop, but the price dropped  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 11½d., while the f.o.b. cost was high at 1s. 2½d. Nett profits, however, after transferring an extra £800 at £2,800 to extensions and depreciation account, and doubling the appropriation to reserve against coast advances at £1,000, showed an improvement of £8,317 at £11,720. The dividend is increased from 6 per cent. to 8, and, in addition, a bonus of 5 per cent. is paid, making a total distribution of 13 per cent., and £7,239 is carried forward, as against £1,660 brought

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### SECOND EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.

In the year ended September 30 the nett revenue showed an increase of £1,741 at £52,295, but the directors make the rather cryptic remark that in the previous year over £3,000 taken from revenue had been applied towards reducing the cost of certain home investments. Although there is no trace in the accounts of this transfer, the statement would seem to indicate that the actual income was really about £1,300 down; but, even on this supposition, the results are decidedly satisfactory. After providing for interest and management expenses, the nett profit was £2,697 larger at £34,624, and a dividend of 12 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, leaving £10,503, or £4,219 more, to be added to the surplus revenue. This brings the balance up to £55,984, but the directors have taken £15,391, together with £9,608 from profit on sale of securities, to write down the cost of investments, leaving £40,592 to be carried forward. Investments show a decrease of £19,488 at £890,546, against which liabilities to sundry creditors are £17,387 down at £5,511, and the cash balance of £3,183 shown a year ago has given place to an overdraft of £1,008.

### RUSSIAN CORPORATION, LTD.

This company was formed in March, 1914, and was therefore struck by the war in its very infancy. The report for the period ended September 30 last must consequently be regarded with every possible consideration, and although there are certain things in the balance-sheet that we might take exception to in ordinary circumstances, we must waive them until times become more normal and until the company has had an opportunity of pulling itself together. On the whole, the jump off must be considered extremely good, as the corporation made a gross profit of £68,435, and after paying fees, &c., and setting aside £3,000 for income-tax reserve, there is a disposable

balance of £52,660. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares (absorbing £40,000) and to place £9,387 to reserve fund, which will then amount to £20,000, the latter figure being arrived at by deducting preliminary expenses (rather heavy at £39,330) from share premium account. There is then a balance of £3,274 to be carried forward. As we have said, we cannot attempt to form any judgment on the company's prospects from the figures submitted in the present report, but we are just a trifle uneasy about the liabilities of £750,000, even although half a million of the total is represented by a "special investment." Fortunately the company has strong backing, and when general conditions improve it has every chance of doing a useful and profitable business.

### CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM PACKET CO.

In March last the Admiralty proposed to requisition two of the mail-boats, but, on its being pointed out that this would make it impossible to carry on the mail service, only one was taken. Even the loss of one boat hampered the company considerably, and the Admiralty has undertaken the entire responsibility for any adverse effect which it might have on the mail contract. Profits on the cargo service were greatly reduced, but the passenger traffic improved, partly in consequence of the closing of some of the cross-Channel routes, and the receipts for the half-year ended August 31, including £8,706, or £2,554 more brought forward, were £13,247 up at £172,713. Expenses, however, rose by no less than £22,404 to £127,285, and nett profits were consequently £9,157 smaller at £29,804. Out of this the usual appropriations are made of £6,400 to the trading steamers renewal fund and £5,000 to the reduction of compensation to the Ship Building shareholders, and the ordinary shares again get a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, tax free. The provision of £6,000 for depreciation of investments and £625 for reduction of the City of Dublin Junction Railways unguaranteed stock are not repeated, and the balance carried forward is £2,532 up at £6,047. A further reduction of £23,719 to £314,881 is shown in the debenture stock outstanding, while the sinking fund has been increased by £28,246 to £41,109. On the other hand, there are reductions of £12,800 to £113,644 in the value of the fleet and £10,000 to £55,000 in the compensation paid to shareholders of the Dublin and Liverpool Steamship Building Co., but the sinking fund investments have risen by £28,245 to £410,273.

### FRASER AND CHALMERS, LTD.

Substantial improvement is shown in the report for the year ended June 30. Gross profit amounted to £26,100, an increase of almost £4,000, and the nett profit is £12,058, an increase of £3,700. This is after writing off £10,400, or £850 more, for depreciation, and £830 more for income-tax, but there was a saving of £1,110 for interest on temporary loans. To compensate for additions to plant, &c., £17,900 has been transferred to reserve fund, raising it to £80,000, and a nett balance of £1,075 is brought in from last year. After paying the preference dividend (£4,725) on this occasion there will be a balance of £8,400 to carry forward. Sundry creditors show an increase of £26,000, but there has been a reduction of £3,000 in the amount of bills payable. On the Erith works £23,500 was spent, an increase of £18,500, but after allowing for depreciation the cost of property, plant, &c., is only £13,000 higher at £202,000. Cash in hand is up £3,700 at £47,390, and the other changes in the balance-sheet are trifling. The report states that difficulties have been experienced in obtaining supplies of raw materials and in maintaining a sufficient labour force, but as from August 2 the works at Erith have been a "controlled establishment," and this will doubtless bring more grist to the company's mill. A new and larger power station has been constructed, and additions have been made to plant and machinery. Business in South Africa showed some improvement during the year, but in other directions the standard products of the company have been adversely affected by conditions arising out of the war. It looks as though it might be some time before the ordinary shares will again enter the dividend list.

### CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LTD.

During the year ended June 30 the number of passengers carried was 793,924 larger, and the receipts from this source rose by £5,714 to £206,123, but expenses were increased by the additional cost of labour, allowances to employees on active service, and the higher cost of supplies, and nett profits were only £1,749 up at £80,615. A year ago, however, owing to the uncertain outlook caused by the war, the directors restricted the dividend to 2½ per cent., and increased the balance carried forward by £9,820 to £12,337, so that the amount now available, after providing for debenture interest and redemption, is £11,668 larger at £44,286. Of this £12,000, or £8,000 more, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is then restored to the old level of 5 per cent., leaving £4,612 less at £7,725 to be carried out. During the year £25,100 were redeemed, leaving £391,300 outstanding, against which £12,200 was written off the expenditure on betterments and renewals, bringing that item down to £22,374, and investments were reduced by £18,049 to £22,647. With the present additions, the reserve, after providing for £2,874 for depreciation of investments, stands at £328,157, or an increase of £22,326. Cash is £35,953 up at £36,292, and the bank overdraft of £8,019 in the previous balance-sheet has disappeared.

### WESTERN CANADA INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

In view of the conditions in Canada during the year ended June 30 a reduction of only £892 to £11,710 in the nett profits of this company is as good a result as could have been expected.



With a much larger balance of £6,364 brought forward, the directors had £18,074, or £2,608 more, available, but they prefer to make provision for any contingencies that may arise and transfer £5,000 to reserve, compared with nothing a year ago. This means that the dividend on the ordinary shares, which last time was increased from 6 per cent. to 7, is now cut down to 3½ per cent., and that £555 less at £5,809 is carried forward. The directors say that although there are more arrears of interest than usual, the collections were, on the whole, fairly satisfactory, and it is expected that, as the outcome of the crops, which are the largest in the history of the country, the results for the current year should show an improvement.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### RAILWAYS.

Cuban Central.—4 per cent. less tax on the ordinary, placing £25,000 to reserve, £25,000 to general renewals reserve, £5,000 to insurance account, and £5,000 to pension account, carrying forward £14,539, payable Nov. 12, against 2 per cent. last year, with £15,000 to reserve and £13,055 forward.

Taltal.—Further of 4s. per share, making 6s. per share, or 6 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £27,231; a year ago the final was 3s. per share, making 6 per cent. for the year, with £50,355 forward.

United of the Havana and Regla Warehouses.—5 per cent. (cash) less tax on the ordinary, placing £150,000 to reserve, £100,000 to general renewals reserve, £5,000 to insurance account, and £5,000 to pension account, carrying forward £15,549, payable Nov. 12; last year £50,000 was placed to reserve, £50,000 to general renewals, and £40,000 was set aside to meet extraordinary expenditure on works in suspense; a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the ordinary stock in 5 per cent. debenture stock, with £14,218 forward.

Western of Havana.—7 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, placing £10,000 to reserve, £5,000 to general renewals reserve, carrying forward £15,536, payable Nov. 12, same as last year, with £22,071 forward, but no allocations were made to reserve.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-Chilian Nitrate and Railway.—Interim on account of 1915 of 10s. per preference and 10s. per ordinary, both free tax, being 10 per cent. on each class of shares, payable Nov. 11, same as a year ago.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.—10s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended Aug. 31, making 15 per cent. for the year. After providing in full for depreciation of securities, and appropriating £20,000 for war contingencies, and £5,000 bonus to staff, £50,000 is carried forward. For the preceding year the distribution was the same, with £77,000 forward.

Anglo-Sumatra Rubber.—Final of 15 per cent., less tax, making 40 per cent., less tax, for the year, placing £4,000 to reserve, with £15,973 forward. Last year a final dividend of 17½ per cent. was paid, making 30 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £8,481.

Aramayo Francke Mines.—Second interim on account of current financial year of 6d. per share, tax free, payable Nov. 1.

Bank of Montreal.—2½ per cent. for quarter ending Oct. 31, and a bonus of 1 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—1s. per share, payable Nov. 17.

Bukit Panjong Syndicate.—Interim on account of current year of 10 per cent., free of tax, payable Oct. 25.

Burns Bros., New York.—Quarterly of 1¼ per cent. on common, payable Nov. 15, same as for the preceding quarter.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—2½ per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. for three months ending Nov. 30, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways.—1s. 3d. per share (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum), less tax, for three months ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 16.

Consolidated Signal.—Final on the preference of 3 per cent., less tax, making 6 per cent. for the year, less tax. For the preceding year a dividend of 10 per cent. was paid on the ordinary.

Consolidated Trust.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the deferred, payable Nov. 16, against 5 per cent.

Damansara (Selangor) Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of the season ending Dec. 31, against 7½ per cent. a year ago.

Dunville and Co.—7s. per share, making 12s. per share, less tax, for year ended Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Lanka Plantations.—5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, making 7½ per cent. for year ended June 30. No dividend was paid for 1914.

Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance.—12s. per share, less tax, on account of 1915, payable Nov. 22, same as a year ago.

Mount Morgan Gold.—1s. per share, payable Nov. 27.

Pabbojan Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, payable Nov. 4, same as a year ago.

Royal Bank of Scotland.—10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year. At the corresponding date last year a similar dividend, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., was declared.

Singapore United Rubber.—At the rate of 7½ per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent., less tax, for year ended June 30 last. Preceding dividend was 3 per cent. for 15 months to June 30, 1912.

South Kalgurli Consolidated.—Interim of 6d. per share on account of year ending March 31, 1916, payable, less tax, at 3s. in the pound, on Nov. 25. For 1914-15 the dividend was 9d. per share, but no interim payment was made.

Tekka, Limited.—1s. 3d. per share, free of tax, payable Nov. 6, against 1s. 6d. a year ago.

Texas Land and Mortgage.—Interim for half-year to Sept. 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Nov. 11, same as a year ago.

West India and Panama Telegraph.—9d. per share on the ordinary, free of tax, against 1s. 3d.

Western Telegraph.—After transferring £150,000 towards the reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and debenture stock issued; £150,000 to the general reserve, £30,000 to the land and buildings depreciation, and £5,000 to the provision on account of investment fluctuations, final of 3s. per share, making 6 per cent. for the year ended June 30, also a bonus of 2s. per share, both free tax. The balance of the account is carried forward. A year ago £160,000 was transferred to general reserve, £30,000 to land and buildings depreciation, and £130,000 to the provision on account of investment fluctuations; the dividend and bonus were the same.

## Notes on Books.

*Chinese Currency and Banking.* By Srinivas R. Wagel. (Shanghai: North China Daily News and Herald, Ltd. Price \$10, or 18s. nett.)

This is a volume forming the sequel to Mr. Wagel's "Finance in China," and it is a worthy sequel. Unfortunately, the book, which is, like its predecessor, a ponderous one, running to about 450 pages, appears at a time when the people's thoughts are anywhere rather than in China, but alike for the questions raised and discussed in these two volumes, they should prove of great interest to many people in Europe. China is in a sense a country or empire in a state of flux and domestic revolution, and, therefore, a country becoming ripe for change. Everything now is more or less raw and out of shape within it. It requires railways, a uniform and stable currency, a well-ordered system of banking, the reopening, redevelopment, and extension of its silted-up ancient networks of canals, the instruction of its people in agriculture, and, in regard to its currency, the bringing of order out of a state of, one might say, absolute chaos by standardisation and the creation of reserves. How all these reforms and the currency changes are to be brought about this volume in some degree indicates, and it is satisfactory in a sense to find that some beginning has been made in providing the empire, or republic we should call it, with coins of definite shape and stable character. But the reader need go no further in this volume than to read the section on currency in China to learn how despair-generating the actual situation is. There is a complete absence of uniformity in the circulating media, and instead of native-made coins, foreign ones still jostle each other in all centres of population, and give endless opportunities for chicanery. Were a similar condition of things to exist in any European country, it would probably demoralise its mercantile life beyond hope of redemption. That the confusion has not done so in China is one of the most striking proofs of the people's innate honesty. Considering their circumstances and surroundings, no people in the world are more straightforward in their dealings than the Chinese. As a book to instruct and refer to when the time for effort again comes, this volume should be purchased, read, and laid by. Mr. Wagel has given a history of banking in China which seems fairly complete from the earliest dates available, and in the end of the sixth chapter he says, "The one point which the Chinese banks have never understood is the importance of reserves. Of course, the confusions arising out of an inchoate position of currency must answer a great deal for the stagnation of banking." That is doubtless so, and it may be some considerable time yet before a better state of affairs arises. The seventh chapter is devoted to a discussion of the standard of value, and it also contains a good deal of interesting information, but is to us, perhaps, the least satisfactory in the book, because, after all, the standard of value for China, as for other countries, will in the end be determined by the country's wealth and capacity to produce wealth for exchange. The time has not come to discuss the first steps in reform, which is the subject dealt with in the tenth chapter, but we live in hope that China will soon again become a live subject for Europe. A better spirit may be trusted to arise in the West towards the Chinese, and all attempts should be given up to secure special privileges at the expense of the natives. It must be "China for the Chinese" just as much as "Japan for the Japanese" or "Siam for the Siamese" henceforth.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BALDWIN.

## GOOD SHOWING FOR AN ANXIOUS YEAR.

The thirteenth annual meeting of Baldwins, Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, Colonel John Roper Wright (chairman) presiding. He apologised for the absence of Colonel William Charles Wright and Colonel D. E. Williams, who were engaged on military duties, and of Mr. Vassar-Smith, who had engagements connected with Government work.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said it was with pleasure that the directors placed before the shareholders their report, showing the results of last year's working. They would see by the accounts the balance they were able to carry to the balance-sheet was £21,010 more than last year, but £48,570 less than the year before, after meeting the heavier charges for income-tax and adding a further £15,000 to the depreciation account, which now stood at the round figure of £250,000. After paying the usual dividends, sinking funds, and placing to reserve £50,000, bringing this figure up to £325,000, they had left £127,982, from which the directors recommended a final dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., making, with the interim dividend, 10 per cent., free of income-tax. In accordance with the resolutions passed at the extra-ordinary meetings of May 12 and 27 last, they had taken over the whole of the outstanding shares of the Port Talbot Steel Co., which they felt sure would be a valuable asset to the company. They had hoped to have been able to announce at this meeting that they had commenced the erection of the intended blast furnace plant, with its accessories in the way of coking and by-product plant, for the extraction of dyes, &c., which hitherto had been one of the chief sources of income from the German industries, but the war had stopped all this for the time being. He was glad to say that they were doing all they could to keep up the supply of steel for shell making, for which they were laying down special plant at great outlay and inconvenience to their usual trade, and he was sure the meeting would ratify the decision of the directors in the handing over to the Minister of Munitions one of their large engineering shops, free of charge. He thought he ought to say that it was the intention of the directors to take a financial interest in the United Tube Corporation, Ltd. Their steel works would be a useful adjunct to the company. He thought he had given them a fair *résumé* of their position, and he would endeavour to answer any questions which, considering the unsettled state of all industries, would, he hoped, be few, as it was, to his mind, dangerous to make forecasts of any sort. He now moved: "That the statement of accounts, balance-sheet, and the directors' and auditors' reports thereon be entered on the minutes, and that the same, together with the payment of the preference dividend up to and including August 1, 1915, and of the interim dividend on the ordinary shares, paid on April 7, 1915, and other acts of the directors as thereby disclosed, be approved and adopted."

Mr. Stanley Baldwin seconded, and the report was adopted.

The Chairman then moved: "That, in accordance with the directors' recommendation, a final dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., free of income-tax, be paid on the amounts paid up on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, 1915, together with the interim dividend of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. paid on April 7, 1915, making 10 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, and that the same be payable this day."

Mr. Roger Beck seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that Mr. Richard Vassar-Smith and Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas, retiring under article 87, be re-elected directors of the company.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. C. Davies, and agreed to.

The Chairman moved that the retiring directors, Messrs. Roger Beck and Colonel D. E. Williams, be re-elected.

This was seconded by Mr. S. L. Dore and carried.

Mr. Beck, in returning thanks, said he found on examination that he had thanked the shareholders in this way for seven years consecutively, and was now the veteran of the board.

On the motion of Mr. Dorsett, seconded by Mr. Lambert, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were re-elected auditors of the company for the current year at a fee of £525.

Mr. C. E. Martineau moved a vote of thanks to the directors for their arduous work during the year, and to Colonel Wright for his conduct of the meeting. He was sure all the shareholders were glad to see Colonel Wright looking so well and vigorous again after a severe illness he went through about a year ago.

The vote was seconded by Alderman Sayer, who said it was a compliment to the directors that so few shareholders were present. The balance-sheet was such an excellent one and so solid that it could not fail to give satisfaction.

The vote was carried amid applause, and the Chairman, in reply, thanked the shareholders for their confidence. On behalf of the directors and the shareholders, he thanked the staff for their excellent work during the year. The directors, he said, had been well backed up by a staff second to none in the country.

## A. AND F. PEARS.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of A. and F. Pears, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Holborn Restaurant, Sir Thomas R. Dewar (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Herbert C. Barratt) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: The balance-sheet which you have before you your directors trust you find satisfactory. After paying debenture and preference shareholders as usual, the preferred ordinary shares receive 12 per cent. and the newly-formed ordinary shares receive 20 per cent. Our investments have been increased by £100,000, and what is of equal importance, as shown by the official Stock Exchange quotations at September 30 last, our securities were then of more value than they are put at in our accounts. This satisfactory result is owing to the readjustment of our securities made when the working arrangement with Messrs. Lever Brothers was completed. We have placed £10,000 to reserve. Creditors could be paid by the debtors more than three times over; £30,003 4s. 10d. is carried forward, and is sufficient to pay debenture interest, preference, and preferred ordinary dividends for the next six months. In the interests of shareholders, a reserve against depreciation of stocks has been created; £40,000 War Loan stock has been acquired by the company. Had it not been for the war, our profits would have been considerably larger, because you can readily understand our sales on the Continent have been paralysed, and raw material has increased in price. You may ask the reason of the sound position we find ourselves in. The abnormal times have nothing to do with it, but the contrary. We have benefited by no war profits, although there are no shareholders, I know, who will more willingly pay same over to the Government had such a liability been incurred. A year ago a new policy was adopted, and it has been a phenomenal success. A reorganisation of our system of distribution was established, broadening the field for new channels, and laying a foundation for the future, the development of which should in time, I think, show satisfactory results. This development could never have been accomplished if you had not agreed to our present arrangement with Messrs. Lever Brothers. You have to be congratulated upon having consented to that agreement; in fact, it is the opinion of your directors that had you not done so, the then ordinary shareholders would not have had the same dividend as the previous year, and we would not have liked to prophesy when a similar dividend could have been paid if we had continued to work on our old policy. We now find ourselves safe in the zone of a well-organised system of commercial activity, where a large volume of business makes economies possible, thus increasing legitimate profits, whilst allowing the public to get the better value, the employees better pay, merchants a good selling profit, and shareholders respectable dividends. We shall bring before you for your acceptance at a later date a profit-sharing scheme for our employees, to encourage them, and allow them to benefit by our prosperity. It will be upon a somewhat similar basis as that which is so successfully carried out at Port Sunlight, adapted, of course, to our own requirements. Already we have placed upon the market through the channels which we now have, and could never have had under any other circumstances, at home and abroad new articles, which have been received well by merchants and the public. We expect very soon to be sending from our works every article requisite for the most refined toilet table, from soap and perfumery to bath salts, all made from the very finest materials, artistically got up, and bearing the hall-mark of the name of Pears as an assurance of the best British manufacture. We shall be quite prepared for any onslaught of foreign competitors in the future, with or without a protective tariff. I have the pleasure to say that Mr. James Lever Ferguson has accepted a seat upon this board. His experience in this particular industry and his advice will be of the greatest value. He holds the important position of chairman of three of our allied companies. We are at present extending our works at Isleworth, and have enlarged our offices at New Oxford Street, to cope with our increased trade. We have raised the wages of our workers, and have also granted a war bonus. A considerable number from our offices and works, including one of our directors (Captain Pears), are serving their King and country in the Army at home and in the firing line. You will be pleased to know that we are treating them and their dependents liberally financially, and we will welcome them back after the war, and give them their old positions, and better, if we possibly can. Mr. Herbert Barratt, who has so faithfully served the company for nearly 30 years, is now the secretary of the company. I take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation and thanks of the directors to all those employed in the company for their loyalty and hard work in so satisfactorily keeping pace with our rapidly increasing trade. I predict under our present policy, when all the possibilities of the old high-class name of Pears are developed, together with all the great variety of new commodities, that your company will stand out as an example of an old-established British enterprise, whose foundations were well and truly laid in the eighteenth century, as strong and vigorous after its century and a-quarter of active life and as modern in its scientific advancement as the twentieth century can produce, and that of our products it can be truly said: "Age cannot wither, nor custom stale."

Mr. J. J. Retallic seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.



## CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY.

## AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS SATISFACTORY.—ADVANCE IN CURRENT RECEIPTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Central Argentine Railway, Ltd., was held on Thursday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Fighiera, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that they were still under the cloud of a terrible war, and since they last met its scope had extended to other nations. Its effects were reflected on neutrals as well as on belligerent States, and its influence, as far as credit and development were concerned, was very discernible in countries as remote from the scene of conflict as Argentina and other States in the Southern Hemisphere. He wished to congratulate the shareholders on the results which had been submitted. Eliminating from the nett revenue account the amount of £440,000 brought in from last year and the special allocation of £100,000 to contingencies fund to meet abnormal flood charges during the year, the nett result of the year's working showed that, notwithstanding the increase in their interest charges of £50,000 on the terminable notes issued in November, 1914, and April, 1915, and of £50,000 as debenture interest, the dividends of 5 per cent. on the ordinary and deferred stocks of the company had been amply earned. They carried forward within £95,000 of the amount brought in from last account, in spite of decreased gross receipts of £300,000 for the year, of which no less than £240,000 was due to diminished passenger traffic. The results obtained were in a great measure directly due to the efforts of their officials, but they must not lose sight of the marvellous potentialities of the country in which the railway operated, a country which, in these times of mundial crisis, was yet able to demonstrate that the considerable capital which the shareholders had confided to it still continued to give a fair return on the investment. Incidentally, it continued to demonstrate that capital had been expended rationally and wisely, while the conservative policy of the company had also materially aided in rendering such results possible in times of local as well as European and almost universal crisis. They had no intention of offering further capital during the continuance of the war. In regard to the few capital works in hand, the electrification of suburban lines, as far as at present undertaken, should be ready for inauguration during 1915. The new Gorton workshops were progressing favourably, and the terminal station in Cordoba was being proceeded with satisfactorily.

## THE NEW TERMINUS.

The first part of their new Retiro terminus in Buenos Aires was officially opened on August 2 last. Their railway had already 3,300 miles in operation, and doubtless in time it would attain 5,000 miles, and that terminus was to deal with the traffic at the present time and in the reasonably near future. The lay-out had been designed to allow for future extensions, and the company already possessed the necessary land for that purpose. The station, while being the largest in South America, was so up-to-date that they looked not only for increased business, but for considerable economies in the handling of goods and transportation of passengers. Referring to the 10 per cent. increase in most of the rates and tariffs put in force on the 1st instant by the majority of the companies operating out there—which was only done after close friendly conference with the National Government—he said that there, as here, the cost of everything had risen, and, as under a sentence of the Supreme Court—to their minds an unwarranted one under the very clear terms of the Mitre Law—they were now, under protest, paying certain municipal taxes, they officially notified the Government and the public of their intention to raise rates, which they had ample power to do, seeing that they were still a considerable way from attaining that percentage of profit which would enable the Government to intervene in the fixing of their tariffs. Furthermore, there had been indications of a Socialistic tendency in recent legislation, which, if carried into practical effect, might be reflected on the revenues of the railway. In regard to the present year's outlook, the Chairman read the following cable which had been received from the local committee, dated the 26th instant:—"Present agricultural prospects in general are satisfactory. The area sown with cereals is greater than last year, and the growing crops have been much benefited by recent rains. Locusts, however, have appeared in considerable numbers, and, although the pest is being vigorously dealt with, the ultimate yield of wheat and linseed may be affected. We estimate 650,000 tons of cereals from last harvest awaiting transport." Their aggregate receipts to the 23rd instant of £1,866,000 showed an increase over those of the corresponding period of last year of no less than £230,000, and that, when taken in conjunction with the figure carried forward, gave them, for a third of the present financial year, the substantial sum of £575,800 to the good. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. Campbell P. Ogilvie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The dividends recommended were declared, and the retiring directors were re-elected.

The election of Mr. Charles Gairdner to a seat on the board was confirmed, and, the auditors having been reappointed, the sum of £1,000 was voted to the British Red Cross Society.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## BUENOS AIRES WESTERN RAILWAY.

The twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Aires Western Railway, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, E.C., Sir Henry Bell, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Robert Graham) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the results of the year's working, while disappointing to the shareholders, were doubly so to the directors, for they knew how very good the prospects were until the excessive rains set in, which spoiled what otherwise would have been a splendid year, and their chagrin was increased by thinking how important to the Allies a bumper harvest would have been this year. With regard to external troubles, the war was, of course, at the root of all their difficulties. In addition to the much increased cost of nearly all the materials they required for the working of the railway, the shortage of shipping accounted for a heavy increase in freights, which affected them very severely, and it was, of course, due to the diversion of tonnage by the different Governments for the purposes of the war. They were also hit in another way by the lack of shipping. The gross receipts for the year amounted to £2,522,682, and the working expenses to £1,505,284, giving them net receipts of £1,017,398. After adding rentals, interest, &c., and the balance brought forward, and deducting the fixed charges and other payments, there was a balance of £260,515, to which they proposed to add £160,000 from the general reserve fund, making in all £420,515, and out of that amount they recommended a balance dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary stock, leaving £53,911 to be carried forward. It was to enable them to pay 5 per cent. for the year that they had transferred £160,000 to net revenue from the general reserve fund. As regarded the future, the latest official publications of the Argentine Republic gave satisfactory evidence of the development of that country. He (the chairman) had gone into the figures in those publications, which plainly showed that the Argentines had quickly learned economy, and any people who could immediately apply economy to luxuries would soon recover the financial position which some of the provinces had lost. As regarded their own company, it would be seen that they had cash in the bank and in hand in London £674,691, and cash in the bank and in hand at Buenos Aires £57,600, bills receivable £770,000, remittances in transit £80,000, and annuities accrued, which were as good as cash, £35,966—a total of £1,618,257, all liquid assets of the highest class. When they added to that their reserve and renewal funds of over £1,700,000, it would be seen that the company was in a financial position which very few companies could show. In addition to that, since October 1 the company had been collecting an increase of 10 per cent. on some of their principal goods tariffs and on their long-distance first-class passenger fares. A cablegram had been received as follows:—"Recent rains have greatly improved prospects; wheat crop promises well; area estimated 15 per cent. more than last year; probable yield in south of Pampa said to have been affected somewhat by drought. Oats seriously affected by drought in Pampa, and only medium crop expected in province of Buenos Aires, but this item is not of great importance to us. Ploughing and sowing for maize crop progressing favourably. Thus far no locusts have appeared in our districts. Rains have benefited condition of camps and stock. Outlook, as far as can be gauged at present, satisfactory. Cordial relations with national and provincial authorities maintained." The Chairman added that the company's traffics for last week showed an increase of £13,000, and were now £124,000 in excess of those for the corresponding period of last year.

Sir J. White-Todd, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## BUENOS AIRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. David Simson, M.Inst.C.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Giet) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that, notwithstanding all drawbacks, the results for the year would have been better than they were had it not been that the war came on the top of nearly two very bad financial years for Argentina, with the result that the country had become impoverished and the sudden stoppage of credit made the strictest economy the order of the day, and, in consequence, people imported much less foreign goods than usual. They also travelled less, especially first-class, so that in the two items of general goods and passengers alone they had a decrease of £436,500 over the previous year and £781,300 over the year ended June 30, 1913, this notwithstanding the fact that they had an increase in the receipts from wheat and oats of some 20 per cent. Their passenger traffic had also been affected by the unseasonable weather and the other reasons given by the general manager in his report. Decreases had also been shown in the important potato traffic and coal. With regard to the increases, it was pleasant to note an increase of £43,700 from loose wool, and he hoped that they would have a similar increase for the current year, as the prices of wool were so high at present that every pound of it would be sent to market. The increase in wheat was foreseen, though it was a little disappointing after the high hopes they had of it this time last year, but this was partly explained by the fact that it came to



port more slowly than usual. The most disappointing crop was oats. Though the tonnage carried was some 20 per cent. over last year, the receipts were 8 per cent. less owing to a larger proportion of it going to Bahia Blanca than in the previous year, instead of to Buenos Aires, and the consequent shorter haul. The maize crop was also a great disappointment. The torrential rains in the district where it grew completely spoiled it, with the result that the company only carried 170,000 tons from their own districts when they had hoped for some three times that amount. The live stock traffic showed slightly better results as a whole than last year. The war benefited them not only by the great demand for Argentine meat in Europe, but also by the demand for horses and mules for remount and transport purposes. The manager and his officers had effected a reduction in working expenses of £213,355 during the year, which followed on top of a reduction of £498,903 in the previous year. Shareholders, however, would readily understand that there were certain limits beyond which it was difficult to go in cutting down railway working expenses in proportion to decrease in receipts. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to only £584,760, as compared with £1,638,797 in the previous year, and had it not been for unavoidable commitments of previous years for rolling stock and lands, the amount of capital expenditure during the year would have been reduced still further by at least £200,000. The irrigation works being carried out on behalf of the Government in the valley of the Rio Negro had advanced appreciably during the past financial year, though the number of men had been considerably reduced. With regard to the immediate future, he had little hesitation in predicting that if the crops were as good as they hoped they would be, the general goods and passenger traffic would slowly improve and their gross receipts would be better. There had been a substantial increase in their gross receipts from July 1 to date. It was the working expenses that constituted the principal element of uncertainty in the situation, and unfortunately in a direction entirely beyond their control.

Sir Henry Bell, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK.

The 23rd ordinary general meeting of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. James Jackson presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. M. Janion) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: It is a matter of great satisfaction to the board, as I am sure it will be to the shareholders, that the report presented to you clearly shows that, in spite of unprecedented conditions and many difficulties, the business of the bank has been successfully maintained, and that the figures disclose an exceptionally strong position. It is true the profits and the carry-over show a slight diminution compared with the figures of 1914, but this reduction, quite outside war influences, is attributable to the drought which was so acutely felt in so many districts of Australia; but for this the earnings would have exceeded those of the previous year. As it is, they are sufficient, after appropriating £35,000 and the statutory £15,000 to the reserve fund and £2,500 to the officers' guarantee and provident fund, to fully justify the same rate of dividend as usual. The majority of the entries in the balance-sheet show no material alteration from the corresponding ones of last year. The differences that call for attention are mainly the following:—On the assets side the advances and other assets, at £6,079,185, are, roughly, 6 per cent. lower than in 1914, which is far more than counterbalanced by the three entries above: cash and bullion, cash at bankers, and investments, which, showing an aggregate of £3,551,436 in liquid resources, provide 10s. in the £ against the liabilities on current accounts and deposits combined, and of no less than 21s. 4d. per pound on current accounts alone—figures which indicate a financial strength corresponding with the exceptional requirements of the times. Bank premises show a reduction of £15,076, mainly by the crediting of the sum realised by the purchase of deferred inscribed stock under the provisions of the articles of association. The figure now stands at £284,953, and those who, like myself, have had the opportunity of inspecting the great majority of the bank's buildings throughout the Commonwealth know what an ample value stands behind this figure. Before concluding reference to the assets side of the balance-sheet, I should explain that the increase of nearly £182,000 in investments is accounted for mainly by subscriptions to the War Loans. The directors are confident that they correctly interpret the wishes of the shareholders in following the patriotic policy of making their contributions to the War Loans as liberal as is consistent with the limits of safety to the bank. Of the liabilities figures, the only noticeable changes are that the reserve fund, at £365,000, is increased by the appropriation last year of £50,000, and that there is an increase of, roughly, 9 per cent., amounting to £282,885, in current accounts, reflecting, as might be expected, under the circumstances, curtailed business activity throughout the Commonwealth. In the profit and loss account charges show, at £180,813, an increase of nearly £18,000. Of this no less than £12,500 is represented by augmented income and land taxes at home and abroad. Of course, it is scarcely to be expected that this can be otherwise than an increasing charge for the coming year, and possibly for some years to come. The serious effects of the drought, which, happily, is now ended, over the greater area of the Commonwealth have been rather lost sight of in view of other more portentous

events, but when it is remembered that the reduction it caused in the production of wheat alone represents a loss of about £15,000,000 as compared with the yield of the previous year, it will be recognised how widespread the evil has been. The drought and war conditions combined have without doubt been greatly prejudicial to the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth, and have naturally interfered with the imports and exports of Australia, with a corresponding influence on the course of exchange. Taking into consideration the unparalleled and adverse conditions to which I have alluded, I think it will be agreed that the bank has done remarkably well. Though, perhaps, foreign to the character of a business meeting, I feel I should be falling short of both my duty and my inclination if I did not make fitting reference to the magnificent response that Australasia has made to the call of the Mother Country when in danger, and to the gallant deeds of arms of her soldier sons in the Gallipoli Peninsula. Of our own staff in Australia and England no fewer than 90 are enrolled in the fighting forces of the Empire, besides others who are engaged on local military service in the Commonwealth. Of the 90 several have been wounded, and three have laid down their lives. To the relatives and friends of these men our sympathy goes out in their sorrow, and in the loss that the call of duty has imposed. By the loan of £28,000,000 from the Imperial Government and the issue of a War Loan, of which nearly £13,000,000 was subscribed in the Commonwealth, the immediate requirements for the expenses of the war have been met, and if the spending departments will only exercise that economy so easy to advocate, but apparently impossible to practise, the public finances need give little cause for alarm. Now, gentlemen, with regard to the future, in the absence of some unexpected cataclysm or upheaval, I think we are justified in having confidence in the continued prosperity of the bank. At the end of the war there must be in the very nature of things a period of commercial depression, but with a country like Australia, whose chief products—meat, wool, wheat, and dairy produce—are in active and growing demand throughout the world, the recovery may reasonably be expected to be more rapid than in an old country like England, so largely dependent for its prosperity on its manufacturing industry. So I anticipate that the baneful effect of the war will fall less heavily on Australia than on the Home Country, and, given favourable seasons, which simply means timely and sufficient rainfall, the recovery of the Antipodes must be correspondingly rapid. But come what may, whether the recovery be quick or the depression prolonged, the Australians may be trusted to combat and overcome every difficulty with that energy and never-to-be-beaten spirit that have been their leading characteristics from right away back.

Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

### Answers to Correspondents.

\*: A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

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B. W. J.—We cannot get any recent information about this concern, and hesitate to recommend a further purchase at present, but we will make further inquiries next week.

E. C. M.—We should think not, but we can learn little about the concern. Its business must have been affected by the war, but it has a sound basis, and ought to right itself in time.

H. T.—We cannot advise clearing out now, although the financial position is bad. Recent traffics have shown considerable expansion, and under normal conditions we should hope to see the concern pull round quickly, but this is too much to expect just now.

R. A. S.—The bonds look cheap, and there should be security for them. We think you might buy the amount you mention.

N. J. F.—We think you might, if you are prepared to regard your purchase as a speculation. No accounts have been received for some considerable time, but it is understood that the company has suffered less than might have been expected from the disturbed state of the country.

C. C.—(1) Yes, this looks quite a promising lock-up. (2) This also appears to have good prospects, but they have been discounted to some extent in the price of the shares. (3) The company did well last year, in spite of serious damage by a hurricane, but the shares stand at such a high premium that there does not seem much scope for further improvement.

Briton Ferry Chemical and Manure Co., Ltd.—In connection with the arrangement entered into with the splter works in the Swansea district, under which this company erected acid chambers to utilise the fumes therefrom, an extension of the chambers has become necessary. The directors say that the working of the present plant has proved beneficial, and that they are of opinion that the proposed extension should be no less advantageous. Further funds, however, will be required for this work, and also for the general purposes of the business, and it is therefore proposed to increase the capital by the creation of 50,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each. On the authorisation of the shareholders being given, the directors intend, subject to the sanction of the Treasury, which has been applied for, to invite subscriptions for 25,000 of the new ordinary shares and a like number of the authorised 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares.



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Forms for conversion can be obtained at the Offices of the COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA, 36-38, New Broad Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. R. NIVISON AND CO., Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, E.C.; and the AGENT-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 85, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

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## Passing Events.

In one sense the Ministerial declaration read in the French Parliament by the new Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, M. Briand, was a repetition of the speech delivered in our House of Commons the day before. It was much shorter because the new Ministry had not to defend itself, and is not worried into assuming an apologetic attitude at any point by the malignities of an irresponsible and disingenuously unpatriotic Press. All essential points, however, were covered, and the increasing harmony among the Allies was emphasised again and again. A few phrases must be quoted. "Never has France had an army more worthy of victory," therefore it must be supported until "they shall have achieved the object assigned to their valour." That they will do this France, speaking through the mouth of M. Briand, has no doubt whatever, and the resolution of France is as steadfast as our own to make no peace except after complete victory. France has accepted the war forced upon her without fear, "and will only halt in the struggle when the enemy has been reduced to impotence." On the matter of helping Serbia, France is heartily at one with us and with Russia. There cannot be a moment's doubt of the policy to be pursued, and it is the wise way to regard the present enterprise of Germany in the Balkans as proof of the failure of her efforts on the principal theatres of hostilities. "It was because her offensive was shattered upon the French front and upon the Russian front that she attempted this diversion." It will not avail her at all, but it may hasten the peace, because the forces now gathering to the aid of the Serbians will be enough, not only to deal with the heterogeneous mob under Marshal von Mackensen, but with the far from eager or wisely led Bulgarians. One phrase in M. Briand's declaration we think touched a higher note of masterful patriotism than anything even in the speech of Mr. Asquith. Like our Cabinet, the French Ministry stands before its fellow-countrymen able and ready to bear the full responsibility for all its actions and decisions, and not least for the decision to punish those who fail "to maintain the discipline imposed by the vital interests of the country." "Responsibilities once established, all mistakes, all failures will be followed by punishment." Ah, how we wish our too humanitarian, too easy-going Government would imitate!

As it passes through the Commons the Finance Bill becomes increasingly stringent, and we welcome Mr. McKenna's efforts to bring all profits made in this country within the income-tax net. He instanced three kinds of trading which have hitherto escaped: (1) Profits made here by the resident agent of a foreign firm; (2) profits made here by an apparently independent British firm, whose real position is that of a go-between or blind. The goods are invoiced to this dump firm—often it is only that—as near as may be at the selling prices, so that their sale may show little or no apparent profit, while in actual fact the profit may be great. (3) This, as Mr. McKenna implied, is the subtlest device for evasion of all. Take his own description:—"You may have goods manufactured in this country. Those goods may never leave this country; they may be sold within 20 miles of the place where they were manufactured, and yet, by an ingenious arrangement, the whole profit on the sale of those goods may escape income-tax. They may be sold by the manufacturer to a foreign firm, and the foreign firm may resell them to the retailer, but at such prices as to show no profit except to the foreign firm abroad, and thus income-tax is escaped." Here we have a most disreputable form of tax evasion much practised by the Germans, we believe, whose banks here, by the bye, as THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has often pointed out, were leading experts in evading the transfer duties levied on foreign bonds. How the Chancellor of the Exchequer is to snare such businesses he did not reveal, but we doubt not it can be done. And the penalties leviable on those who play such tricks must be heavy. Another source of income to be brought under the excess profits tax is mining royalties, and that also we welcome.

The announcement that the Government has no intention to "commandeer" the whole of our merchant shipping does not clear the air much. Presumably the commandeering would not be a seizure of all vessels for transport services, but merely a means of obtaining unrestricted power of apportionment with a view to the effective control of freights, and, through freights, of prices. The war has made unexampled calls on our mercantile navy, which have been, on the whole, most loyally responded to. But almost in proportion to the response has been the increased embarrassment of the nation in its trade and its power to live comfortably during the war. We shall, therefore, wait with keen



interest to learn what the Board of Trade is going to do to help us. The high price of bread, for example, is to a large extent the product of high freights—high on land and sea, for we fear it is but too true that the great increase in the earnings of such powerful corporations as the Canadian Pacific Railway is product much more of augmented charges than of larger traffic. That masterful corporation still buys the crop of the farmer pretty well at its own price, and sells in the English market at the highest price it can get, and it enters its profit as freight earnings by land and sea—for it owns the entire means of transit. Were our new Shipping Committee to order a reduction of the sea-carriage rates, it would still be possible for the Canadian Pacific to make the same profit, because it owns the bulk of the grain it carries—only the book entries would have to be shifted around a little. That may be an extreme case, but something of the same monopoly has tended to develop in the United States. The International Mercantile Marine, for example, based its hopes of great profits—profits warranting the purchase of fleets of ships at from three to five times their real value—largely on the calculation that it and the linked-up railroad corporations would be able to fix freight charges at pleasure. Success in establishing monopolies of that kind—which were a dream also of the Germans—might have to be met by a tyrannous-looking Government scale of maximum prices, if not by a vigorous control of all shipping, and we are not sure that the shipping difficulty may not have to be tackled in that way. We are controlling the prices of coal and of sugar to a partial extent; why not shipping freights? Perhaps Mr. McKenna may solve the difficulty by his wide-sweeping profits tax net.

People who want to know the true inwardness of Prussia and the Germans—their spirit and their actions in the past, their evil influence on Russia, their consistency in treachery and their consuming thief-hunger—ought to get two books and read them. They are worth acres of history and leagues of disquisition. One is named "Russia and Democracy: The German Canker in Russia," and is from the pen of that veteran publicist, Mr. G. de Wesselitsky, with a foreword by Mr. Henry Cust. It is published at rs. by Messrs. Heinemann for the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisation. The other is Lord Eversley's excellent and opportune monograph on "The Partitions of Poland," issued by Messrs. Fisher Unwin. In Mr. Wesselitsky's book we get a rapid but most lucid survey of the German domination of Russia from the time of Peter the Great down almost to the present day, and in Lord Eversley's—better known as Mr. Shaw-Lefevre—a more extended display of Prussianism in action at the end of the eighteenth century. It is a tale of conscienceless blackguardism unmatched in civilised history. "Russia, at Prussian instigation, no doubt, was all powerful among the knaves," you well may say, and it was so, but not Slavonic Russia. As a conscious national unity with an ideal Russia had not then come into being. The empire was completely in the hands and at the mercy of that phenomenally improper German female Catherine II., whose maiden name was Sophia Augusta, and whose father was a sort of hobereau among German petty princelings, a Prussian Field-Marshal, Prince von Anhalt-Zeibst. Catherine was the most land-greedy and corrosively abandoned of the three thieves, Austria, Prussia, and German-ruled Russia; but Frederick the Great's nephew, Frederick William II., King of Prussia, was the basest, the most loathsome, a perfect Prussian. William Pitt, our great war maker and Dictator, "made mistakes," Mr. Asquith gently observed the other day, and surely one of his most glaring blunders was his agreement to subsidise Prussia on condition that her army helped him in his war against Republican France. In virtue of that degrading pact Frederick William pocketed £1,200,000 of good British money—not a farthing of which was ever paid back—and coolly used it, not to fulfil his part of the bargain, but to fortify his arms in order to be

in a position to wring from Catherine, the strumpet, a larger slice of Poland than she meant to surrender. A reading of these two publications alone will enable citizens of the British Empire to comprehend why we must all brace ourselves to fight on now until the Prussian menace has been destroyed for ever and the spirit of Prussian militarism, which is thieving glorified, eliminated from among the community of free European peoples. It will likewise enable them to understand why a "treaty of peace" with the Prussian is impossible. Prussia never kept faith under any treaty a moment longer than suited her.

A recent *Times* contained an interesting article devoted to its favourite theme, or one of them, viz., the way the Germans outstrip us in efforts to shape public opinion in neutral countries. To the German Wolff bureau, the chief German lie factory, the writer ascribes the great German "triumph" in Bulgaria, and many other feats in knavery which may or may not be more true than this Bulgarian one. To put the behaviour of Ferdinand the selfish and his duped Bulgarians down to the cleverness of the Berlin Press liars is distinctly suggestive of the Carmelite Street office boy type of mind. But is the Harmsworth organ sure that it never itself lends any help to the Wolff bureau it betrumpets so often and admires so much? The question is asked because a friend in San Francisco has sent us a cutting from the *San Francisco Chronicle* which suggested the question, spontaneously put by the sender—Can this kind of depressing stuff be paid for by Germany? It might well be, for anything more calculated to dishearten the friends of Britain in the States would be difficult to find. We, however, cannot believe that German pelf has anything to do with the display, for the writer of this "special" despatch is Mr. Frederick William Wile, a man to whose notes in the *Daily Mail* on "Germany Day by Day" we have often had to acknowledge indebtedness. To the *San Francisco Chronicle*, however, Mr. Wile is plainly quite another kind of man, a man too weak in character to rise above the sinister influence of the all-pervading blind Harmsworth admiration for everything German. His message, therefore, to the American newspaper is, at best, a callous display of the true Harmsworthian contempt for all that is sacred to us as a nation, and, at worst, a mean kind of mud-throwing at a Government, one of whose excellences is that it is more and more refusing to be dictated to by a clan of adventurers. We copy Mr. Wile's outburst in full, headlines and all, although said headlines are probably nothing more than the *San Francisco* editor's effort to point the moral. No such depression and disgust as Mr. Wile luridly asserts exists, or has existed, in this country outside the purlieus of Carmelite Street or Printing House Square and the strata of society still influenced therefrom. But even had all been true and as alleged, is this the sort of loose, unenlightened garbage that a British patriot should scatter broadcast in a foreign country? The description of the Russian position and prospects is in its way first-class drivel, and would be most amusing were it not so charged with Harmsworthian malignity. And, of course, the great work of our Navy is wholly outside the ken of this croaker.

## England Is Wroth Over Its Failures.

Huge Expenditures of Life and Money Fail to Deal Enemy a Blow.

Kitchener's Amazing Words Heard With Incredulity by Britons.

BY FREDERICK WILLIAM WILE.

LONDON, October 2 (by messenger to New York).—At no period of the war have doubts and misgivings prevailed in England to such lugubrious extent as at the present moment. Not even the most incorrigible British optimist or pro-British sympathiser could by any stretch of imagination pretend that the situation in England or for England is either cheerful or encouraging. Disgust, rather than downheartedness, is the dominant note. Nothing happens.



## FOUR MONTHS WASTED.

Four full months of ideal fighting season—May to September—have gone by, and Germany is as firmly entrenched in France and Belgium as ever. In the Dardanelles 12 miles of front, at a cost of 87,000 casualties (including 41,000 men lost in the last 34 days), are all that Lord Kitchener was able to mention to Parliament this week as the results of the terrific Gallipoli campaign against German-led Turks. Of Russia one speaks only in accents of utter despondency, which is little alleviated by Kitchener's amazing declaration that the Germans in the Eastern theatre "have nearly shot their bolt."

## ODESSA MENACED.

The imminency of Vilna's fall, the continued menacing of the Petrograd railway line, and the serious suggestion that Von Hindenburg's and Von Mackensen's limitless sweep may even have Odessa as its objective, with a pounce on Constantinople and co-operation with the Turks at the Dardanelles as its purpose, are not evidences to the British public mind that the Kaiser has "nearly shot his bolt" in Russia.

The grand total of British losses has been 381,982 officers and men, and the war has cost in money \$6,310,000,000.

As far as the British are constitutionally capable of revealing their emotions, it may confidently be stated that these hideous heavy losses have given the nation a profound shock. It lost nothing of its intrinsic force in the realisation that, despite the magnitude of these casualties, they had not contributed toward dealing the enemy anything in the nature of a blow.

Poor old Viscount Morley! He must surely feel a little out of his element in playing Harmsworthite, and becoming the associate of such renowned statesmen as the German Lord Milner, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lord Ribblesdale, and other gentlemen consumed with eagerness to smudge the destinies of the Empire by vilifying the Prime Minister. Lord Bryce, too! What is he about in carping over the iniquities of the Censorship? Is it senility, or want of understanding of the country's peril, or what? Whatever their motives, they may all be sure that the nation has no need for their services in its present heroic endeavour.

Crowded though our limited space always is, we cannot let another week pass without laying a wreath on the grave of Sir Henry Cotton. He was happy in his end at such a time, and yet we cannot help feeling regret that he should not have been spared to welcome the peace to come, and to assist in the reorganisation of India, which must also come. For Sir Henry was a true patriot in the highest sense of the word, and as such a faithful friend of the Indian peoples. Because he was that he had to endure much contumely from men of shorter vision—men with the virus of the despot still coursing in their veins. But the attitude which far-seeing men like Sir Henry Cotton and Sir William Wedderburn took up and held fast by in days when to treat the natives of India, whether cultured gentlemen or unlettered peasants, as fellow-men, with rights and liberties like our own, was regarded as *lèse majesté*, is every day proving more and more to have been true statesmanship. "Faddist" such men are usually called, and without them the world would grow Prussian. Therefore we honour the memory of pioneers like Sir Henry Cotton, and trust that dozens and scores of Englishmen, Scotsmen, and Irishmen may rise up to take a like place in the ranks of those who, in the days not distant, must be prepared to fight—and to endure—for the liberties of India.

A handsome increase occurred in the profits of the Western Telegraph Co., Ltd., in the June half of this year. Its revenue of £983,263 was £80,426 better than that for the first half of 1914. Then expenses were reduced by £51,049 to £338,893, so that although £14,902 more at £33,349 was demanded by income-tax, the nett balance after meeting debenture stock interest was £116,574 better at £578,273. The final excess, however, was brought down to £112,723, because the balance of £33,157 brought forward was £3,851 lower. Even so the directors had £611,431 to dispose of, and they have laid aside £380,000 of it as against less than £250,000 12 months back. They have set aside £150,000, as against nothing a year ago, in reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in

excess of share capital and debenture stock issue. Another £150,000, or £10,000 less than last year, was transferred to the general reserve fund, and £50,000, as against £58,000, set aside to the provision for investment fluctuations, and the land and buildings depreciation fund again gets £30,000. Then after making up the dividend for the year to 6 per cent. and paying the usual bonus of 2s. per share, all free of income-tax, there was £85,880 left to carry forward, or £52,723 more than was brought in. The accounts do not call for examination, but it may be mentioned that the revenue from messages, dividends, and investments was £74,259 higher at £904,316, and that the principal saving in expenses was in connection with the maintenance of cables. This cost £42,287 less at £58,003. Altogether the reserves of the company show an increase of £183,279 on the year's comparison and amount to £2,200,511, while the capital expenditure has been cut down by £108,987 nett to £3,000,215. Deducting £350,000, the amount shown in the balance-sheet to be set aside to meet fluctuations, the investments covering the reserve funds of the company, show an increase of £192,825 at £1,799,102. All this is eminently satisfactory.

Very satisfactory results are shown in the report of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, for the year ended June 30. Receipts amounted to £1,692,362, an increase of £80,700, while expenses were reduced by £56,000 to £894,465, and the ratio to receipts was 6.12 per cent. lower at 52.85 per cent. Nett revenue amounted to £797,896, an increase of £136,700, and after making certain adjustments the balance available is £803,600. Interest, preference dividend, stamp duties, and other fixed charges absorb just over £200,000, leaving £603,550 to be dealt with. The directors propose to place £150,000, against £50,000, to reserve, and £100,000, against £50,000, to renewals reserve, but the appropriation for insurance is cut down from £50,000 to £5,000 and nothing is set aside for extraordinary expenditure, which last year got £40,000. A sum of £5,000 (new) is placed to pension fund, and the dividend of 5 per cent. already announced absorbs £328,000, leaving £15,550, or £1,330 more, to be carried forward. A year ago it may be recalled that, owing to the then existing financial stringency and in order partly to replace capital expenditure, the 5 per cent. dividend was paid in debenture stock (1906). It will be gathered that the year under review was not without anxieties, in spite of the favourable outcome. Payment of the dividend in stock a second time would have been very undesirable, but a considerable amount of capital had been over-expended, and the general manager was instructed to confine all capital and other expenditure to the lowest limits compatible with efficient working, and the results are seen not only in the reduced operating costs, but capital outlay was brought down to £70,200, as compared with £297,130 last year. Passenger receipts showed the trifling expansion of £10,000 at £447,060, but there was a substantial improvement of £92,250, or nearly 10 per cent., in goods traffic. This was largely due to the increase in sugar traffic, which represents about 31 per cent. of the company's total receipts. The price of sugar was excellent, and this enabled millowners to improve their machinery and the cane-growers to invest in chemical fertilisers in order to increase the yield of their estates, both of which influences brought traffic to the railway during the off season. Prospects for the current year are excellent, and an increase of 6 per cent. in the production is anticipated. The tobacco crop last year was the largest ever known in Cuba, and the company handled 286,180 bales, an increase of 121,300 bales, or 73½ per cent. Unfortunately, the prospects for the present season are not bright, as, owing to the poor market and low prices resulting from the war, a large portion of the land which was formerly devoted to the cultivation of tobacco has been put under cane. Altogether, however, the outlook is very encouraging, and as in any circumstances it must be a long time before German sugar again becomes a serious competitor.



Cuba has every chance to increase its hold on the industry.

A decline of £21,982 occurred in the profits of the Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., a leading Coventry company in this line of business. This brought the total down to £52,411, after providing for repairs, depreciation, directors' fees, and £13,000, or £9,000 more, for income-tax reserve. Happily the £21,365 brought forward was £6,340 higher, so that the free total of £73,776 is only £15,642 down, and by giving nothing, as against £30,000 a year ago, to the general reserve, while at the same time doubling the amount placed to the dividend reserve, thereby raising it to £20,000, the directors are able to continue the dividend of 20 per cent. and the bonus of 2s. per share equal to another 10 per cent., making 30 per cent. in all, with £4,051 more at £25,415 left to carry forward. Nothing at all is said about the causes which have reduced the profits, but it is not difficult to surmise that all ordinary trade in this company's machines must have been very seriously interfered with by the war, and it may be that at the first, at any rate, the company did not get its full share of the Government orders that were given out. It, however, is in a strong position, with a reserve of £130,000 and a dividend reserve now £30,000, while its capital expenditure appears to be rigorously kept down. Its patents and patterns stand at nothing in the books, its investments have risen £23,818 to £90,026, and although its cash is £16,799 lower, it still amounts to £64,448, while stock-in-trade has risen £13,714 to £83,137, and the amount due by sundry debtors £12,085 to £53,411. This last is mostly offset by the increase in the amount due to sundry creditors, which is £10,680, bringing the total up to £46,396. Take it altogether, however, the position looks thoroughly sound.

Its past year closed August 31 was a splendid one for the Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., of Wolverhampton. Its profits jumped no less than £171,292 to £241,356. Adding the £20,111 brought forward, which was £6,443 up, and deducting the £900 absorbed in the payment of the April dividend on the preference shares, there was £177,735 more at £260,568 available for division. This might have tempted an imprudent board to swell out the dividend to a great figure, for it only takes £36,000 to pay the same dividend of 15 per cent. as was given for the previous year. All the directors do, however, is to give a 10 per cent., or 2s. per share, bonus, making the total distribution 25 per cent., all free of income-tax, so that less than one-seventh of the extra profit was given to the shareholders, but £100,000 more at £120,000 is placed to reserve, raising it to £220,000, and the bonus fund gets £1,000 more at £4,000. Even then £53,556 more at £75,668 is left to carry forward. We should infer that the company has been largely engaged on Government contracts, but the balance-sheet gives no indication of burdensome excess expenditure. The increase in the value of freehold land and buildings is only £9,436, raising it to £84,859, and the addition to the plant and machinery, tools, &c., has only been £13,964, bringing it up to £141,748. Stock, however, is £61,039 higher at £233,658, and sundry debtors owe the company £101,624 more at £132,489, while it owes sundry creditors only £58,796 more at £109,593. Consequently the balance-sheet shows great strength in cash, which at £117,164 is £44,866 larger, and in addition £24,866 has been invested in £25,000 of the 4½ per cent. War Loan.

Hardly such a full wave of prosperity has overtaken Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd., but its modest profits show a pleasant recovery from those of the previous year ended July 31, 1914. In that year only £16,746 nett was earned, or £3,836 less than in the preceding year, while for the year closed July 31 last the profits were £33,141, or £16,394 more. As the balance of £19,613 brought forward was £1,105 up, it follows that the available balance of £52,754 shows an increase of £17,499.

This is enough to enable the directors not only to pay the usual 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares, but to give the ordinary shares 10 per cent. as against nothing, and to add £20,000 as against £10,000 to the reserve fund, thus raising it to £50,000. The balance left to carry forward will then be within £2,184 of the balance brought in at £17,429. Here also large Government orders are being executed, for the cost of plant, tools, &c., shows an increase of £22,525 at £151,960, while sundry debtors owe £28,098 more at £114,293, and at the same time stock-in-trade "approved by the Board of Trade" is £90,012 up at £217,518. No wonder that cash in hand has fallen off £32,350 to a mere £2,214, and when we take into account the fact that beyond all £128,563 has up to date been laid out on the new ammunition works, it is in no way surprising that the company should owe sundry creditors and lenders £209,506 more than a year ago at £283,557. Doubtless the heavy new outlay on ammunition works is an expenditure which the Government will take care of.

If you want to get an antidote to pessimism read Mr. John Coles' speech at the Clerical and Medical meeting, an abstract of which appears on another page. Life insurance business does not, one would think, lend itself much to optimism at the present time. To begin with, business has been interfered with and diminished in volume by the war. The war has also produced a severe depreciation in the Stock Exchange securities which form the principal assets of insurance offices. Larger death claims likewise arise through the increased mortality war causes, and, as will be seen from the analysis of the accounts of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society given under our "Insurance News," there has already been considerable drawbacks arising from these and other war sequelæ. Yet Mr. Coles is as cheerful as ever, and his cheerfulness has a firm basis in the remarkable solidity of his fine old office. The directors have rough-valued the assets, not completely, but with a certain care, through the help of their brokers, and, as a result, Mr. Coles is able to tell the shareholders that he does not think depreciation has affected the position of the company's investments to an average of more than 4 per cent. That is the extent of the possible loss as far as can be at present guessed, and there has been no loss of interest at all. Profits have diminished, but even the increased mortality has not obliterated them, and it seems quite reasonable for policyholders and shareholders alike to look for a good bonus as product of the quinquennium completed a year hence. The method of valuing on a 2½ per cent. estimated rate of interest secures the accumulation of large hidden reserves.

The continuation of the war, however, must involve all life companies in unusual losses. Mortality risks have been indefinitely increased, and in the past year for this society—although it embraced only 11 months of warfare—the extra amount paid out under death claims was over £65,000. Against this augmented liability some provision must be made, and the board has hit upon an ingenious scheme. Instead of raising the premiums to an extent which might, or might not, cover the extra risk—all is uncertain, because the duration of the war cannot be estimated—it has been decided that the new "war policy" will contain a proviso maintaining the premiums at the ordinary scale, but reducing the benefits insured by the policy in the event of the insured undertaking war service or going upon foreign travel. Should such insured clients die during the war twice the premiums paid will be returned; should they survive, and the board be satisfied as to their health, future residence, and occupation, then the original policy contract will be revived with all its privileges. It will become "a whole world and unconditional policy" once more at the established rates of premium. Should, however, the person insured prove unacceptable, then he will get back twice the premiums paid. That seems a reason-



able way out of a rather delicate position, and should lead to an accretion of business. Many other points might be touched upon which were effectively deal with in an interesting speech, but we also suffer from war conditions and increased costs in many directions, so that limits of space sternly forbid enlargement on a theme of great interest. Bonus profits will undoubtedly be less for all insurance companies, during the war at least, and probably for years afterwards, because the income-tax burden alone will continue onerous until we begin again to reduce our debt; but we have no reason to doubt that the bulk of British life offices will come through the ordeal unscathed and in a position to increase their usefulness almost indefinitely. On one point we rather differ from Mr. Coles. Apparently he, as chairman of the Society, resisted the temptation to convert its  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Consols into new War Loan stock. He did not think the terms good enough, looks for better terms after the war, believes that the existing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. will be paid off by the issue of a lower interest-bearing security well within the ten years. In all this we cannot quite follow him, but he will probably soon get an opportunity to revise his estimate of future probabilities, for the next War Loan to be issued will in all likelihood be a 5 per cent. one, and as revised terms of conversion will no doubt be embodied in it, holders of the old  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. will get another opportunity to come to a decision.

War economies have naturally had their effect on the patronage of the big hotels, and the directors of the Savoy Hotel have issued a circular setting forth the position of the company at the present time. They state that the gross receipts for the first nine months of the current year show a decrease of £186,000, of which £84,600 is in the letting of rooms, and they estimate that by December 31 the total decrease will amount to about £200,000. About half of this will represent the letting of rooms, and is a most serious loss, as receipts from this source are practically all profit. The total profit for 1915 is estimated at £70,000, as compared with £171,315 for 1914 and £175,941 for the preceding year, and as interest and sinking fund charges on the first and second debentures require £122,180, it is evident that there will be a serious deficiency. Half of the fixed charges relates to the first debentures, and it is proposed to meet this as usual, but holders of the second debenture stock and notes are asked to agree to a suspension of cash payments until the expiration of one complete financial year after the signing of peace. In lieu of cash they will be given deferred interest certificates carrying interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, which will be redeemed out of the annual profits after the expiry of the suspension period. Sinking fund payments on the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and 6 per cent. redeemable debentures and the 7 per cent. notes will be suspended, to be made up subsequently out of surplus profits, and no dividends will be paid on the preference or ordinary shares until the certificates have been redeemed in full and the suspended sinking fund payments made good. The scheme appears to be as fair a one as could be expected in the present condition of business, and the holders of the securities affected will no doubt accept it without much demur.

Something resembling disaster would seem to have overtaken the Gramophone Co., Ltd., in its business year closed June 30 last. The nett revenue dropped to a mere £16,772, which was £121,414 less than that of the previous year. A balance of £39,427 brought forward raised the available total to £56,199, but even that is £121,060 less. In fact, the nett revenue was fully £6,000 less than the amount required to meet debenture stock interest and sinking fund charges, and in addition income-tax took £8,771, while the directors drew £2,462, and £2,000 was written off the cost of debenture stock issue. Then £5,917 was located to the depreciation of investments, which compares with £42,380 set aside a year ago for special provision against foreign debtors. In these ways the

amount left to carry forward was lowered by £25,178 to £14,248, and there was nothing at all for the shareholders. A year ago the preference shares, amounting to £100,000, got their full dividend, and the £500,000 capital in ordinary shares received 10 per cent. Why has this sudden setback occurred? It is due to the war. The company had an enormous foreign business before the war, most of which is, we should judge, cut off. Happily, the prospect is better than this story would lead one to infer, because the company's factories have been taken over by the Ministry of Munitions as a controlled establishment, and the whole resources available are now at the service of the State. All needful preparatory work having been done, large contracts were secured and substantial progress made in their execution. Out of these and other contracts the accounts ought to show better results next year in spite of the 50 per cent. profits tax, which may be difficult of adjustment. Last year's accounts, for example, indicate that £23,788 had been spent on machinery and tools, raising the total cost to £162,041, and in other ways the outlays have been severely increased, mainly, we should judge, because of the demands of the Government. Thus stock-in-trade is £154,874 larger at £330,753, while cash alone is £45,749 down at £116,786. There is a decrease also of £31,264 in the company's investments, bringing them down to £164,438. From the liabilities we gather that the Government has advanced money freely to the company to enable it to fulfil its contracts, for £207,954 appears as a cross entry, representing "moneys lodged with bankers in respect of special munition contract." Also the floating debt under creditors on open account, bills payable, and bankers has risen £63,918 to £111,660. This additional money and its allocation to capital or to mere floating trade obligations may exercise the ingenuity of accountants at the next annual audit.

The International Financial Society had so very little scope for conducting its main business in the year ended September 30 that a serious shrinkage in its revenue was inevitable. Receipts from dividends, commission, and profit on sales only amounted to £14,466, or a decrease of no less than £29,641, while current expenses could only be reduced by £992 to £4,367. A good part of the loss of revenue was offset by the much larger balance of £28,649 brought forward, so that the amount available after meeting debenture interest was only £4,572 down at £29,374, but the directors do not deem it advisable to repeat even the small dividend of 3 per

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cent. paid for the previous year and carry the whole of this sum forward. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable evidence of the present value of the investments these are taken into the balance-sheet at the figure at which they stand in the books, and show an increase of £17,818 at £528,647. Sundry debtors have been reduced by £22,221 to £1,994, and loans are a trifle lower at £33,837, but cash has risen by £11,768 to £25,728. On the other hand, liabilities for loans are £31,202 up at £164,554, but £8,308 less at £21,278 is due to sundry creditors, and deposits of £16,724 have been paid off.

Considering the general upset in business, the Auckland Electric Tramways Co. must be considered fortunate in being able to show only a small reduction in its revenue for the year ended June 30. Traffic receipts, owing to a decrease of 757,656 in the number of passengers carried, fell off by £3,908 to £267,794, and the gross income from all sources was £4,078 lower at £272,242. Substantial reductions were effected in power and running expenses and in administration charges, and after writing off £36,618, or £2,904 more, for repairs and maintenance and making the usual provision of £22,500 for renewals and depreciation, the nett profit was £1,685 up at £53,404. As, however, £2,906 less at £5,876 was brought forward, the divisible surplus was £1,221 smaller at £59,280, but the transfer of £10,000 to reserve is repeated, together with the dividend of 1s. 7d. per share on the ordinary shares, and the balance carried forward is reduced to £4,655. During the year £24,074 was spent on capital account, the larger portion of which was in respect of additions to the plant in the generating station, including the cost of a 1,050 K.W. mixed-pressure turbo-set, which it is expected will result in economies being effected in the working costs of the station. With this addition the cost stands at £1,107,866, exclusive of £12,684 for cost of the old tramways now reconstructed and of £20,069 for real estate in Auckland, while the reserve now amounts to £122,500. Cash balances are £20,629 down at £9,643. Arrangements have been concluded with the Auckland City Council with regard to the extension in Upper Queen Street which the company had agreed to construct, and the work is now in course of being carried out, but in view of the monetary conditions brought about by the war, capital expenditure in other directions is being restricted as much as possible.

Some progress seems to have been made by the British Central Africa Co., Ltd., during the 18 months ended December 31, 1914. During that long time a profit of £52,052 was made, including interest due on Shire Highlands Railway debentures. All this is added to the amount brought forward, raising it to £179,795, which is also carried forward. During the 18 months £65,000, being the second instalment due, was received on account of Subsidiary Lands. The last cotton crop was very good, but "the tobacco crop, though fair, was inferior in quality." A satisfactory business has been done by the store, and a good profit shown. Also the operations of the flotilla were satisfactory, carrying a large amount of cargo, including railway material. Thus in various directions the company makes progress, and indicates that the territories embraced in its field of operations must also be expanding in resources. The company's investments amount to £704,032, chiefly in the debentures and shares of the Shire Highlands and Central Africa Railway Cos. It is comfortably situated for cash, the total being £38,664.

The directors of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co. are not over generous with their information regarding the company's operations, and not even at the annual meeting do they run any risk of confusing shareholders' minds with a mass of detail. They do say, however, that the year ended August 31 was a very trying one, owing to the abnormal fluctuations in the wheat market, where quotations ranged between \$1.65 and 87½ cents. Towards the end of April the Canadian Government

limited the export of flour to Great Britain and France, and as the Governments of those countries purchased large quantities of wheat, which they resold below current values, the company was practically put out of the export flour business. Domestic business was also at a minimum as a result of the smaller population and the laying in of large stocks before the end of the previous year by consumers and dealers. Fortunately this combination of circumstances proved beneficial, as the grain which had been provided for normal requirements was not needed and was sold at a very large advance over cost. Nett profits on flour account showed a small increase of \$18,837 at \$600,781, and with the \$109,944 more at \$582,466 brought forward the nett surplus, after providing for bond interest and paying the usual dividends of 7 per cent. on the preferred and 8 per cent. on the ordinary stock, was \$119,781 larger at \$702,247. The exceptional profit made from the resale of grain amounted to \$1,059,814, giving a total of \$1,762,060 available, of which \$1,250,000 is transferred to a contingent account, leaving \$512,060, or \$70,406 less, to be carried forward. Stocks of wheat, flour, oatmeal, &c., have been reduced by \$539,927 to \$694,452, but debtors owe \$370,226 more at \$1,179,603, bills receivable are \$266,701 up at \$335,286, and cash has risen by \$613,136 to \$667,820. On the other hand, \$718,129, or \$105,238 less, is due to sundry creditors, and the bank overdraft of \$863,885 has been paid off. A further addition to the terminal grain elevator at Fort William has been constructed with a capacity of 750,000 bushels, and the company now has a storage capacity of 7,250,000 bushels at Fort William and west thereof, and 1,800,000 bushels east of Fort William. The expenditure on these additions was \$206,292, making the total cost of the property \$6,333,901.

Another year of remunerative prices for live-stock and produce was marred for the New Zealand and Australian Land Co. by the severe drought which set in during the later months, and caused considerable losses of stock on some of the properties. The wool clip for the 12 months ended March 31 was 1,125 bales short of that of the previous year at 31,299 bales, but the nett average price, notwithstanding the depression in the market at the end of 1914, was only 1s. 5d. per bale down at £15 15s. 9d. Owing to the drought, however, there was a considerable shortage in the number of lambs bred, and the revenue from working the properties showed a decrease of £55,489 at £366,378. Other receipts were rather better, and with £7,937 more at £8,202 brought in, the total showed a decrease of £38,927 at £428,818. Management expenses were heavier, and income-tax took an extra £13,593 at £30,325, but only £25,000 is transferred to reserve, as against £85,000 a year ago, and the divisible surplus is therefore practically the same at £323,067. Out of this the dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 5 per cent. are repeated, together with the transfer of £50,000 to contingency fund, and £8,067, or £135 less, is carried forward. During the year 935 acres of freehold land were sold at fair prices, but the directors do not disclose what the profit was on the deal. Property account shows a reduction of £68,711 at £2,413,426, live-stock is valued at £557,535, or £24,743 less, and cash is £33,241 lower at £135,351, but produce on hand and afloat has risen by £190,939 to £219,722. Debtors owe £14,339 more at £40,033, against an increase of £49,992 to £120,484 in sundry creditors, and investments are £44,229 higher at £949,640. The reserve and contingency funds aggregate £830,000, against the paid-up capital of £2,500,000.

Messrs. Kerr, Stuart and Co. state in their report for the 12 months closed July 31 last that serious differences have arisen between the company and a department of the War Office, but the directors do not propose to deal with it until after the war. Does this difference account for the fact that, notwithstanding Government contracts, the profits were £2,176 down at £26,120? Happily, the balance of £4,237 brought forward was £3,659 better, so that the free total of



£30,358 is £1,483 up. A year ago, however, profits rose £13,539. Having made less the directors proceed to distribute more; that is to say, the dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced by 1 per cent. to 5, tax free, but a 5 per cent. bonus as against nothing is this time handed to the shareholders, payable in War Loan Stock at par. This cripples the power of the board to add to the reserve, which accordingly gets £8,000 less at £5,000, but the balance of £9,358 remaining to carry forward is £5,121 better. With the present addition the general reserve is raised to £35,000, besides which there is £3,662 at the credit of the capital reserve. Movements in the balance-sheet tell us little, but cash is down £29,915 to £34,556, and the bank overdraft is up £3,664 to £40,218, while the company owes £15,216 more at £58,037 to sundry creditors. The nett outlay on the property has raised its value by £7,535 to £197,213, and stocks are £10,939 up at £56,429. Also sundry debtors owe £19,721 more at £42,684, and investments have risen by £22,570 to £25,068. It takes £5,000 to pay the War Loan Stock bonus.

### The Prime Minister's Review and Appeal.

It would have been a great satisfaction to us had we been able to print the whole of Mr. Asquith's speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon. It was a memorable speech for many reasons—not least because it met in adequate fashion the sentiments of the nation. Beyond certain groups of citizens and certain newspapers, small coteries of "professional whimperers," as Mr. Asquith called them—we should have used a stronger term—there has been no real dissatisfaction with the Government, least of all with Mr. Asquith and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey. In one or two directions newspaper-fomented animosity has been keen against Mr. Churchill, and now and again against Lord Kitchener or Sir Edward Grey, but take it altogether, and notwithstanding its many disappointments, the country has stood firmly and unswervingly by the Ministry, and has done well in maintaining this attitude. Where we have been weak has been in failing to grasp soon enough the character of this war. It is not a war of mere armies set in motion by Governments, despot and other, manœuvring against each other and obtaining victories or sustaining defeats; it is a war of nations, and the Allies have to deal with Germanic peoples and their submerged races, who seem resolved to sacrifice their last male capable of bearing arms before they accept their doom. All the old-fashioned theories of campaigning are consequently upset, and we must reconcile ourselves to a prosecution of this war to the bitter end, a killing and killing which may seem endless. There can be no treaties of peace such as the Kaiser dreams about, whether with one Power or with all the members of the Quadruple Alliance. There can be no question either of indemnities exacted by or payable to the Prussian aggressor. It is a fight to the finish, and that finish must be the end of militarism as a force governing the lives of nations, determining the fate of all communities great or small. The Prussian never kept faith under any treaty, and must never be allowed to beguile again.

Into all the details of the speech we have no room to go, but some of the facts set forth by the Prime Minister in his lucid way must be summarised. We began the war, he pointed out, with six infantry and two cavalry divisions sent abroad—or, say, 160,000 men—and in the early part of last month Sir John French had not far short of a million of men under his command. To these must be added the armies in the Dardanelles, in Egypt, and the fine military force so vigorously operating in Mesopotamia. To these armies all parts of the Empire have contributed, and Mr. Asquith mentioned 96,000 officers and men sent by Canada, 92,000 by Australia, 25,000 by New Zealand, 6,500 by South Africa, in spite of its victories of war against the Germans there and the still present danger of disturbances at home. Newfoundland has supplied

1,600, besides her substantial contribution to the Navy, and the West Indies 2,000. Men have also come from Ceylon and Fiji, but Mr. Asquith made no mention of the numbers of the Indian Army, although it has afforded the greatest help of all. Our armies in Egypt and Mesopotamia are, indeed, largely composed of Indian troops, and we have many of them in our Western lines. Bravely and loyally have they served us.

And what about the Navy? It is still the nation's mainstay, and no amount of iteration in dealing with its achievements can weary the mind. Since the war began, Mr. Asquith said, its transport department has carried 2,500,000 officers and men, 320,000 sick, wounded, and nurses, as well as 2,500,000 tons of stores and munitions and 800,000 horses and mules. This has involved thousands of voyages through seas at one time subject to the raids of German cruisers, and latterly infested for a time by German submarines; but so perfect has been the guardianship of the Navy that the loss of life in the whole of these gigantic operations has been considerably less than one-tenth of 1 per cent. "I do not believe," said Mr. Asquith, "that in the history of the world any nation under any conditions can produce a comparable record." That statement we cordially endorse—ay, all the Empire endorses it. No wonder that the Government thought that such a mainstay of Imperial strength could force the Dardanelles without the assistance of a land army. We can forgive it for deciding to take that step, and never blamed it for the failure. Where the blame comes in is in the behaviour of some of those who had charge of the land operations when it was decided that troops should be called in to help the Navy in clearing the channel and opening the way to Constantinople. On that point we think Mr. Asquith's language much too generous and forgiving. He manfully took his full share of responsibility, not only for the earlier naval attack, which failed, but for the later land and sea onslaughts, which also failed; even for the disappointment of Suvla Bay, which was more than any one could ask him to do. There were blunders and lack of leadership shown which ought not to be screened by any responsible Cabinet, or forgiven. Our interests in the war demand that those who fail should be punished. But it does not follow that we shall continue to fail, and we believe that our Gallipoli position is to-day much better than appears. Meantime, as Mr. Asquith said, we have penned-up 200,000 Turks, and are wasting them away.

As to the Serbian difficulty—it is not a "muddle" at all—the explanation is perfectly clear, and indicates that our conduct throughout has been straightforward. It is the betrayal of Greece which has brought the present trouble upon us, as Sir Edward Grey diplomatically made clear. We could not coerce Greece to behave honourably, and after the manner in which Mr. Venezelos was kicked aside by Constantine and his German advisers, there was nothing to be done except to hasten our preparations and go to the help of Serbia with all the speed possible. In doing this there has been no undue delay, and we have no doubt whatever that here, as in Poland, as in France and Belgium, the end will be discomfiture for the brutal and unscrupulous foe. Also to the Balkans the ruin of the aggressors must bring a lasting peace.

But it is a most costly fight, and yet even there we have consolations. As was stated by Lord Robert Cecil, our blockade has almost completely stopped the exports of Germany, has diminished her trade to the United States alone by 96 per cent., whereas our overseas trade has not been interfered with at all, except by the fact that Austria and Germany are closed to us, and must remain so for a long time to come, and that our trade with Turkey and with Russia through the Dardanelles has been either stopped or much diminished. But our Army, which in time of peace costs us about £100 per annum per man, according to the Prime Minister, now costs between £250 and £300 per man, and we have to buy largely from foreign countries, so that the excess value of our imports over that of our exports has risen from an average



of about £11,000,000 a month to £30,000,000 a month, and this alone throws us in debt to foreign countries in a manner which, as we have seen with regard to the United States, causes depression in the rates of exchange, or compels us to send gold to pay for what we buy or to make provision in credits to finance the gathering debt until gold can be released. To all appearance this unpleasant *impasse* will go on growing worse for, perhaps, another year, and the utmost skill will be demanded of us to avoid the dangers such distention of credit calls into existence.

But we have resources enough, not only to meet our own necessities, but to back our Allies up, and therefore all that is necessary for the nation is courage and endurance. Economy also, Mr. Asquith said. He, indeed, insisted upon the imperative duty, both of Government and people, to reduce expenditure, and evidently thought that the people at least were slow to obey this counsel. We, as being of the people, throw the blame in good part back upon the Government. That waste should occur where rapidity of execution had to give place to every other consideration was inevitable, but it is surely time that the duplications and overlappings and multiplying of functions and functionaries, the readiness to accept the advice of nostrum-mongers and inventors with all the subsidiary channels of waste should cease in the management of this war. A war committee of the Cabinet is to be constituted, or has been; surely there might also be a strong war committee of finance to assist Mr. McKenna and Mr. George in their overwhelming labours. No one Cabinet Minister or two can supervise all the details of expenditure so gigantic, check all the pretexts for voting away money, but a committee of three, assisted by a well-selected business man from outside, and including two first-class accountants, might do much to reduce the present appalling waste. As things have been going, when the war is over it will not unlikely be found to have cost us in money alone something between £500,000,000 and £1,000,000,000 more than it should have done. That is to be regretted, but must not be allowed to daunt us. The burden will be borne with resignation, if not with cheerfulness, should we succeed, as succeed we shall, in bringing a real peace to the world. Therefore we must all try to live up to the standard of duty indicated by Mr. Asquith.

Speaking with regard to voluntary enlistment or conscription, of which he takes precisely the view of all level-headed citizens, he said:—"I am determined—I stick at nothing—I am determined that we shall win this war. (Loud cheers.) Sooner than not win the war, if I find—I do not believe I shall—such a situation [as would arise from the failure of the voluntary system], I should come down without the faintest hesitation or doubt to all my friends—those who, like myself, are what I call strong supporters of the voluntary system—and say, 'We have done what we could; we have not obtained the results we hoped for. We must do what is still necessary by other means.' (Cheers.)" So say all of us.

Not the least comforting portions of the speech were those passages in which the Prime Minister emphasised the unity of purpose existing among the Allies. Their aim is one, their action harmony everywhere. No divergence of view has arisen over Serbia and the Balkans. All are agreed that Serbia "must not be left to bear the brunt of a frontal invasion by Germany and Austria and a side attack from the King of Bulgaria." On this point Mr. Asquith was satisfactorily emphatic:—"I have to say this, and I say it on behalf of the Government and of the people of the United Kingdom, we here in this United Kingdom—and I know it to be also the opinion of our French and Russian Allies—we cannot allow Serbia to become the prey of this sinister and nefarious combination. (Loud cheers.) The General Staffs of the French Army and our own have been in close consultations—consultations which culminated in the very welcome visit to London in the end of last week of the illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, General Joffre. (Cheers.) The result, I am glad to say, is a complete agreement between us not only as to ends, but as to means."

Thus is it at all points and in everything, and the fact that all the Powers are standing loyally together always should never be overlooked when professional wailers are bidding us despair or venting their splenetic humours in casting disparagement on one or other of our Allies, on Russia especially. Let us rise to the large and the manlier and more noble view of this great conflict for the deliverance of mankind from a withering thrall, and join Mr. Asquith in the stern resolution to press on to the triumph no matter what disappointments, delays, or increases of costs we may have to submit to. Here are his closing words, well worth preserving to be read and referred to again and again, especially when progress seems slow, when war weariness steals into the mind, and disposes us to fancy that perhaps with other men to lead we might reach the end the quicker. We can have no better men than those who lead us now. From the King—who we are glad to note is recovering well from his severe and most lamentable accident, an accident which befell him in the midst of his duty—to the humblest member of the Administration all are working heart and soul, with a singleness of purpose and an elevation of aim never surpassed in the history of the nation, by any empire:—"I have made no attempt to conceal anything in the past history of the war, its conduct, its failures, shortcomings if you like, but if I may, by the leave of the House, I should like to say before I sit down one or two words with regard to my own personal position. When the war broke out I was the head of the Government. I take my share—and no one has a larger share—of responsibility at this supreme moment in the attitude and policy of this country. A terrible responsibility, it is measured by what has happened and by what is still to happen. Much of our best blood spilt—thousands of young lives cut short in the very promise of their youth. The cry goes up in ever-increasing volume day by day and week by week from torn hearts and mutilated homes. Every morning there is not one or other of us throughout the country who does not tremble to think what message of direct and personal loss may not be in store for him and others. We might have stood aloof, spectators and not actors in this the most moving tragedy in the history of man. We might have stood aloof, but is there one even of those who are enjoying the unspeakable anguish—childless parents, widowed wives, desolate comrades and friends—who wishes that Great Britain had acted otherwise? I do not believe that there is. Searching, if the House will allow me to say so, the utmost depths of my own heart and conscience, I would not unsay or undo that great decision. (Cheers.) I have from that moment to this laboured with the unceasing and devoted aid of my loyal counsellors and colleagues to uphold the common cause, to bring to its support every resource in men and money, in prudence and courage, in unity and self-sacrifice, that this Kingdom and this Empire can provide. If there have been errors and shortcomings, failures of judgment, lack of foresight in the conduct and direction of our policy, I am the first person in the United Kingdom to acknowledge them. That there has been anything of sloth, indifference, self-complacency, unwillingness to face unpalatable facts, a desire, or even a disposition, to conceal from our fellow-countrymen the truth, I challenge anyone to prove. (Cheers.) I am as confident as I was 15 months ago that we are going to carry a righteous cause to a triumphal issue, and I am not going to shift the burden which has been laid upon me until I am satisfied that I cannot bear it, or that it can be borne better by others. (Cheers.) So long as I enjoy, as I am proud to think and hope that I do, the confidence of my Sovereign, the House of Commons, and the country, I shall not surrender the task, heavy indeed beyond the power of myself or any other man, but as noble and as inspiring as any in history. If there be moments, such as come to all of us, when we are tempted to be faint-hearted, let us ask ourselves what year in our history has done more to justify our faith in the manhood and the womanhood of our people? It has brought us, as we cannot forget, the imperishable



story of the last hours of Edith Cavell, facing her terrible ordeal. (Hear, hear.) She has taught the bravest man among us the supreme lesson of courage. Yes, sir, and in this United Kingdom and throughout the Dominions of the Crown there are thousands of such women. A year ago we did not know it. We have great traditions, but a nation cannot exist by traditions alone. Thank God, we have living examples of all the qualities which have built up and sustained our Empire. Let us be worthy of them and endure to the end."

### By-the-Way War Notes.

It would be superfluous to say much about the war this week, not that there is any slackening in the conflict—much the contrary—but at the moment all eyes are turned to the Balkans, and all ears listening for news from that quarter. We trust the Serbs, and recommend all to read Mr. George Renwick's glowing message in Friday's *Daily Chronicle*. It is one of the most heart-stirring recitals of heroic defence we ever read. And the Serbs will have all the help they need soon. A flush of hope passed over the country on the news of the overthrow of the Greek Ministry once more by Mr. Venezelos. Do not build too much upon that. Unless the Greek people are more determined and united than they seem to be a dissolution and new election, which seem probable, may give the King renewed strength to resist what is undoubtedly the desire of the majority. How the mobilisation of the Greek Army may affect the nation's voting power we do not know, but our counsel is to leave the Greeks alone, and also to abstain from fears about Serbia. Already Mackensen is as good as held up. The Austro-Germans are stuck in the mud, have more artillery than men, and the fact that the Bulgarian armies are split into eight separate columns of attack does not indicate their coming triumph. The best, if not the only, general Bulgaria had has been in command of one of the Russian armies from the outbreak of the war. Meantime French and British troops are hurrying forward to take up the fight. In the Dardanelles resolute patience is needed, the result hangs more now upon the struggle in Serbia, where one more disappointment awaits the Kaiser.

Away on the Russian right wing Hindenburg is not yet utterly beaten, but his hiding makes good progress, and Riga as winter quarters is denied him. Elsewhere along the Russian front the consumption of the enemy's hosts proceeds apace, and the deterioration of the German morale and *personnel* becomes appalling to the Junker and cheering to Russia. In proof, take the following from Friday's *Morning Post*. Its Petrograd correspondent, after mentioning that among the prisoners now captured from the Germans are boys of 18 and old men of 60, tells the following story:—"An officer of one of Russia's Allies who has been at the front reported the following: On a certain section of the front two German battalions found themselves confronted by five Russian. The Germans, without attempting to put up a defence, sent across to the Russians to inquire their strength, and propose the surrender on condition that the Russians would make a show of an outflanking movement. A few months ago anything of this nature could only have meant a trap, but the Russians at the front are apparently fully informed, and they consented, upon which the German battalions gladly surrendered all standing. Those who know the fighting discipline of the German Army will appreciate the significance of even a single isolated case like this. Early in the war the German prisoner was a thing almost unknown. Now the Russians are taking Germans prisoners by hundreds daily. Whether fighting alone or together with the Austrians, the Germans nowadays surrender with a freedom and frequency that indicate an unmistakably advanced stage of demoralisation. Of course, these disgraceful episodes occur very probably only among the newest levies, but the military significance of the phenomenon is very little lessened thereby."

In the West, also, no matter how bits of entrenchments may change hands in the day's fighting, the result is enormous losses to the Germans of men they cannot now spare, a wearing down of the enemy which is the only kind of defeat that can open the way to a lasting peace, our peace, the peace of surrender and disarmament. Italy's hard struggle also proceeds on the same effective lines, and although the territorial gains of the splendid Italian armies may thus far seem minute, the wastage of Austrian troops must soon become greater than there are resources to enable the Habsburgs to repair. Italy is thus helping more effectively than she quite gets credit for to free the world from Prussianism, and to bring deliverance to the Serbs that still groan beneath the Austrian oppressor.

From both Austria and Germany contradictory stories come with regard to food supplies. Not much attention need be paid to these one way or the other, because we know that the closer the blockade of Germany the more certain the hunger, and not even Roumanian supplies of corn, if they could be got, and apparently they cannot be got, would suffice to carry the populations of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires through the winter. They have no money with which to buy food, and no goods can be exported. No truer word was spoken in this week's debate than that contained in Lord Robert Cecil's aphorism—if a country's exports can be stopped, its imports must automatically cease. The two demon-driven empires are shut in upon themselves more and more by the power of the Allied fleets—of the British fleet above all—and pound away as they may on land, sacrificing their citizens by the million, their irretrievable ruin is on the way to be accomplished. Their hunger also grows more gnawing every week. That is the fact, no matter what *Times*' "neutrals" may tell us. How foolish the *Times* is, by the way, to print only such extracts from foreign newspapers as sustain its violence against Mr. Asquith and the Ministry! Even the all-too-rabid *Morning Post* does not fall to a degradation of journalism like that.



### CANCELLATION OF COUNTRY BUS ROUTES.

On and after Sunday, November 7th, the undermentioned country motor-bus routes will cease to run:—

Routes Nos.

- 101A. North Woolwich & Lambourne End
- 155. Golders Green & Hatfield
- 157. Finsbury Park & Epping Forest
- 169. Liverpool Street & Hampton Court

The following routes will continue to run on Sundays only, but will be curtailed as shown:—

Routes Nos.

- 14A. Wimbledon & Stroud Green  
(To be Putney & Stroud Green)
- 29A. Hadley Woods & Victoria  
(To be Southgate (Cherry Tree) & Victoria)
- 103. Cubitt Town & Chingford  
(To be Cubitt Town & Walthamstow (Crooked Billet))
- 167. Charing Cross & South Harrow Stn.  
(To be Charing Cross & Welsh Harp)

Further particulars of country routes still in operation can be obtained from the London General Omnibus Map and Guide.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Increased from 4 per cent. to 8 per cent. on Friday, July 31, and to 10 per cent. on August 1, 1914. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It was generally understood that the arrangement made by the Bank of England to borrow from the clearing banks and others had been further extended so as to include most of the Colonial and Eastern banks. Apparently the plan is working with a fair measure of success, as although money was plentiful enough at first, there have been indications that supplies are being gradually reduced. Day-to-day loans have cost 4-4½ per cent. for good money, and in the beginning of the week balances were offered in the afternoons down to 3½ per cent., but during the last day or two the business done under 4 per cent. has been insignificant. The charge for weekly fixtures has remained at 4½-4¾ per cent., with the greater part of the arrangements for new money made at the lower figure.

So far as ordinary bank bills are concerned, the discount market has had little or nothing to do. December maturities were quoted at 4½-4¾ per cent., January bills at 4¾ per cent., and full three months' at 4¾-4½, but these rates were largely nominal, and although 90-day paper was not allowed to drop below 4¾ per cent., the shorter-dated bills have changed hands at lower figures than those given. A steady demand, however, has been experienced at the Bank for Treasury bills, especially for the shorter dates, and it is believed that a good deal of the buying has again come from investors who are attracted by the yield. In the open market there has been rather more inquiry for foreign Treasury bills, the shorter-dated French bills being dealt in at 5½-5½ per cent., and those maturing next October at 5½-5½ per cent., the former being easier and the latter harder towards the end. Russian were taken at 5½-5½ per cent., and Japanese March maturities at 4½ per cent.

The first half of the Anglo-French loan was payable in New York on Friday last, and although nothing definite appears to have been settled yet as to the best method of utilising it, there is good reason to believe that the negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily. A good deal of interest was aroused by an announcement that, in addition to the loan, commercial credits are being arranged which will help to adjust the exchange. The New York cable rate has hardened on these expectations to 4.65½. Paris improved to 27.63½, but the Dutch exchange has fallen to 11.00 or the lowest point yet reached, and the Scandinavian rate also

moved strongly against this country. Petrograd, however, rose sharply to 143, and closes only a shade under that figure.

Thanks to the purchase of a large amount of gold, the nett loss of the metal for abroad during the week ended on Wednesday was only £216,000. At the same time further progress was made with the ingathering of sovereigns from circulation, and the stocks of coin and bullion consequently show a small increase of £425,000 at £56,656,000. There was, however, an expansion of £638,000 in the note circulation, with the result that the reserve was £213,000 down at £41,672,000, and the proportion to liabilities was ½ per cent. lower at 29.5 per cent. Sales of Treasury bills were evidently on a satisfactory scale as Public Deposits rose by £5,652,000 to £45,537,000, but with an increase of £1,975,000 in "Other" Securities, the decrease in "Other" Deposits was only £3,896,000 at £95,774,000.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on November 10 for £3,500,000 India bills in replacement of £2,500,000 falling due on November 16, and in partial replacement of bills paid off temporarily during the current financial year. The bills will be dated November 16, and will be payable at 12 months after date, viz., on November 16, 1916.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended November 3 £4,325,472 in £1 notes, £1,443,071 10s. in 10s. notes, and £540,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £2,144,746 in £1, £719,398 10s. in 10s. notes, and £440,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £3,004,399, leaving a total of £4,855,940 outstanding, made up of £59,149,904 in £1 notes, £20,786,036 in 10s. notes, and £4,920,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £446,740 2s. 2d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £44,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £11,736,117 0s. 3d. at the Bank of England, while £189,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £257,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

It is officially announced that at the meeting of the Court of Directors of the Bank of England on Thursday, Lord Cunliffe, the Governor, had been chosen to be recommended to the Court of Proprietors in April next for re-election as Governor, and Mr. Brien Cokayne for re-election as Deputy-Governor. This is the second extension of Lord Cunliffe's term of office, but the announcement was expected, as the market recognised that any change in present circumstances would be most undesirable.

### SILVER.

The demand for silver for coinage purposes on both home and Continental account continues steadily, while there has also been a moderate inquiry from both India and the Far East. As supplies from U.S. are still very much restricted, the price rose by ½d. per oz. at a time until by Wednesday it had touched 24½d. per oz. The buying then appeared to extend in other directions, and to be in excess of the amount available, with the result that a further advance of ½d. per oz. was recorded, raising the quotation to the highest point reached this year. China, however, turned round and sold, causing a relapse of ½d. to 24½d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 65,000 in bills, Rs. 2,98,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 42,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 58,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 43,13,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 6,29,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 89 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 2nd inst. the total sales were Rs. 7,40,36,061, realising £4,936,004, compared with Rs. 6,02,66,861 for £4,020,652 to November 3 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 3, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 74,949,205	Government Debt.. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	56,499,205
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 74,949,205		£ 74,949,205

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,895,068
Reserve .. ..	3,412,219	Other Securities .. ..	98,540,391
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	41,515,975
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	156,513
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	45,537,438		
Other Deposits .. ..	95,774,304		
Seven Day and other Bills	30,986		
	£ 159,107,947		£ 159,107,947

Dated Nov. 4, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Nov. 4.		Oct. 27, 1915.	Nov. 3, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,193,737	Rest .. ..	3,207,448	3,212,219	4,771	—
16,450,904	Pub. Deposits ..	39,885,367	45,537,438	5,652,071	—
140,293,123	Other do. ..	99,670,341	95,774,304	—	3,896,037
12,361	7 Day Bills ..	30,455	30,986	531	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
17,204,087	Gov. Securities.	18,895,502	18,895,068	—	434
104,904,925	Other do. ..	96,565,260	98,540,391	—	1,975,131
52,394,113	Total Reserve ..	41,885,849	41,672,488	213,361	—
				5,871,168	5,871,168
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,530,000	Coin and Bullion	32,794,860	33,433,230	638,370	—
69,474,113	Proportion ..	56,230,709	56,655,718	425,009	—
338 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	30 p.c.	29.5 p.c.	—	0.5 p.c.
5 "		5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £216,000 out.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	980,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,057,000	380,936,000	—
Oct. 6	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
" 13	269,450,000	243,921,000	25,529,000	—
" 20	270,952,000	248,954,000	21,998,000	—
" 27	258,662,000	258,472,000	190,000	—
Nov. 3	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
Total ..	11,285,153,000	12,948,929,000	—	1,663,776,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties .. .. .	Supply Services .. .. .
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. .. .
Crown Lands .. .. .	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. .	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	demption Act, 1910 ..
War Loan, 1925-8 .. .. .	Issues under Section 1 of
War Loan, 1925-45 .. .. .	War Loan Act, 1915 ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Act, 1913 .. .. .
1913 .. .. .	Under Post Office (Lon-
Under Military Works Acts,	dun) Railway Act, 1913 ..
1897-1903 .. .. .	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
Under Housing Act .. .. .	Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
East Africa Protectorate	Under Military Works Acts,
Loan repayments .. .. .	1897-1903 .. .. .
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Under Public Buildings Ex-
account of principal .. .. .	penses Act, 1903 .. .. .
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	E Africa Protectorate Loan
China Indemnity .. .. .	Deficiency advances repaid
Ways and Means Advances	Ways and Means Advances
Decrease in Exchequer	repaid .. .. .
balances .. .. .	Increase in Exchequer
	balances .. .. .
£38,147,914	£38,147,914

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Egypt (released) ..	Monday—U.S.A. .. ..
Misc. .. ..	Tuesday .. ..
Tuesday—Bars .. ..	" Canada .. ..
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	" Straits Settlements
Misc. (released) .. ..	(set aside) .. ..
Thursday—Egypt .. ..	Wednesday—U.S.A. ..
	Thursday .. ..
	" S. America .. ..
	" Spain .. ..
	" Canada .. ..
	Friday—Bars .. ..
	" U.S.A. .. ..
	" Japan .. ..
Nett Efflux .. ..	
£ 3,319,000	£ 3,319,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

The demand for Treasury bills was greatly increased during the week ended on the 30th ult., when £24,958,000 were sold. On the other hand, bills to the amount of £10,599,000 were paid off, so that the nett increase in the amount outstanding was £14,359,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1916.	
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 17 1/8
*227,497,000	—	—	—
237,497,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 8, 1915.	Oct. 1, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	45,391,200	45,553,800	45,452,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	242,400	242,400	240,420
Gold Settlement Fund ..	11,724,000	11,170,000	11,036,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,949,600	4,260,400	3,298,600
Total reserves .. ..	61,307,200	61,226,600	60,027,600
10-day bills and loans ..	1,338,800	1,178,600	1,155,400
30-day bills and loans ..	2,587,800	2,761,200	2,454,800
60-day bills and loans ..	2,940,600	3,038,400	3,153,400
90-day bills and loans ..	1,623,200	1,830,800	1,775,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	301,400	264,000	441,400
Total .. ..	8,791,800	9,073,000	8,980,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	2,076,000	1,896,600	1,865,800
Municipal Warrants ..	5,316,600	5,405,800	5,476,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,047,200	3,104,600	3,075,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	2,032,000	1,544,600	2,198,600
All other assets .. ..	603,600	624,800	663,600
Total assets .. ..	83,174,400	82,876,000	82,287,800
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,955,000	10,956,200	10,945,600
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	65,753,200	65,357,400	64,949,400
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,958,200	3,045,000	2,859,000
All other liabilities .. ..	508,000	517,400	533,800
Total liabilities .. ..	83,174,400	82,876,000	82,287,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	82.3 %	81.5 %	82.7 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	88. %	87.6 %	87.5 %

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 31, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	607,934,000	601,254,000	574,342,000	431,450,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	104,822,000	103,710,000	102,634,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,768,000	31,770,000	30,216,000	89,670,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	9,218,000	9,248,000	6,494,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	623,962,000	615,832,000	586,440,000	—
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	28,510,000	27,842,000	27,618,000	333,936,000
Circulation .. ..	7,138,000	7,136,000	7,128,000	—
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	38,740,000	38,126,000	37,842,000	2,982,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 31, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	120,562,000	120,450,000	119,162,000	112,160,000
Specie .. ..	10,408,000	10,312,000	10,272,000	8,180,000
Deposits .. ..	125,798,000	125,986,000	124,444,000	110,560,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,854,000	1,842,000	1,820,000	2,800,000

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 31, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	123,342,050	123,322,300	123,127,150	94,517,200
Treasury Notes .. ..	56,892,350	56,272,700	41,539,600	43,491,500
Bills discounted .. ..	210,325,050	196,172,350	219,514,850	138,677,150
Advances .. ..	946,800	741,150	685,800	1,770,600
Note circulation .. ..	297,318,200	288,750,850	288,863,000	208,539,350
Deposits .. ..	81,134,350	80,929,700	83,880,550	65,274,750

Clearing House returns during Oct. £242,546,610 against £270,499,060 in Sep

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1915.	Oct. 14, 1915.	Oct. 6, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve .. ..	7,921,300	7,677,000	5,516,000	10,072,600
Cash in reserve .. ..	159,563,500	159,515,000	159,187,900	162,146,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	3,718,000	3,741,500	3,836,200	21,552,000
Circulation note issue ..	507,000,000	497,000,000	482,000,000	280,000,000
Treasury deposits .. ..	20,765,900	20,335,800	22,196,200	20,765,200



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 4, 1915.	Oct. 28, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.	Oct. 14, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	190,185,200	189,199,160	187,706,960	185,894,680
Silver in hand ..	14,495,040	14,520,840	14,531,680	14,530,720
Bills discounted ..	12,980,680	11,210,800	10,733,040	10,968,360
Advances ..	22,651,560	22,718,840	23,020,480	23,290,880
Note circulation ..	563,141,960	554,702,160	553,279,760	550,085,720
Public deposits ..	2,080,960	1,538,040	3,303,760	2,377,400
Private deposits ..	100,835,320	101,834,520	102,961,120	104,471,600
Foreign Bills..	66,040	51,160	58,800	52,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £284,000,000; increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £37,083,960, decrease £210,160, and at the branches to £39,142,720, decrease £217,680.

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915	Sept. 30, 1914
Total cash ..	54,952,880	55,156,120	55,491,960	50,813,920
Inland Bills ..	20,352,960	21,307,560	22,713,840	34,306,940
Foreign Bills ..	835,560	832,600	832,280	3,122,840
Advances ..	9,283,000	8,458,560	8,332,280	6,297,240
Government securities ..	7,795,880	7,455,240	7,455,680	8,176,880
Circulation ..	113,929,400	111,579,640	111,586,640	86,081,520
Deposits at notice ..	11,360,400	10,968,200	10,860,560	7,935,000
Current accounts ..	16,435,760	18,701,260	18,109,280	9,450,600

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 30, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 31, 1914
Gold ..	31,812,410	31,186,713	30,944,171	22,092,000
Silver ..	29,561,817	29,473,984	29,348,646	27,877,000
Foreign Bills ..	4,168,807	4,145,862	4,136,054	6,000,000
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,105,742	26,893,954	27,214,033	37,806,000
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,109,822	28,576,019	29,326,770	24,695,000
Notes in Circulation ..	82,962,833	82,693,027	82,918,310	79,407,000
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,945,105	25,310,865	25,417,494	24,214,000
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	2,171,565	1,688,195	1,639,915	—
Government Securities ..	1,275,332	1,398,138	1,637,983	—

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	12,220,282	12,187,968	12,101,520	9,823,256
Bills ..	5,932,144	5,367,156	5,607,448	9,062,080
Note circulation ..	16,805,395	16,883,436	17,109,520	16,646,744
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,492,054	3,197,224	3,112,016	3,519,624

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 24, 1914.
Gold ..	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	5,772,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,614,000	6,677,000	6,750,000	2,747,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,015,000	3,030,000	3,043,000	1,481,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,897,000	4,967,000	5,040,000	8,691,000
Notes in circulation ..	16,136,000	16,257,000	16,357,000	15,119,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,752,000	4,664,000	4,342,000	3,628,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 22, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 7, 1915.	Oct. 22, 1914.
Gold ..	3,656,000	3,684,000	3,555,000	2,342,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,732,000	3,694,000	3,657,000	1,690,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,014,000	4,060,000	4,142,000	6,757,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,254,000	8,338,000	8,322,000	7,228,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,369,000	1,354,000	1,301,000	1,389,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915.	Oct. 24, 1914
Gold ..	32,793,140	32,778,585	32,554,359	13,706,409
Silver ..	202,006	195,617	152,654	147,241
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,815,294	13,237,326	13,031,854	26,740,190
Note circulation ..	45,958,440	45,642,368	45,339,535	33,706,680
Deposits ..	1,567,893	1,556,365	1,171,130	1,663,031

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 2, 1915.		Nov. 4, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland..	Three months' bills ..	11.32	11.37 <sup>+</sup>	11.27	11.30 <sup>+</sup>
Do. . . . .	Cable transfers ..	11.11	11.17	11.06	11.10
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	30.16	30.24 <sup>+</sup>	30.16	30.24 <sup>+</sup>
Do. . . . .	Cable transfers ..	29.84	29.90	28.95	29.91
Lisbon & Oporto..	Cable transfers ..	34 <sup>+</sup>	34 <sup>+</sup>	34 <sup>+</sup>	34 <sup>+</sup>
Do. do. . . .	Three months' bills ..	27.80	27.97	27.92	28 <sup>+</sup>
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.51	27.54	27.54	27.57
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	140	142	142 <sup>+</sup>	143 <sup>+</sup>
Scandinavia..	Cable transfers ..	17.75	18.20 <sup>+</sup>	—	—
Do. . . . .	Three months' bills ..	17.40	17.70	17.77	18.15 <sup>+</sup>
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Cable transfers ..	24.85	24.95	24.46 <sup>+</sup>	24.46 <sup>+</sup>
Do. . . . .	Three months' bills ..	25.20	25.30 <sup>+</sup>	25.20	25.30 <sup>+</sup>
Switzerland..	Cable transfers ..	24.75	24.85	24.75	24.85

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .....	chqs.	27.53	27.63	Antwerp .....	short	—	—
Brussels .....	chqs.	—	—	Italy .....	sight	20.90	29.95
Amsterdam .....	sight	11.10	11.00	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .....	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
Hamburg .....	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	49 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
Vienna .....	sight	—	—	Calcutta .....	T.T.	1/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	1/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
Petrograd....	3 mths	139 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	142 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Bombay .....	T.T.	1/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	1/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
New York .....	sight	4.63 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4.66 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Hong Kong....	T.T.	1/10d.	1/10d.
Lisbon .....	sight	35d.	34d.	Shanghai .....	T.T.	2/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
Madrid.....	sight	24.90	24.90	Singapore .....	T.T.	2/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
				Yokohama ....	4 mths	2/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Six months ..	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Nine months ..	5	5
Twelve months ..	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Three months ..	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Four months ..	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —5	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —5
Six months ..	5—5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5
Three months fine inland bills	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Four months ..	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —6	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —6
Six months ..	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —6	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week This week
	Per cent. Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5 .. 5
" short loan rates ..	5 .. 5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> —4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
" for call loans ..	4—4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .. 4—4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Considerable activity has been developed on the Stock Exchange this week and we welcome the change, not least because it seems to indicate that the country as a whole takes the view of the Prime Minister, and is not made downhearted by the constant iteration of all that is disheartening or that may be made to look disheartening in the military situation. Home Railway stocks have received more attention this week than has been bestowed upon them for months past, with the result that prices have advanced, especially the prices of such playthings of the gambler as some of the Southern deferred stocks. This is all very well, provided the buying does not go too far, as it seems to us to have done both in United States and Canadian Railway securities. Those who have driven Canadian Pacific shares above 200 are giving an excellent chance to holders at lower prices to sell, and sell they should, that is our distinct opinion, because for one thing hard times lie ahead for Canada, as well as for other parts of the Empire, and not one good harvest or three will lift the country over its difficulties. There seems, however, to be room yet for a considerable trade in Argentine Railway securities, and the announcement of a dividend of £2 16s. 6d. on the second preference stock of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, which means the same dividend on Argentine Great Western stock, gave a very welcome fillip to a rather sulky market. People did not expect more than 2½ per cent. Accordingly, buying was attracted to the securities, and we make no objection so long as it does not go far enough to put pressure upon the directors to overstrain the company's finances in order to increase dividends. What all Argentine railways require, and the Buenos Ayres and Pacific especially, is a resting time, a time of moderate dividend payments and careful husbandry of resources, because they cannot hope to dip into the pockets of the British investor in their old free and easy fashion for many a day to come. We need not touch upon minor markets, but one general consideration must not be left out of sight.

Next week a further Vote of Credit is to be demanded of the House of Commons and must be granted. Our daily expenditure has risen to a gigantic magnitude from £3,000,000 a day up to the middle of July to nearly £6,000,000 a day now, everything included, or deducting our help to Allies, to about £4,600,000 a day, and there is no present prospect of any material reduction. Therefore votes of credit can



only be temporary expedients, and early next year at the latest the country will have to be ready to subscribe another loan, which will at least amount to £500,000,000, and might very well be £750,000,000. No market rise can go far with that in prospect, because it means not only the drawing in of all the country's spare resources, but a universal advance in the rate of interest upon capital. That in turn means a general reduction in the prices of old securities in order that the return from them may approximate that offered by the new loan. The moral of all this is that investors should avoid the temptation to buy risky securities and give all attention to the quality of the stocks into which they put their money. Also savings ought not to be put by in any security which is likely to be difficult of sale or altogether unmarketable.

Stock markets have, on the whole, been rather more active this week, as the result of the reinvestment of the dividends disbursed on November 1, and of the funds obtained from the recent realisations of American securities. New War Loan stock was quoted ex div. at 96½ on Tuesday, representing a rise of ½, but it has since reacted a little. The fully-paid scrip, being a bearer security, will not have the dividend deducted from the price until the coupon is paid and is quoted at 98½. With the final disappearance of the "rights," the old War Loan stock relapsed to 90, but recovered later to 90½. Colonial Government 4½ per cent. loans have all improved ½ to 1. In Foreign Governments Brazilian issues opened with a firm appearance, and the 4 per cent. 1889 loan improved to 53½, but the demand then slackened and it fell back to 51½, dragging down the other loans in sympathy. A little inquiry for Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury bonds sent them up to 102, but they closed at 101½. Peruvian Corporation issues were bought on Dutch account, and showed substantial gains, and San Paulo Treasury bonds improved to 99½ on purchases in connection with the sinking fund. The demand for Japanese loans continues good, and most issues show further gains. City of Riga bonds were not affected by the announcement that the coupon due on the 14th inst. would be paid.

A little demand sprang up for Home Railway stocks, and as buyers found the market bare, prices were advanced all round. The gains were largest in the passenger stocks, Brighton deferred rising to 63, South-Eastern deferred to 24½, South-Western deferred to 24. Metropolitan improved to 23½ and District to 14½, while Underground Electric Railways income debenture stock and income bonds were both better. Dealings in Canadian, Pacific shares have been very animated. The price came over very much higher from New York in the beginning of the week, and although our market did not respond to the full extent of the rise, the shares touched 205½, but the advance induced a good deal of profit-taking, and they have relapsed to 200½. Grand Trunk stocks were bought with some freedom, and prices have risen almost to the point which will release holders from their obligations to continue pre-moratorium loans. Wall Street showed a disposition to push American Railroad shares up on the recent good traffics and the promising outlook for trade in the United States, but the spurt died down and the greater part of the earlier gains were wiped out. Argentine Railways were lifted 1 to 2 on the satisfactory traffics, and the advance was carried still further by the dividend announcement of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, which was better than had been expected. San Paulo ordinary rose sharply to 182½, Leopoldina improved to 40, and Mogyana 5 per cent. bonds to 80. Dealings were again fairly numerous in Mexican Railways, and the stocks of the old Mexican (Vera Cruz) line showed substantial advances, while National of Mexico first and second preferred were both higher.

A fair business has been done in Bank shares, and particularly of the South American group, amongst which London and Brazilian were conspicuous with a rise to 24½. Anglo-South American Bank and British Bank of South America both showed small gains. Chartered of India improved to 53½, and National of India were also higher. In the London group, Barclay "B" and London Joint Stock improved ½, and National Provincial £12 paid ½, but Lloyds dropped ½ and Parr's ½. P. and O. deferred were bought in anticipation of the forthcoming dividend, and improved to 290. A fairly active business was also done in Royal Mail up to 90-90½, and Cunard met with support at 60s. 6d. International Mercantile Marine ordinary and preferred followed New York, rising to 24½ and 61½ respectively. Except for an inquiry for Sunbeam on the report, Motor shares were quiet. Brazilian Traction fluctuated within narrow limits, Mexican Light and Power issues were easier, but Mexico Trams common hardened. Apart from Canadian Car and Foundry, which gave way, Canadian industrials generally were harder, Steel Co. of Canada improving to 43, Dominion Steel to 54, and Lake Superior Corporation to 11. Hudson's Bay shares were strong, and ½ up at 6½ in sympathy with other Canadian things, and there was again some inquiry for Forestal Land shares. Aerated Bread recovered ½, and Liptons and Van den Bergh "B" shares were harder. Textiles were quiet, but Coats were offered and fell to 4½. Very little interest was taken in Armament or Iron and Steel shares, but Thornycrofts met with support on dividend anticipations, and Armstrong, Whitworth and Cargo Fleet were also the turn harder.

Business in Oil shares continues on a very small scale, but Royal Dutch were lifted to 45, and Shell, Spies, Ural, and Baku all came in for a little attention. Anglo-Egyptian "B" shares fluctuated within narrow limits, an early rally being lost and then recovered. Mexican Eagle issues were harder, with a good demand for the debentures at 90, and Eagle Transports preference put on a small fraction. Rubber shares met with a fair inquiry on the further advance in the price of the commodity. United Temiang, Bukit Sembawang, and Kamuning were amongst the most active, but Singapore United came into favour on the good report, and there was also a fair inquiry for Anglo-Java and Kawi Java.

Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.	97½	97½
— War Loan 3½.....	92½	90½	— " 4½ 1922-7.	56	96½
— " 4½.....	95½	96½	95 New Zealand 4½	95½	95½
69½ India 3½.....	69½	69½	92 Queensland 4½	92	92
80½ " 3½.....	80½	80½	— " 4½ new	97½	97½
92 Canada 4½ 1940-60	92	92	— Union of S. Africa	—	—
— " 4½ 1920-5	98	96½	41½ 1920-5	97½	97½
92 N.S.W. 4½.....	95	95	— Victoria 4½ 1920-5	97½	97½
66 Belgian 3½.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes	65½	65½
— Brazil, 1913	63	63	82½ Japan 4½ (1st)	91½	91½
— " New Funding	77	75½	83 " (2nd)	90½	91
— Chinese 1896	94½	94½	— Russia 4½	73½	73
— " 1913	82	82	— " 4½	74	74
— Egypt Unified 4½	85	85½	— " 5%	92	92½
Brighton defd.....	51½	53	London and S.-W. dfd.	22½	24
Caledonian defd.....	8	8½	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.....	7½	7½	Metropolitan	22½	23½
Gt. Central pfd.....	12½	13	Do. 5% New pf.	95½	95½
— dfd.....	6½	6½	Met. District	13	14½
Gt. Eastern	32½	33	Midland dfd.	56	56½
Gt. Northern dfd.	37½	38	Nth. British dfd.	14½	15½
Gt. Western	91½	91	Nth.-Eastern	100	100½
Lancs. and Yorks.	67½	68	Nth.-Western	100	99½
— dfd.	—	—	Sth.-Eastern dfd.	22½	24½
Canadian Pacific.....	186	200½	Chesapeake.....	61½	65½
Do. 6% Notes	111½	100½	Erie.....	42½	47
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	94½	95	Milwaukee	99	101½
Grand Trunk ord.	11½	11½	N. Y. Central	108	110½
Do. 3rd pf.	28	28½	Southern	24½	26½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes	98½	98½	Southern Pacific	105½	108
Do. 5½ 5-yr. "	98½	98½	Union Pacific	145	143½
Atchison	113½	113½	U. S. Steel	91½	92½
Baltimore.....	99½	101½	Cent. Argentine ord.	84	87½
Antofagasta dfd.	121½	122½	Do. 5% Notes	100½	105½
Do. 6% Notes	102½	103	Do. 6% "	10½	100½
Brazil Common.....	9	9½	Leopoldina	39	40
B. A. & Pacific	44½	48	Mexican ord.	18	20
B. A. Gt. Southern	80½	84½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	170½	182½
B. A. Western	81½	86½	United of Havana	76	78
Bank of Australasia.....	106½	106½	London City & Midland	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A"	8	8	London County & West.	14½	14½
Do. "B"	10½	10½	London Joint Stock	18½	19
Capital & Counties	19½	19½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd)	22	22
Chartered of India	52½	53½	Do. (£12 pd)	25½	26½
Hongkong & Shanghai	73½	73½	Parr's	29½	29½
Lloyds	21½	20½	Standard of S.A.	10½	10½
London & Provincial	14½	14	Union & Smiths	23	22½
London & S.W.	10½	10½	Forestal Land.....	40/3	40/6
Apollinaris ord.....	2	2	Furness, Withy	32/3	32/3
Armstrong, Whitworth	34/3	33/9	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22/3	22/3
Birmingham Small Arms	37/3	37/6	Do. dfd. "A"	35/6	35/6
Borax dfd.	22/6	23/	Kynochs	27/6	27/
Bovril	19/3	19/3	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20/3	20/3
Brazil Traction	57½	57½	Lyons, J.	3½	3½
British Amer. Tobacco	64/	64/	Marconi	1½	1½
Brown (John), & Co.	27/	27/	Maypole Dairy dfd.	24/	24/
Brunner, Mond	3½	3½	Mons Nickel ord.	3½	3½
Cammell-Laird	5	5	National Steam Car	11/	10/
Castner-Kellner	60/6	60/6	Nobel Dynamite	15½	15½
Coats	4½	4½	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Cunard	60/3	60/6	P. & O. dfd.	27½	29½
Dennis Bros.	28/6	28/9	Royal Mail	86½	50
Dorman, Long	22/	22/	South Durham Steel	27/6	27/6
Eastmans	7/3	7/3	Underground Inc. Bds.	71	72
English Sewing Cotton	31/3	30/9	Vickers	32/9	32/9
Fine Cotton Spinners	23/3	23/3	Mexican Eagle pf.	1½	1½
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	4/	5/9	North Caucasian	24/9	25/3
Baku (10s.)	2/9	2/9	Roumanian Cons.	12/3	11/9
Burmah.....	3½	3½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44½	45
Lobitos	28/	28/	Shell	43½	43½
Maikop Combine (10s.)	3/6	3/6	Spies (10/-)	13/	13/
Maikop Pipeline	5/	5/	Ural Caspian	1½	1½
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½	Linggi	14/6	14/9
Anglo-Malay	81½	81½	London Asiatic	51/10½	51/10½
Batu Caves	11½	11½	Malacca	3½	3½
Bukit Mertajam	27½	27½	Malayalam	20/3	20/6
Bukit Sembawang	2/6	2/6	Merlimau	4/	4/5
Damansara	2½	2½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.)	9/	9/4½
Gula Kalumpung	1½	1½	United Serdang	9/3	9/3
Highlands	43/9	44/4½	Vallambrosa	13/	13/1½
Johore Rubber Lands	13/9	13/9	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.)	11½	11½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7/6	7/9	East Rand	1½	1½
Brakpan	3½	3½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	14/9	14/9
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	44/3	44/6	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Cam & Motor	13/9	13/6	Modder "B"	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	Do. Deep	5½	5½
Chartered	9/1½	10/6	New Modder (£4)	15	15½
City Deep	3½	3½	Rand Mines (5/-)	4½	4½
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	53	54½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Van Ryn Deep	2½	2½
Crown Mines (10/-)	3½	3½			

Lagunitos Oil.—October production, 4,135 tons.

Maikop Combine.—Production week Oct. 30, 46,920 poods (757 tons).

British Maikop.—Production last week, 2,687 poods, about 43 tons.

Kern River.—Production during October, 166,468 barrels, or approximately 23,781 tons, including 104,243 barrels from the St. Helen's Petroleum Co.



## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—The market exhibited a steady tone and dealings were on a fairly good scale at late rates. Of home refined, Tate's cubes, 40s. to 40s. 6d.; granulated, 32s. 3d. to 33s.; caster, 35s. 3d. to 35s. 6d.; Lyle's granulated, 32s. 3d. to 32s. 9d.; white crystals, 32s. 3d. to 33s. 3d.; and yellow crystals, 31s. 3d. Cane sorts firm. Demerara crystallised, sold, 29s. 3d.; and Jamaica, at 28s. 9d. Foreign descriptions maintained. American granulated, spot, London, sold, 32s. 6d.; white Java, spot, London, at 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d. Cuban receipts for all ports during last week amounted to 2,290 tons, against nil last year. Centrals at work, 1, against nil. Cane sales ruled generally firmer. Demerara crystallised, sold, good yellow, 30s. 3d. to 30s. 6d. Trinidad, low mid to fine colony, 29s. 3d. to 31s. 3d.

**COFFEE.**—Moderate supplies at public sale passed off slowly. Nicaraguan, good to fine ordinary, 50s. to 53s. Guatemala, good bold mottled, 67s. Costa Rica, fine mid, 75s. 6d. to 76s. 6d. Futures idle.

**COCOA.**—Fair supplies were offered in auction, and experienced good support at firm to dearer prices. Ceylon, ordinary to fair, sold, 80s. 6d. to 84s. Grenada, fair to fine, 83s. 6d. to 88s. 6d. Jamaica, fair to fine, 80s. to 85s. St. Lucia, ditto, 80s. to 86s. Samoa, good to fine, 85s. to 87s. British West African, low to fine, 65s. to 82s. Cameroons, fair dark to fine, 78s. to 84s. Guayaquil, Caraquez, 85s. 6d. to 87s. St. Thome, common to fine, 72s. to 85s. Private market firmer. Trinidad sold, 92s. Ceylon, native, 62s. 6d. to 77s.; British West African, 80s. to 83s.; and St. Thome, 78s. to 85s. 6d. Guayaquil, Arriba, 88s. to 91s.; and Caraquez, 85s. 6d.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week experienced moderate support, and prices, with few exceptions, again show an easier tendency, most noticeable in the lower grades. Java auctions met a good demand for useful and fine liquoring sorts, and steady prices were obtained. Common kinds, however, were only saleable at again easier rates. Java sales met a quiet demand, and prices irregular.

**SPICE.**—Pepper firm but quiet. Fair black Singapore, on spot, quoted 6½d.; Tellicherry, 6½d.; Lampong, sellers, 6½d.; white Singapore, spot, sellers, 9d.; Muntok, 10½d.; Penang, 8½d. To arrive: black Singapore, November-January shipment, quoted 6d.; Lampong, November-December, sellers, 6d.; white Singapore, November-December, quoted 8½d.; Muntok, buyers, 9½d.; Penang, January-March, sold, 7½d. to 8d., c.f. and i. Cloves firmer, but somewhat irregular. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sold, 8d.; January-March delivery, 6½d.; October-December shipment, 6½d. to 6½d.; November-January, 6½d. to 6½d., and 6½d., c.f. and i.

**FRUIT.**—At public sale new Valencia raisins met a good demand at 2s. to 3s. decline. Half-boxes, sold, at 72s. to 73s.; quarters, 74s. to 87s.; eights, 79s. to 92s.; and seedless, 69s. to 80s. Cape raisins realised 67s. to 68s. Muscatels occupied good support, and prices ruled firm. Very common to choice realised 60s. to 127s. 6d.; extra choice, 130s. to 135s.; loose, 55s. to 81s. Malaga figs, sold, at 30s. to 35s. Private market remains steady for currants. Provincials and Pyrgos quoted 39s. to 40s.; Amalias, 41s. to 43s.; Gulf, 45s. to 48s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 55s.; smalls, 39s. to 47s. Sultanias firm. Smyrna, common to fine quoted 85s. to 105s.; Afghan, 82s. to 85s.; Greek, 100s. to 115s. Figs steady. Calamata, 42s. to 44s.; Malaga, 35s. to 42s.; and Taps, 35s. Muscatels: Californian, spot, duty paid, quoted 55s. to 60s.

**RICE** quiet, but steadily held. Bran ruled firm, with business in October-December at 140s. to 142s. 6d., and January-March at 137s. 6d., ex ship, Liverpool. Rangoon beans steady. April-May shipment (new crop), sold, £18 10s., c.f. and i.

**JUTE** quiet at easier rates. Native first marks, October-November and November-December, London, sold, £25 10s.; and Dundee, sellers, £25 5s. Lightning D, afloat, sold, £23 10s., c.f. and i.

**HEMP.**—Manila firmer, and a good demand prevailed. H. grade, November-January, sold, £42; fair, November-January, at £41 10s.; medium, ditto, £40; coarse, ditto, £33 to £33 10s.; coarse brown, ditto, £31 to £31 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand firm. H.P.F., December-February, sold, £34; and fair, January-March, at £33, c.f. and i.

**SHELLAC.**—Spot parcels in moderate demand. Fair T.N. orange sold, 72s. Kala at 52s. 6d. Futures dull. December delivery sold, 73s. 6d. to 72s. 6d.; and March, 75s. 6d. to 75s.

**GAMBIER** firm. Good marks, November-December shipment, sellers, 37s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**QUININE** dull and lower. Spot, 5s., sellers.

**INDIA-RUBBER** firmer, with a fair demand. Plantation crepe, on spot, sold, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6½d.; November, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6½d.; January-June, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 6d. Smoked sheet, on spot, done, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6½d.; November at 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6½d.; January-June, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d. Fine hard Para, in most positions, sellers, 2s. 6d. Ball, spot, sellers, 2s. 1d. Scrappy, spot and near, sellers, 1s. 11½d.

**COPRA.**—Ruled dearer. For shipment: To London, Ceylon, October-November and November-December, buyers, £29 5s.; Malabar, September-October, sellers, £30; F.M.S., Singapore, October-November and November-December, buyers, £28 10s.; South Sea ditto, £27 5s., buyers. To Marseilles: F.M., Straits, £27 10s., buyers, for October-November and November-December, £27 10s.; Cebu, September-October, buyers, £28; Manila, September-October, £26 12s. 6d., buyers; and October-December, sold, £26 7s. 6d. to £26 12s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**WOOL.**—Public sales of colonial were continued this week, and good competition was accorded the better qualities, which realised steady prices, but inferior and faulty lots moved off slowly.

**TALLOW** continued firm. At public sale, 1,386 casks were brought forward, and 1,311 sold, prices being 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 42s. 9d.; fair to good, 40s. 9d. to

42s. 6d.; dark to dull, 35s. 6d. to 38s.; hard, 40s. 9d. Beef: fine, 42s.; fair to good, 40s. to 40s. 9d.; dark to dull, 36s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; sweet, 42s. 6d. Market letter 1s. dearer for tallow and 9d. up for stuff. Town tallow, 38s. 6d.; melted stuff, 28s. per cwt. Rough fat, 8½d. per 8 lb.

**OILS.**—Lined again firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £31 15s.; barrels £32 15s.; Hull (naked), spot, £29. Rape: English refined pale, spot (barrels), £40 to £41; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £38. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), November-December, £35 5s., c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £30 10s., £30 15s.; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £33 10s.; sweet (barrels), £37, £39. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £46. Cochín, spot, £46, £49. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, October-

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt.,	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 9/4, 98%			Australian		
polarisation			Scoured Merino	0 2 7 1/2	1 0 — 2 1/2
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	6 — 2 0 1/2	1 8 — 2 2
Ditto, No. 2	nom.	2 0 0	Greasy Merino	5 1/2 — 1 6	0 5 1/2 — 1 5 1/2
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Greasy Crossbred	0 2 — 1 4	0 11 — 1 3
Lyle's granulated	32 3 — 32 9	32 3 — 32 9	New Zealand		
Foreign granu-			(scoured) Merino	9 — 2 5 1/2	2 0 1/2 — 2 4
lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 11 — 1 7	0 11 — 1 6 1/2
f.o.b., spot			Cape snow white	5 — 2 9 1/2	1 5 1/2 — 2 3 1/2
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
prompt			Crepe	0 2 5 1/2	0 2 7
Crystallised, West			<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
India	27 0 — 31 9	27 0 — 31 9	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
1/2 lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	Steamers, best	20 0	19 6 — 20 0
Broken	0 8 1/2 — 1 2 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 1 2 1/2	Seconds	16 6 — 17 0	16 6 — 17 0
Orange	0 9 — 1 2 1/2	0 9 — 1 2 1/2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.		
Broken	0 10 1/2 — 1 4 1/2	0 10 1/2 — 1 4 1/2	English Pig	25 10 0	25 15 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	Foreign soft	24 15 0	25 10 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 1 1 1/2	<b>Quicklime</b> —per		
Broken	0 9 — 1 0 1/2	0 9 — 1 0 1/2	bottle firsthand	£ 16 1/2 — £ 16 1/2	£ 16 1/2 — £ 16 1/2
Orange	0 9 — 1 1 1/2	0 9 — 1 1 1/2	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
Broken	0 10 — 1 2 1/2	0 10 — 1 2 1/2	English Ingots	£ 158 1/2 — £ 158 1/2	£ 161 — £ 162
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 1/2 — 0 9 1/2	0 8 1/2 — 0 9 1/2	Do. bars	159 1/2 — 160 1/2	162 — 163
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.			Standard cash	£ 158 15 0	£ 162 0 0
duty 1 1/2d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin Plates, per box	19 4 1/2 — 19 7 1/2	19 9 — 20 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	85 0 — 90 0	87 0 — 93 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Grenada	76 0 — 86 0	80 0 — 90 0	English, Tough	£ 88 — £ 89	£ 89 — £ 90
West Africa	nom.	nom.	per ton	£ 88 — £ 89	£ 89 — £ 90
Ceylon Plantation	74 0 — 92 0	74 0 — 92 0	Best Selected	£ 88 — £ 89	£ 89 — £ 90
Guayaquil Arriba	87 0 — 90 0	88 0 — 91 0	Sheets	£ 103	£ 107
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			Standard	£ 72 17 6	£ 74 0 0
duty 2 1/2d. per cwt.			<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
East India	56 0 — 94 0	56 0 — 94 0	Native firsts for		
Jamaica	40 6 — 120 6	43 6 — 120 6	sh'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£ 26 5 0	£ 25 10 0
Costa Rica	55 0 — 82 0	55 0 — 82 0	<b>Oils</b>		
<b>Provisions</b>			Lined, per ton	30 15 — 31 10	£ 31 1/2 — £ 32 1/2
Butter, per cwt.			Rape, ref. English,		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	casks		
Irish Creameries	148/—158/	146/—156/	Brown English,	£ 39 — £ 40	£ 40 — £ 41
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	naked	£ 38	£ 38
Russian finest	128/—134/	126/—130/	Cott'n Seed, crude	30 10 — 30 15	30 10 — 30 15
Normandy baskets	106/—156/	112/—152/	Ditto, refined	£ 34 — £ 39	£ 33 1/2 — £ 40
Danish finest	160/—164/	160/—164/	Petroleum Oil, per		
Brittany rolls			8 lbs.	9 1/2d.	9 1/2d.
doz. lb.	15 0 — 17 6	14 6 — 17 0	Water White	10 1/2d.	10 1/2d.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Lined		
Irish	98 0 — 105 0	98 0 — 105 0	Calcutta, per 410		
Continental	96 0 — 105 0	96 0 — 105 0	lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 2 3	3 2 6
Canadian	86 0 — 95 0	86 0 — 93 0	Rape, Guzerat		
American	81 0 — 91 0	78 0 — 81 0	Sept.-Oct.	3 3 0	3 3 6
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	126/—132/	128/—144/	Cleveland Cash	3 7 1/2	3 7 6
Canadian	90 0 — 94 0	96 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty,		
American	56 0 — 92 0	57 0 — 94 0	unmanufactured		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			5/6 to 6/24 per lb.		
Edam	nom.	nom.	Maryland & Ohio,		
Canadian	81 0 — 86 0	82 0 — 86 0	per lb. bond	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
Gouda	88 0 — 100 0	88 0 — 100 0	Virginian leaf	0 5 1/2 — 1 0	0 5 1/2 — 1 6
English Cheddar	88 0 — 100 0	88 0 — 100 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4 1/2 — 1 0	0 4 1/2 — 1 0
New Zealand	82 0	82 0 — 84 0	Havana	1 0 — 6 0	1 0 — 6 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—			Manila	0 6 — 2 0	0 6 — 2 0
open charter,			Cigars, duty 10/6		
new crop, per	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	per lb.	2 0	2 0
cwt.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and		
Bassein	nom.	nom.	Memel Fir, per		
Saigon c. f. and i.	nom.	nom.	load	130/—150/	130/—150/
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	230/—600/	230/—600/
Dutch	19 0 — 22 0	21 0 — 23 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	11 0 — 13 0	10 6 — 13 0	Town households,		
Danish	18 0 — 20 0	20 0 — 22 0	official	44/	46/
			American, 1st pa-		
			tents	45/6 up to	45/6

November, £27 5s., c.f. and i. Turpentine somewhat irregular. American, spirits, on spot, 39s. 9d. Spanish, spot, 36s. 9d. Petroleum: American, 9½d.; water-white, 10½d. per gallon. Linseed quiet, but steady. Calcutta, spot, 62s. 6d.; October-November, 62s. 6d.; November-December, 62s. 6d. La Plata, October-November, 60s. Rape-seed firm. Brown Cawnpoor, November-December (pure), 57s. 6d. Guzerat, ditto, 63s. 6d. Toria (3 per cent.), nominal. Cottonseed quiet. London, Egyptian, November, nominally £11 10s. Resin, common strained, on spot, 16s.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—Still higher prices were established in both bread and feeding stuffs, spot or near this week, sellers remaining reserved in their offers, and the volume of business moderate. Wheat: English, whites and reds quoted 57s. per qr., 504 lbs., delivered. Of imported grades, Canadian, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, held for 61s. 6d., and ditto, nearly due, 60s.



Indian, No. 1 Club Calcutta, nominally, 60s., spot. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 44s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., according to quality, and Canadian export patents up to 44s. 6d., both landed terms. Oats: Plate, 33s. upwards, landed (Bahia Blanca). American white clipped, No. 2, 34s. 6d., landed (40 lbs.). Barley: Plate, 40s. 6d. ex ship, and 41s. 6d. landed. American, ex ship, 40s. Maize: La Plata (sound), ex ship, 38s., and landed, 38s. 6d.

**METALS.**—Copper: The warrant market exhibited distinct activity, and values displayed a smart advance last Monday, near dates reaching £75 2s. 6d. and forward prompts £75 12s. 6d. A reactionary tendency set in until the middle of the week and an absence of demand followed, while values of these dates moved down to £74 5s. and £74 12s. 6d. respectively. At Thursday's session a further downward course was followed, standard, cash delivery, closing at £73 17s. 6d., and three months £74 7s. 6d. Electros £89 to £90. Tin continued fairly active and irregular, the market displaying a higher tendency at the commencement of the week, standard, middle of November, touching £163 10s., and three months £162 15s., closing thereat. Realisations resulted in a reaction on Tuesday, when values of these dates fell back to £162 and £161 10s. respectively. Prices were a little firmer on the following day, early November being registered at £162 10s., and three months £161 10s., settling down at £162 10s. and £161 15s. An improvement characterised Thursday's session, and in these positions were finally fixed at £163 10s. and £162 15s. Straits shipments for last month amount to 4,441 tons, being rather larger than expected, namely, U.K. 1,160, American 2,050, and Continent 1,231. Lead dearer. Foreign, £24 17s. 6d. to £23 15s., as to position. Spelter stronger. G.O.B., November, £82; December, £72. Iron easier.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has presented a stiff appearance during the past week, and the rather easier tendency in raw cotton rates has not had much effect upon quotations in yarn and cloth. Owing to the probable considerable curtailment of production in the near future spinners and manufacturers are in a stronger position than for some time back, and more remunerative prices are being held out for. In raw cotton circles rather bearish influences have been at work, and operators are experiencing difficulty in maintaining prices. Numerous attempts have been made at transactions in piece goods, and in miscellaneous descriptions a fairly healthy trade has transpired for India. Some improvement is now showing itself in the bids for shirtings, but, so far, not much has been done. The outlook for China continues poor, and it is quite evident the political unrest abroad is adversely affecting trade. Of the smaller markets Egypt appears to be the best, but owing to the ramifications of the war the Near East, as a whole, is unfavourably situated from a trade point of view. Printing and finishing cloths have been in request for South America. The colour difficulty is still very pronounced, and some dyers and finishers are refusing to quote for certain descriptions. Manufacturers do not find it easy to estimate their output, and in some instances contracts are being refused if fixed time for delivery is necessary. American yarns for home consumption have been firm in quotation, and prices have not given way equal to the drop in the raw material. Some fairly substantial lines have been put through, especially in the lower and medium numbers. Twofolds continue strongly held, and doublers are very busy. In shipping yarns India has bought qualities suitable for dyeing, and lower counts have been in healthy request for the Continent. Egyptian spinnings have moved off in moderate lots from day to day, and some producers in this section are slightly improving their position.

## Answers to Correspondents.

Wykamist.—(1) British Aluminium prior lien debentures at about 92. (2) Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway 4 per cent. debenture stock, if possible under 70.

Perplexed.—(1) We think you should wait a little. The stock is going up on dividend prospects, and might reach your price. If it does, then sell, because you are quite right as to prospects. (2) It would be a mistake to sell these bonds at the price named, for although the guarantee may be worthless, the property has considerable prospects, and an improvement by-and-by is, we should say, sure.

G. H. W.—A small addition to your holding should help, but you may have to wait a considerable time before a material rise occurs. Nevertheless, the property is a fine one, and when the war is over a spurt at least is to be looked for.

C. J. H.—(1) Yes, you are liable. (2) They seem quite high enough, but in the present temper of the market they may go further. You cannot hope to get top prices, so why not sell some if you do not care to part with all your holding?

M. S.—Probably something will be done soon, but the decision lies with the Treasury, not the Stock Exchange. Meanwhile, cannot you arrange with your bankers if the money is wanted urgently?

K. L. N.—You cannot look for much income from them for some time, but the property owned is valuable, and should become more so as leases fall in, so the advice seems good.

Anglo-Roumanian.—Output week Oct. 23, 234 tons.

Baku Russian.—Estimated gross production week Oct 30, 99,500 poods. Price of crude oil, 45½ copecks per pood.

We are informed by Mr. E. Mackay Edgar, one of the directors of the Mexican Northern Power Co., that the company commenced the supply of power under contract to the Alvarado Mining and Milling Co. on September 28.

## American Business Notes.

So far the decision of the Washington Cabinet to hold out its hand to General Carranza, and recognise him as the man it deems capable of restoring order to Mexico, has done no apparent good. Villa, the brigand, is still to the fore in the North, and no vigorous measures are taken to put him down, although considerable United States forces have been stationed along the Texas frontier. This is just what we should have expected. In fact, it is impossible to expect anything much beyond pious meditations from President Wilson, anything, that is, of an effective kind in helping Mexico to a better Government. He is too altruistic in the wrong sense. He cultivates an altruism which continually leads him to stand aloof and fold his hands in meek thankfulness that he is not as other men are, in sight even of his neighbour's house burning. What should be the policy of the United States towards Mexico? It should be unselfish intervention and an honest, high-minded endeavour to help the Mexican people to put down brigandage, no matter under what leader, and to establish order throughout the country. No design of grabbing at territory, of extending the United States border southward, so as to embrace the oil and other mineral States lying contiguous to the present frontier, ought to be entertained. The intervention should be purely friendly to the Mexican nation, helpful and disinterested; but is there any body of politicians in the North American Union capable of adopting and carrying out a magnanimous policy of this kind? We can see no evidence of its existence in the attitude of Government and people towards the Allies in Europe, who are now giving their lives and substance in loyal and disinterested co-operation to deliver the oppressed, to rescue small nations from the deadly tyranny of the savage Prussian. Therefore the misrule in Mexico appears destined to continue, at least until such time as the turmoil of Presidential politics, on the quadrennial 12 months of which the Republic has now entered, evolves by the hazard of polls a man capable of adopting a statesmanlike attitude towards a sorely troubled neighbour. Is there a chance of that? Not much.

### "THE ROCK ISLAND SCANDAL."

Some time ago a pamphlet bearing this title, and written by Mr. Charles Johnson Post, came to our office and was put aside. In turning over the accumulation of papers after our return to work, we found it and have read it. It deserves to be studied by people here interested in United States Railroad securities. The author describes it as "a plain tale of the most unscrupulous greed and merciless plundering in all the shameless conspiracies of financial New York," and really the description is far from being exaggerated. Here was an old and prosperous trunk railway in the United States, whose share capital alone was £15,000,000, and whose gross earnings were nearly £10,000,000 a year, caught and flung into the hands of a receiver on a trumped-up small debt of less than £3,500, without the knowledge of the board, by a few conspirators, one may say, in the dead of night. The road was not bankrupt nor on the way to bankruptcy. On the contrary, its position was improving, but certain men of the "wealth-grabbing" or "holding" company and their tools, for some object that the pamphlet does not enable us to comprehend, decided that this method of throwing the line into the hands of a receiver was the best and surest way to make it their own. Only three out of the thirteen directors were consulted whilst the receivership was being concocted, and one director, Mr. Amster, was busy arranging for the subscription of a loan of \$6,000,000 when this trick was sprung upon the property and its stockholders. For a month before the stroke was played gambling for the rise had been skilfully engineered on the New York Stock Exchange, so that the price of the shares rose from about \$19 to more than \$38, and the overturn of shares exceed by a quarter of a million the total number representing the company's stock. Surely the American people in-



interested and the American Government are not going to allow a piece of brigandage of this description to go unpunished. If they do we must revise our estimate of the reliability of American railroads as investments.

#### SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

No dividends at all were paid for the past year, closed June 30, on either the preferred stock of this company or the Mobile and Ohio stock trust certificates. In the preceding two years Southern preferred got  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but for 1913-14 2 per cent. of this was paid in scrip, which was anything but sound finance. Business was severely interfered with, not by the war, but by a variety of influences in the past fiscal year, which President Fairfax Harrison describes as "a difficult year." War, however, was the main cause of the trouble, and the gross revenue of the company declined by \$8,551,000 to \$62,200,000. The saving in expenses was \$5,586,000, bringing them down to \$46,175,000, but even so the nett revenue was \$2,965,000 less at \$16,025,000. No wonder, the report says, that the industries on the company's system were "practically suspended" for a time, despite several futile plans of assistance from without, and the management had no small difficulty in steering the property through a very critical time. As the statement about expenses shows, it was only by cutting down outlays in all directions that success attended the effort. All salaries were cut down. For example, officials receiving incomes in excess of \$2,500 a year were "voluntarily and loyally" reduced in fair proportions with the lower grades, and at the end of the year the shareholders had to take their part in the sacrifice. It follows that the company is able to close its accounts with a surplus of \$1,523,000. Had the 4 per cent. dividend been paid, there would have been a deficiency of about \$800,000, or, including the payment on the Mobile and Ohio certificates, of nearly \$1,000,000. Besides the cutting down of salaries and wages so as to be able to pay all fixed charges with this surplus over, the management also imitated other roads in raising the weight of the train load. Since 1908 this has been increased by 50 per cent., or from 228 tons to 339, and for the past year it was 382 tons. Other economies do not seem to have affected the upkeep of the property, for President Harrison declared that the condition of the roadway and structures is better than ever it has been, so that greater vigilance must have been employed in preventing waste. A slight decrease took place during the year in the company's long-term debt, bringing it down to about \$48,500,000, but as there was no revenue with which to pay the debt off, floating items were increased, although equipment trust obligations were reduced by \$3,193,000. Altogether, however, \$11,022,000 of fresh money seems to have been put into the road and its equipment during the 12 months, and it has money in hand with which to go on making improvements. The Southern agglomerate, in short, ought to turn out a good investment after a little time, provided honesty continues to preside in its management.

#### Insurance News.

It was to be expected that a business so sensitive as that of life insurance would suffer from the war. No surprise or disappointment, therefore, need be caused by the report of the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society covering the year closed June 30 last. It included 11 months of war, and one effect of that war is depletion of the society's staff. Seven directors and 39 members of the staff are serving either in the Army or Navy, and five have been killed in action. That is a melancholy fact, but also an emphatic testimony to the spirit of patriotism animating the classes from which these men were drawn. As for the business of the year, it seems to us to have been surprisingly good, 754 policies insuring £965,345 having been issued. Of the total liability £292,613 was reinsured, so that the nett risk taken by the Clerical and Medical itself was £672,732. Single premiums amounting to £1,433 were received, and the new

yearly renewal premium was £23,839. Altogether the premium income of the company was £448,666, or £10,901 more than that of the previous year. Interest income of £259,194 represented a gross yield of £4 4s. 6d. per cent. on the assurance fund, or slightly more than the yield of the preceding year, but the heavier income-tax brings the nett yield down from £3 19s. 5d. to £3 17s. 1d. per cent. It is highly satisfactory to learn that no interest is overdue. After meeting all claims—and £65,417 of the death claims were directly due to the war, making them exceptionally large—the total of which was still well within the expected amount, "a moderate mortality profit accrued." At the same time, expenses of management were reduced by £1 2s. 9d. per cent. to £12 1s. 5d. per cent. of the premium income. Thus the surplus left after everything had been paid or provided for was £222,270, or £89,259 less than that of the preceding year, but still a most satisfactory result. Its addition to the life fund brings up its total to £6,223,406. No valuation of the securities has been made, but last year was the fourth of the quinquennium, and the heavy and delicate work involved in such a valuation now will fall to be made, doubtless with the usual rigour, a year hence.

In view of the fact that the possibility of civilians being killed by bombs from hostile aircraft had not been taken into consideration when the contract of life assurance was originally framed, the question naturally has arisen as to whether life policies cover the risk of death occurring as the result of an air raid. Policyholders need have no fears in this respect, as all policies cover the risk of death in every form, and no question as to the liability of the insurance companies need arise.

According to a message from Copenhagen, a number of firms in that city and the provinces have founded an insurance company with a share capital of about £835,000, all of which has been subscribed. The company, which is to be known as the Baltica, will begin war insurance as soon as possible, and sea and transport insurance after January 1.

The effects of the disturbance caused by the war are reflected in the figures of the French insurance companies transacting marine insurance business. According to the *Moniteur des Assurances*, the total of nett risk premiums expiring in 1914 was about 23 million francs, a diminution over the total of 21 companies of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million francs. As regards accident business, the loss ratio worked out at 59.43 per cent. of the premiums, but this represented a decrease of 11.44 per cent. in the percentage. The general results of the year 1914 show a profit balance of 2,935,755 frs., an increase of 1,182,130 frs. over the figures for 1913. It was natural that maritime insurance operations should reflect the war position, although to some extent the increase in import business compensated in part for the decrease in exports. On the whole, the year 1914 was not much affected by casualties, and the accounts were closed in a satisfactory manner for the companies.

Judging from statements in the insurance Press, the question of the legality of the Anglo-French War Loan as an investment for American insurance companies has arisen, and inquiries were addressed to the insurance authorities of New York State. The reply elicited was to the effect that, as regards individual companies, the question depended upon the facts with reference to the organisation of each company and the field of its operations. Insurance companies organised under the laws of New York State are not permitted to invest in foreign securities unless actually engaged in the transaction of the business of insurance in a foreign country. New York institutions which transact business abroad may invest in the bonds of a foreign Government within whose jurisdiction they operate. Apparently the prevalence of war does not make unlawful the otherwise lawful investments of insurance corporations in the bonds of the belligerent Powers, so long as the securities are of value and continue to yield interest.



## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

The Singapore United Rubber Plantations worked to some purpose in the year ended June 30, and managed to bring down the "all-in" cost from rs. 9.29d. to 11.28d., exclusive of 0.39d. for war risk insurance. Conditions during the latter half of the year were very unfavourable owing to the temporary prohibition of immigration of Chinese coolies, the increased demand for labour for tin mining, and the shortage of rainfall. In spite of these drawbacks the output of rubber showed an increase of 137,937 lbs. at 402,274 lbs., and although the nett price was 2.01d. smaller at 2s. 0.69d., the nett profits were £21,616, or an improvement of £15,333. With £18,246 brought forward, the divisible total was £17,616 up at £39,862, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, as against nothing last year, and £19,433, or £1,187 more, is carried forward. Additions to the cost of the estates amounted to £9,750, making a total of £220,570, but buildings, &c., were reduced by £1,370 to £12,051. Debtors owe £3,916 less at £2,799, but rubber in hand is valued at £11,841, or an increase of £8,990, and cash has risen by £5,142 to £8,046. The output for the current year is estimated at 525,000 lbs., so that a further substantial increase in profits seems assured, even if the price and cost remain at last year's level.

Although for the second year in succession the Singapore Para Rubber Estate failed to realise its estimated output, the results for the 12 months ended June 30 were satisfactory. The crop was 49,600 lbs. up at 359,725 lbs. and the price was only 0.73d. lower at 2s. 2.45d., while the "all-in" cost was further reduced by 3.03d. to 1s. 3.55d. Nett profits were £4,565 better at £16,476, but £8,237 less at £5,472 was brought in, so that the disposable total showed a decrease of £3,672 at £21,948. The directors, however, are not so liberal with their appropriations as they were a year ago, writing off only £1,000, or £3,474 less, from buildings and machinery account and transferring £2,000 against £7,720 to reserve, and they are therefore able to raise the dividend from 6 per cent. to 10 and to carry forward £5,858, or £286 more. Property account shows a reduction on balance of £1,951 at £135,180, against which the reserve now amounts to £14,000. Stocks are £1,842 larger at £9,060, and the company has invested £9,888 in War Loan and Treasury bills, but cash is £7,652 down at £10,102, while £4,217, or £1,788 more, is due to sundry creditors. A crop of 450,000 lbs. is expected for the current year, and as the output for the first three months was 120,961 lbs. there seems to be every prospect that this figure will be realised.

Owing to the exhaustion of the gas pressure the Cheleken Oilfields had to depend on baling for the production of crude oil from its principal plot in 1914, and this, with the accumulation of water, resulted in a decrease of 1,637,662 poods to 2,069,801 poods. Two new plots were brought in, but the output from these only amounted to 466,380 poods, so that the total was still 1,171,282 poods down at 2,536,181 poods. A satisfactory price of 35½ copecks was realised, but it was not sufficient to counteract the smaller output and the general advance in wages and cost of materials, and nett profits were £56,922 down at £21,095. With £20,257 more at £36,262 brought in, the amount available was £57,357, or £36,665, less, and in order to adjust the finances so as to provide for important development work in hand without issuing further capital, the directors have decided not to repeat last year's dividend of 10 per cent. Instead of making a distribution, they write £6,430 off preliminary expenses, £17,300 off investments, and £8,250 off debtors, and transfer £25,000 to the general reserve, leaving £377 to be carried forward. During the year the cost of the property, after allowing for depreciation, was increased by £23,558 to £332,222. Debtors owe £16,800 less at £15,532, and cash balances are £16,845 down at £2,372, against a decrease of £12,431 to £956 in "hand money" received and an increase of £9,538 to £25,392 in sundry creditors.

Judging by the circular issued by the receivers and managers of the Commonwealth Oil Corporation the outlook for that unfortunate concern would seem to be improving. Two experimental retorts of the new form designed by Mr. John Fell have been in continuous operation for several months, and have yielded a large increase in crude oil, representing an increase both in oil per ton of shale treated and in the tonnage put through each retort per day. It is also stated that by the new form of retorts the richest shale, which formerly was reserved for export, can now be treated. Although the results give reason for encouragement, a longer test under ordinary working conditions is considered necessary before it can be definitely said that all serious trouble has been surmounted. The contract with Mr. Fell, however, provides for his operating the plant under certain conditions for three years unless the necessary fresh capital can be raised at an earlier date, so that the share and debenture holders will have ample opportunity of judging of the probable future of the property before being called upon to subscribe.

A call of 2s. 6d. per share has been made on the partly-paid shares of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust payable on December 1. Such shares will then become 17s. 6d. paid, and the directors state that after giving the matter their most careful attention they have decided to make the final call payable on March 31, 1916.

## The Week in Mines.

The outstanding event in the Mining markets this week has been the broadening of business in South African shares, which have developed a distinctly cheerful tone together with a number of substantial rises. The reasons for this improvement in the "Kaffir" market are General Botha's victory at the polls and the prospect that the gold production this year is likely to establish a fresh record, thanks to the very satisfactory labour position, which should also tend to reduce costs and increase profits. In the base metal departments, copper shares have displayed a good tendency on American buying.

### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has continued to gather strength and activity all the week, thanks mainly to a steady influx of buying orders from the Cape. Far Eastern Rand and Deep Level shares have attracted most attention, of course, and prices of some of them have advanced appreciably. Van Ryn Deeps, whose dividend prospects are regarded as very encouraging, have been in particular request, partly on Cape account, and advanced 9-32 to 2½. City Deeps have also been prominently active, and are ½ up at 3 15-32. Johannesburg is reported to have been a big purchaser of Modder B's and Government Modders, which have risen ¾ to 5¼ and 1s. 6d. to 27s. 6d. respectively. Rumour had it that the B's dividend next month will be raised to 7s. 6d. New Modders have advanced ¼ to 15½, Modder Deeps ¼ to 5½, Brakpans ¼ to 3½, Springs to 27s. 3d., the Options to 8s. 3d., Gedulds to 33s. 3d., Transvaal Coal Trusts 3-32 to 3½, and Consolidated Mines Selection 1s. 3d. to 10s. 6d. Knights, Knights Deeps, Wit. Deeps, Wolhuters, and Randfonteins have been in request, and the shares have been difficult to obtain at times. Interest in Simmer Deeps has revived for some unexplained reason, and the shares have at 3s. almost doubled in price. Among the Finance shares, Gold Fields have marked up to 26s. on the satisfactory dividend, and Rand Mines have risen to 4 5-32, Central Minings to 6½, and Johnnies to 15s. 3d. Diamond shares have been stronger than ever on the better trade outlook, De Beers deferreds have risen ¼ to 11½, the preferences 1 to 13½, Premier deferreds ¼ to 4½, the preferences ¾ to 7½, and Jagers ¼ to 3½. In the Rhodesian section, Chartereds have been in some demand and have rallied to 9s. 9d., while Globes have spurred to 26s. 6d. Mashonaland Agencies at 8s. 6d. and Tanganyikas at 1½ are better. Among West African shares, Abossos rose to 13-32 and Taquahs to 14s. 9d. on the increased profits shown in the reports.



## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been actively bought on American account, especially Anacondas, which have jumped from 16½ to 17½ xd. Utahs have risen ½ to 15½, and Rio Tintos have recovered from 52½ to 54. Hampdens also have rallied to 29s., but Russians have been very subdued. Among West Australian descriptions Ivanhoes have been supported at 2½, and Golden Horse Shoes have been firm at 2 on the dividend. Of the Indian group, Nundydroogs improved to 27s. and Mysore to 4½ on the dividends, while Balaghats put on another 6d. to 5s. 6d. Broken Hill shares have been supported, notably Proprietaries, which have risen to 44s. 6d., and Sulphide Corporation ordinary at 19s. 6d. and the preference at 13-32. In the tin group Malaysians at 1½, Renongs at 1½, and Naragutas at 7½ have been on the downward grade, but Ipohs at 1½ and Siamese at 2½ are rather higher.

There has been less activity in Mexican shares. Esperanzas have been down to 10s. 6d., but they recovered to 11s. 3d. on buying, partly emanating from America, while Camp Bird preferences have been in good demand at 11s. 6d. Camp Bird ordinary, however, have reacted to 7s. 9d., while El Oros at 10s. 6d. and Mexico Mines of El Oro at 4½ are also a shade lower. Alaska Treadwells have been bought up to 6½, and Alaska Goldfields have risen to 4s. 6d. on higher dividend expectations. Tomboys have further improved to 22s. 6d.

## MINING NEWS.

**ABOSSO GOLD.**—In the year ended June 30, 107,240 tons were crushed for £182,152, or 33s. 11d. per ton, which figures compare with 88,381 tons for £153,262, or 34s. 8d. per ton; 33,851 tons of Customs ore were also treated during the period. Costs remained at 27s. 9d. per ton, but in the last six months the costs averaged only 25s. 3d. per ton. The profit for the year was £23,920, an increase of £10,716, and the available balance, including the sum brought in, is £50,622, against £46,702. The dividend of 5 per cent. is repeated, and £30,622 carried forward, against £26,701. Reserves of ore are estimated at 270,700 tons, valued at 33s. 3d. per ton, against 270,720 tons, valued at 34s. 7d. per ton, last year. Since the report was written a crosscut from No. 9 level has located the west reef at a point to the north of the north fault and in the neighbourhood of the main shaft. The reef over 24 ft. averaged 46s. 9d. per ton over a width of 56 ins. This development is important, and is to be further explored.

**TAQUAH.**—The report for the year ended June 30 states that the loan account, which at the end of the previous year stood at £29,166, has been paid off, and the company has now no loans or charges upon its assets. Profits increased from £43,822 to £61,313, which, added to £53,306 brought in, makes £114,620. Three dividends, amounting to 15 per cent., have been paid, as against 5 per cent. for 1913-14. £10,627 is applied in reduction of the cost of shafts and for depreciation of investments, and £45,871 is carried forward. During the year 69,509 tons were crushed for £207,687, or 59s. 9d. per ton; these figures compare with 58,746 tons for £178,312, or 60s. 10d. per ton. Costs were reduced by 4s. 11d. per ton to 34s. 1d. per ton. Reserves of ore have been increased from 191,279 tons to 196,803 tons, the value being 3d. lower at 60s. 9d. per ton. The new zone of pay values met with in No. 10 level south, west reef, is a point of considerable interest. Facts so far obtained, though they are not conclusive evidence, indicate the existence of another lens of payable ore, and further exploratory work is proceeding.

**LAKE VIEW AND OROYA EXPLORATION.**—The revenue account for the 12 months ended June 30 shows a profit of £35,910, a decrease of £40,315. After adding £22,481 brought into the accounts, the available balance is £40,185 down at £58,391. Two dividends, amounting to 10 per cent., have been paid, the same as in 1913-14 but nothing is transferred to reserve, as against £40,000 so appropriated last year, and £22,296 is carried forward. A first interim dividend of 5 per cent. has since been paid in respect of the current year.

**CHAFFERS GOLD MINING CO.**—The Westralian Mines Development Syndicate announces that the Chaffers Gold Mining property was sold on the 27th ultimo at a price largely exceeding the sum subscribed by shareholders of the Chaffers Gold Mining Co. for its purchase. An account of these subscriptions and expenses is being prepared, and cheques for the amounts returnable will be forwarded to subscribers as soon as possible. It will be recalled that Mr. Sidney S. Kennedy and the Westralian Mines Development Syndicate last month proposed that the shareholders should subscribe a sum to purchase their own property, the syndicate to get its expenses and 2½ per cent. commission on the subscriptions, but as they did not succeed in getting the property presumably the commission will not be charged.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

## TALTAL RAILWAY CO., LTD.

Seeing how disorganised the nitrate trade was for the past year, it is surely a matter for satisfaction to find the board of this railway able to maintain the 6 per cent. dividend on its shares just as if nothing had happened. Gross receipts were £176,686 less at £132,882, while the working expenses were cut down by no more than £76,495 to £79,174. Adding all other sources of income and the balance brought forward from 1913-14, the year ending on June 30 always, which was £27,797 more at £50,355, the nett clear revenue was £71,690 less at £11,307. Out of this the dividend has been made up to 6 per cent. by a final payment of 4s. per share. The interim dividend was only 2s. per share, or 1s. less than that for 1913-14, but the difference has now been made up, and the balance left to carry forward is only £23,124 down at £27,231, but then nothing is placed to the general reserve this year, whereas a year ago it got £50,000. The board feels justified in recommending this dividend in view of the improved outlook of the nitrate industry in Chile and of the company's satisfactory position, and it is to be hoped that things will begin to improve in spite of the prolongation of the war. Last year's aggregate weight of goods carried by the railway fell off 286,125 tons to 192,572 tons, a decrease of 59.77 per cent. During the year £20,661 was spent on capital account, raising the total outlay upon the railway, which is 184 miles long, to £1,350,885. This addition is arrived at after writing off the cost of old condensing plant and crediting the amount recovered from the insurance company in respect of property damaged by fire, &c., a total of £5,439. In the balance-sheet £10,000 is shown as having been transferred to meet depreciation of investments. This leaves the general reserve at £90,000, but altogether, including reserves for renewals and for improvement of water supply, &c., the company has £172,500 laid by.

## COLORADO NITRATE CO., LTD.

Business was practically at a standstill during the year ended June 30, as the manufacture of nitrate was suspended in August, and was not resumed until June 15. A considerable proportion of the stock in hand was realised, but the nett result of the year's working was a loss of £13,253, compared with a profit of £23,040 for 1913-14. Deducting £10,463 brought forward, there was a deficiency of £2,790 to be carried to the new accounts, and the shareholders, who last year got 5s. per share, have now to go without a dividend. Stocks of nitrate show a reduction of £35,020 at £10,465, but bills receivable and sundry debtors come to £36,264, or £33,368 more. On the other hand, creditors and bills payable are £9,710 up at £48,108, and the company has had to borrow £30,600 from its bankers. Prospects for the current year, however, are much more promising, as the directors were encouraged by increased selling prices to reopen the works on June 15, and since that date manufacture has gone on smoothly.

## LIVERPOOL NITRATE CO., LTD.

Although this company also suffered from the closing of the European markets, it did not do quite so badly as the Colorado Co. One oficina was reopened in April, and the second in June, while the third is expected to resume work very shortly. Gross profits were £61,022 smaller at £42,682, but credit is taken for £8,831, which was written off a year ago for dishonoured bills and has since been recovered. After providing for interest and other charges, including stoppage expenses of £17,118, the nett balance was £65,010 smaller at £22,605, making, with £24,502 brought in, £47,107, or £55,787 less, available for distribution. Notwithstanding this heavy drop, the directors have decided, in view of the improved prospects, to pay a dividend of 4s. per share, or only 1s. less than for 1913-14. During the year a further £5,376 was spent on the new oficina Mapocho, together with £9,534 on the calichera railway at that oficina. Stocks of nitrate are £26,905 down at £26,958, bills receivable and sundry debtors are £22,664 lower at £27,898, and cash has dropped by £5,757 to £5,478, against which there are decreases of £19,976 to £15,773 in sundry creditors and £43,793 to £44,207 in bills payable, but £17,791 has been borrowed from the bankers.

## ROVER CO., LTD.

War conditions proved decidedly disadvantageous in the year ended August 31, partly, it would seem, from the fact that the undertaking is now a controlled establishment under the Munitions Act. Owing to this, the company has a considerable lock-up of stock which cannot at present be realised, and its profits on trade account showed a reduction of no less than £48,911 at £125,014. Income-tax required an extra £8,027 at £17,205, and £15,000 was transferred to war contingencies fund, so that the nett profits, including £34,227, or £17,790 less, brought forward, were £89,263 smaller at £99,728. The dividend has been cut down from 40 per cent. to 10 per cent., while the appropriations to general reserve and plant reserve are reduced by £20,000 and £10,000 respectively to £30,000 and £10,000. Nothing is set aside for property reserve, compared with £10,000, and the employees' bonus of £15,000 is not repeated, but an additional £2,500 at £7,500 is transferred to the war reserve for employees' dependents, and the balance carried forward is increased by £3,508 to £40,360. Stocks are £10,229 up at £156,662, and debtors owe £48,944 more at £67,411, but cash has been reduced by £67,554 to £30,358, partly owing to the purchase of £10,000 War Loan at a cost of £9,946 and of £7,765 of other securities. Creditors show a decrease of £5,233 at £47,408, so that the financial position is certainly sound enough, and with the works now employed on munitions, the results for the current year ought to show a considerable improvement.



# S. AND W. BERISFORD, LTD.

Apparently the directors of this Manchester wholesale grocery undertaking conducted their business on very cautious lines during the year ended September 30, and at a time when many similar concerns are showing a considerable expansion in profits they have gone in the other direction. Nett profits were £42,755 smaller at £38,708, but a year ago the prudent course was adopted of keeping a substantial amount undivided, and with this help the surplus now available is consequently only £17,365 down at £76,935. Last year £15,000 was written off goodwill, and £17,500 was transferred to reserve, but this time the directors set aside £33,434 for income-tax and excess profits tax, although the need for the latter is not evident on the surface. Out of the balance a dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, but the bonus of 2s. per share, or another 10 per cent., is not repeated, and after giving the directors £2,138 less at £1,935 the balance carried forward is reduced by £8,662 to £29,566. Stocks are £50,944 up at £64,688, but debtors, bank balances, &c., come to £61,373 less at £157,446, while sundry creditors have risen by £51,807 to £62,777. The company has invested £44,183 in the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and the financial position seems sound.

## COMPANY MEETINGS.

### CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

The ninety-first annual general meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society was held at the chief office, 15, St. James's Square, S.W., on Friday, Mr. John Coles (chairman) presiding.

Mr. A. D. Besant (general manager) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: You will see that 39 of our staff joined the forces, and we admire their patriotism, but, alas! five of them have fallen on the field of battle. We are not unmindful of the interests in their absence of those now serving their country, and a hearty welcome will await those who return to their duties here. It was somewhat difficult to value our Stock Exchange securities on June 30 last; therefore, the directors decided not to make any revaluation of our assets in the accounts before you, so the book valuation remains for the present as in 1914. The shrinkage in the value of our Stock Exchange securities is considerable, but not enough to impair our strong position, and, fortunately, only one-third of our assets (or, say, two millions) is invested in these securities. After careful consideration of the whole position, I have come to the conclusion that 4 per cent. of our total assets (say, £250,000) would be an outside estimate of the depreciation on June 30 last. As regards our mortgages, we cannot find any weakness in any of them, and there is no interest overdue. I must not forget to refer to our investment of £768,000 in the General Reversionary Co. Our general manager and Mr. Tilt have lately gone carefully into this item, and they find that its value is fully maintained. In view of the remarkable condition of the New York Exchange, we have, since our accounts were closed on June 30, sold a considerable portion of our United States Railroad bonds at about cost price, and re-invested the proceeds in the new 4½ per cent. Government Loan. This Loan seemed so desirable on all grounds that, after converting our Consols and our first War Loan, we now hold £310,000. This stock can be, and personally I think will be, paid off at par 10 years hence, or converted into other stock bearing a lower rate of interest. As to the conversion of our 2½ per cent. Consols at £66 13s. 4d., I confess that I consented with some reluctance, as this stock cannot be paid off under par and our old 2½ per cent. Consols touched 113½ in 1897-8. I do not like parting with our Consols on the terms offered. The increased interest, no doubt, tempted many, but this will, in my opinion, end in 10 years. My own feeling is that within the 10 years when the War Loan may be paid off or converted the improved credit of this great country will admit of a conversion far below 4½ per cent. I need scarcely remind you that we have no investment on the Continent of Europe. Amidst the depreciation of assets there is at least one bright spot, and that is the growth in value of these excellent freehold premises. They stand in our books at £18,000, and I am assured that they are worth to-day nearly £50,000. I should like to say a few words as to our bonus prospects. We are, it is true, in a transitory period, and it is impossible to see far ahead, but our actuary informs me that the first three years of this quinquennium were remarkably prosperous and yielded unusually large profits, so that if peace had continued we should certainly have been able to divide next year a sum greatly in excess of the £750,000 distributed in 1911. Last year yielded nearly the usual profit from surplus interest, and, in spite of war claims, there was still some mortality profit, and the current year seems likely to give somewhat similar results. The prospects of bonus, therefore, apart from the question of depreciation of assets, are exceptionally good. Fortunately, we have in our additional reserves, over and above our 1½ per cent. valuation, a fund which should go a long way to meet the present position and to satisfy all our policyholders. As you are aware, we prided ourselves for many years past upon the fact that every policy we issued was whole-world and unconditional. When the war broke out in August, 1914, we were forced by circumstances to change all this, and our new policies now contain a clause providing for the payment of an additional

premium if the assured engages in war service. The present war has proved that the necessary rate for war service is almost prohibitive. The effect has been to restrict very greatly assurances upon the lives of all persons of military age, for, naturally, people hesitate to commit themselves to an unknown liability in the form of extra premiums. It occurred to us, therefore, that it would be a great advantage to have an alternative scheme under which the ordinary scale of premium would continue to be payable, but in the event of death on war service the office, instead of paying the ordinary full sum assured, will return twice the premium paid. After the war the assured will have the opportunity of coming back to us, and if we are satisfied that he is still in good health we propose to make his policy from that day forward whole-world and unconditional. If, however, his health has become impaired during the period of service, we shall give him a generous surrender value. This scheme will, I think, go far to meet the present difficulties, and the amount returned on death or surrender will provide in all cases a handsome return on the money spent. I will now turn for the moment to the figures of the annual report. Our new assurances were £965,000. Of this large sum we reassured £292,000, so that our net new business was £672,000, and I am sure you will agree with me that this is a very satisfactory total for a year which includes 11 months of war. The premium income shows a satisfactory growth—nearly £11,000—and the gross interest income is £13,000 in excess of the preceding year, but, owing to the increase in the income-tax, the net yield shows some reduction. I hope, however, that this will not be the case next year, for the Finance Act passed last summer makes important changes in our income-tax payments.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

### SUMATRA PARA RUBBER PLANTATIONS.

The eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the Sumatra Para Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held on Wednesday in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. H. A. Barrett (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. E. Crane) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Our rubber realised a gross average price of 2s. 3.02d. per lb., a decline of nearly 5½d. per lb. on the price realised for last season's crop. Against the decline in selling price we can set a satisfactory saving of 2.17d. per lb. on the "all-in" cost of our rubber, and this notwithstanding the expenses of war risk insurance and heavier freight charges, the former alone representing over 1 per cent. on our issued capital. After allowing for depreciation of buildings and machinery to the extent of £1,500, our profit for the year amounted to £32,850 2s. 1d. on a crop of 532,233 lbs., making, with the amount of £8,147 1s. 5d. brought forward from last year, a grand total of £40,997 13s. 6d. An interim dividend of 8½ per cent.—2d. per share—was distributed in February last in respect of this profit, and we consider the position of the company justifies our recommending to you a further distribution to the extent of 4½ per share, making in all 6½d. per share, or 27 1-12 per cent. for the year. This will leave an amount of £7,143 10s. 2d. to carry forward to next year. You will have seen from the report that 48½ acres of rubber were added during the year, bringing up the company's planted area to 3,617 acres. Had times been normal, undoubtedly the coming year would have seen the planted area still further added to, but such systematic extensions cannot be carried out without some increase being made in the European staff, which, under existing conditions, is out of the question, owing to the impossibility of obtaining assistants. Of the total cultivated area 2,418 acres are being worked as in bearing—that is, all expenditure on this portion of the estate is charged to revenue account. Although treated as in bearing for expenditure purposes, the old plantation of 88½ acres only can be said to be in full bearing, the remaining 1,533 acres being in various stages of development. The average output of the old estate "all over" was 442 lbs. per acre, while the partial bearing area gave an average outturn of 92 lbs. per acre only, so that as this latter area develops we can look to the yield ultimately reaching the higher figure. In the absence of Lieut. Hadow the estate was visited by Mr. Maurice Maude, of Cicely Estate, F.M.S., on September 7 last. He speaks very highly of the condition of the whole estate, and particularly mentions the tapping as being excellent and showing efficient supervision. The crop for the current season is estimated at 620,000 lbs. of rubber, and as we have already obtained during the first four months 193,000 lbs. (an increase of 50,000 lbs. on the corresponding period last year), I anticipate, as we still have the heavy cropping months ahead of us, that the estimated outturn will be secured. We have made a forward contract for a portion of our crop, 60 tons having been sold at a price of 2s. 2d. f.o.b. for delivery five tons a month during the months of November, 1915, to October, 1916, inclusive. This price is equivalent to 2s. 4½d. per lb. landed in London during the months of January-December, 1916. It is, of course, difficult to foretell the course of the rubber market, particularly during such times as these, but, with the maintenance of the value of rubber at its present price of 2s. 6½d. per lb., we can with confidence look to a satisfactory result of the current season's working.

Mr. Longworthy seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.



## BARCLAY AND CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of Barclay and Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the head office, 54, Lombard Street, E.C., for the purpose of submitting resolutions approving a joint working agreement with the United Counties Bank, Ltd. Mr. J. Herbert Tritton presided.

In the absence of the Secretary (Mr. Edwin Fisher), on active service, the notice convening the meeting was read by Mr. W. N. Seeley, one of the Assistant Secretaries.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—I have to ask you whether you will take the agreements which are referred to in the notice as read. (Agreed.) A telegram from Birmingham has just been placed in my hands announcing, "Resolutions passed unanimously—Roper"—that is, at the general meeting of the United Counties Bank this morning. I regret to have to explain that my presence in the chair is due to the sudden, and let us hope quite temporary, indisposition of our chairman, Mr. F. A. Bevan, and to the absence on military duties of our vice-chairman, Colonel H. G. Barclay. Four of our directors are at the front. You have been asked to approve of the working agreement between Barclay and Co., Limited, and the United Counties Bank, Limited. As stated in the letter of the 27th ultimo, your directors arranged provisional terms for amalgamation with the United Counties Bank, Ltd., several months ago. This bank was an old client of ours, and it was, therefore, natural that negotiations should be entered into between them and ourselves, and the terms set forth in the letter of 27th ultimo were agreed upon. Great pressure is being put on manufacturers of munitions to turn out work as fast as possible; large contracts are being entered into by the Government for the building of huts and purchase of foodstuffs, and the banks are being called upon by these manufacturers and contractors to finance them pending the period of repayment. I may say that during the war we have endeavoured to give all reasonable assistance to such customers. Looking at the present position of affairs, would it not appear self-evident that our proposals should be welcomed by the Government as adding to our mutual strength, and, therefore, helping the financing of the requirements of the war? Then, looking to the future (to the longed-for day when peace—on terms satisfactory to the Allies—shall be made), it is quite clear that Germany must and will make greater efforts than ever to secure as much of the trade of the world as possible, and that our manufacturers and traders will have to do their very utmost to compete with them successfully. Therefore, I say, whether looking to the present or the future, it is of the greatest importance that the banks in this country should be as strong as possible. And, may I not add, are not the Government greatly indebted to the banks for having come forward so splendidly with their very large subscriptions to the War Loan? Taking these matters into consideration, would you not have thought that when the Treasury Committee (whose sanction was necessary in order that the shares to be allotted to the United Counties Bank, Ltd., should be marketable) was approached they would at once have signified their approval of the scheme? When first we asked their permission to amalgamate, one of the proposed conditions was an increase of capital, but, on being informed that they could not sanction any increase of capital during the war, we waived this part of the scheme and only asked for an exchange of shares, no application being made to the public and no prospectus issued, but we were again met with an absolute refusal. We then offered to go and explain our position to the Committee, but they refused to see us, giving no reason at all for their action. Now I may inform you, gentlemen, that the highest financial authorities, and also some of the most eminent legal opinions, not only approved of our scheme, but expressed great surprise at the action of the Treasury Committee, and you have doubtless read the comments of the Press, which, I believe, without exception, condemned the action of the Committee. What the reason is for their refusal remains a mystery. They have sanctioned many applications for issues of fresh capital in the case of companies and Colonial Governments, and I think the shareholders of the two banks may therefore justly complain that they have been very hardly treated by this Committee, which surely was never created to hinder such a sound business arrangement as this amalgamation. It has been generally understood that the functions of this Committee are purely for the prevention of export of capital from this country for foreign exploitations or for the financing of imports, and that they have no such duty of prohibiting business of a character which is calculated to promote and develop the manufacturing and export trades of this country. It may be asked why, instead of waiting until the Committee give their sanction, or the war comes to an end, the banks have not deferred action, and to this I reply that, having in prospect what both banks believe to be a good thing, it is thought well to ensure, as far as can be done, the certainty of the scheme being carried out, and this, we believe, has been done by this working agreement, whereby neither bank can for a very long period enter into negotiations with any other bank, and whereby each bank will have some control in the management of the other. There is no amalgamation of capital, but there is a sharing of profits, any surplus of which, after paying the agreed dividends on the shares, will, after depreciation of securities, be divided between the two banks in certain proportions, but for the present will be held in reserve. The directors of both banks believe that this arrangement, leading on to amalgamation, will be of great benefit to each other. Barclay and Co., Ltd., will have a large field, hitherto untouched, open to them (at present there are only seven places where both banks have branches), and the United Counties Bank, Ltd., will be able to give larger facilities to

their customers in the manufacturing and commercial centres in which they already carry on very important business. We consider, therefore, that from a national standpoint this amalgamation should be for the public benefit, both now and in the difficult times which must come upon us when the war has terminated.

The Chairman concluded by expressing the opinion that the Treasury Committee might, after all, see fit to sanction the amalgamation.

The resolutions approving of the working arrangement were then formally proposed by the Chairman, and having been duly seconded, were carried unanimously. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Millar Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. G. Rowland Blades.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Aguas Blancas Nitrate.—Interim of 5 per cent. for year ending Dec. 31, on the ordinary, payable Nov. 30, against 3 per cent. a year ago.

Bank of British West Africa.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended Sept. 30, against 5 per cent.

Bank of New Zealand.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. on capital paid as at April 1, 1915, and at the rate of 3 per cent. on capital paid as at July 1, 1915, payable Dec. 7, same as a year ago.

Bankers' Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ended Oct. 31, payable Nov. 17, same as a year ago.

Batavia Plantation Investments.—Interim of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., free tax, out of profits of half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 26. The directors state that it has been decided to continue the system of paying dividends free of tax, and the distribution is maintained at the same rate as from the inception of the company in 1912, although income-tax is now 3s. in the £ instead of 1s. 2d. as it then was.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.—In addition to the half-year's guaranteed interest of £1 10s. per cent., an interim of 10s. per cent. in respect of profits for financial year 1915-16, payable in Jan., same as last year.

Brampton Brewery.—Interim for half-year ended Sept. 30 of 4 per cent., payable 15th inst., same as a year ago.

Broomhill Collieries.—The payment of arrears of dividend, less tax, on the preference shares, for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years—viz., Jan. 1, 1912, to June 30, 1913, payable Nov. 15. Last year the preference dividend for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years, viz., to Dec. 31, 1910, was paid.

Brunner, Mond.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended Sept. at the rate of  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, less tax, against 20 per cent. last year and 25 per cent. interim in the two previous years, payable Dec. 17.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.—£2 16s. 6d. per cent. for year on the second preference. Last year the full dividend was paid on the second preference, but nothing on the ordinary.

Burma Railways.—Final of £1 5s. per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent., both subject to tax, on account of surplus profits for year to March 31, which will be distributed with the guaranteed interest payable on Dec. 31, making 6 per cent. for the year, same as last year.

Chubwa Tea.—Interim for current year of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, same as a year ago.

Compania Sansinena de Carnes Congeladas.—Further of 15 per cent. for year ended Dec. 31, 1914, payable Nov. 9; an interim payment for 1914 of 10 per cent. was made last May; no dividend was paid for 1912 or 1913.

Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited.—Realised profit £299,152, from which dividends on the first and second preference shares and French Government taxes have been provided, leaving £145,616, which, added to the sum of £84,472 brought forward from last year, leaves £230,088. Investments stand in the books at average cost or under, and all shares are taken into account at prices below those current at the date when the accounts were made up. The changes that have taken place in the company's holdings during the past year have not materially affected the general position or nature of the investments. Directors recommend cash dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., free of income-tax, on the 2,000,000 ordinary shares, amounting to £150,000, leaving £80,088 to be carried to current year.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Second interim for 1915 of 2s. 6d. per share, free tax, payable Dec. 10; no dividend was paid for 1914.

Hampden Cloncurry Copper.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 26; in July last a dividend of the same amount was declared.

India General Navigation and Railway.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, payable Nov. 23, against  $2\frac{1}{2}$  a year ago.

National Benefit Life and Property Assurance.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on account of current year.

Ooregum Gold Mining.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 9d. per share (less tax) on both ordinary and preference, payable Dec. 8, same as a year ago.

Perak Rubber Plantations.—Interim of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per share (about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.), payable Nov. 26, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Royal Insurance.—Interim of 14s. per share, subject tax, payable 16th inst., same as a year ago.

Shotts Iron Company.—5s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary for year to Sept. 30, against 2s. a year ago.

Vallambrosa Rubber.—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax, in respect of year to March 31, 1916. Last year no interim dividend was declared.

Western Australian Bank.—Usual of £1 per share, equal to 20 per cent. per annum; reserve fund, £680,000; reserved profit £24,087.



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## Passing Events.

A custom prevails in France which ensures that important official statements affecting the temper, sentiments, or interests of the nation when made by a Minister shall be printed and posted up in every public place throughout the country. We sometimes regret that a similar custom does not prevail here. How excellent, for example, would be the effect of the placarding on each church door throughout the three kingdoms of the speeches made by the French Ambassador, M. Paul Cambon, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Asquith at the Lord Mayor's banquet last Tuesday evening! In tone and spirit M. Cambon's reference to the murder of Miss Edith Cavell, and the serenity of mind with which he contemplated the position of the Allies in the war, are most valuable as indicating the growing harmony of sentiment between the French and ourselves. As for Mr. Balfour, his survey of the naval and military position was also inspiring, and although he gave a handle to those who sneer by expressing his opinion that the enemy's attack was "on the ebb," there can be no question that his words are true, as little that they will have an immense influence in rallying public opinion to the side of the Government to help it through the final crisis of the conflict. Everywhere, he insisted, the Teutons have been baulked. They had the immense advantage of having made full preparations, while their opponents had not made full preparations, and the first spring that might have been fatal had been utterly foiled. "It is many months since our enemies have been able to claim anything in the nature of a success on the Western frontier; it is some months—two months, I believe—since the temporary advance of Germany in Russia reached its high-water mark." That is true. Each day emphasises its truth more and more, and the Prussian power is now being swiftly consumed. Even about Serbia Mr. Balfour had something genuinely encouraging to state. Admitting that Bulgaria has played traitor, and that the seduction of Ferdinand and his army by Prussia was a triumph for German diplomacy, he yet was in no way dismayed. German terrorism, the lying exaggeration of German news factories, had done their part, but left us serene and more resolute than ever. As for Mr. Asquith, his utterances were also full of encouragement, and he handled the betrayals and pitiful obstructionism of certain London journals

with judicious firmness, justifying the suppression of the *Globe*, and, at the same time, commending the British Press as a whole for its loyalty. That commendation is well deserved, not only by the *Daily Telegraph*, which has behaved splendidly all through this stern period, but by the provincial Press, English, Scotch, and Irish, one may say without exception. It is only in one or two God-forsaken directions amongst the metropolitan Press where an essentially disloyal attitude has been adopted, and these, we hope, are in the way of being dealt with.

We have not heard one single expression of disapproval of the suppression of the *Globe* newspaper by the Government, but many over the capriciousness of the censorship. What is good for the *Globe* should be good for the *Times*, the *Morning Post*, the *Evening News*, the *Weekly Dispatch*, the *Sunday Herald*, and other papers whose conductors appear to take a pride in mocking at authority in order as far as in them lies to increase the difficulties of the men to whom the nation has confided the management of the war. If in doing that they also depress the spirits of the nation, hinder recruiting, reveal military secrets, or give hints useful to the enemy, and otherwise advertise their cantankerousness, so much the better, apparently, for their circulation. It is all infinitely contemptible, and the strong hand of the Censor ought to deal impartially with the offenders. People are constantly telling us that the foreigner has not yet grasped the fact that the *Times* is no longer a representative of British opinion, no longer a quasi-Government organ. Whether a Walter or a Harmsworth controls it, abroad it is still the *Times*. We should be inclined to try what a month's suspension would do to enlighten the foreign world. For, as Mr. Belloc said last week in *Land and Water*, *à propos* of a *Times* lying headline, in no other country would such conduct as it often prides itself upon be tolerated. Why should the *Daily Chronicle* have been prevented last Saturday from saying anything about the malignant rumours concerning Lord Kitchener and the War Office and the *Times*, *Daily Mail*, and *Morning Post* left free to say what they chose? Because the *Daily Chronicle* loyally submitted its proposed article to the Censor and the other papers named set him at defiance. Therefore the *Daily Chronicle* was punished. No wonder the capriciousness of the censorship is grumbled



at. The powers of the censor ought to be exercised either firmly and with the most studious impartiality or not at all.

No greater and, to a British citizen, in many respects more humiliating contrast in journalism could well be imagined than that afforded by comparing the tone of the European issue of the *New York Herald* with that of the *Paris Daily Mail*. The *Herald* is frankly on the side of civilisation, and takes a sane, manly view of the military position—not least of the Kaiser's razzia, in conjunction with that adventurer, Ferdinand of Bulgaria, into Serbia—as well as a just measure of our political squabbling at home. As for the *Daily Mail*, it carps and sneers and grumbles and indulges in malignant innuendo, it and its yoke-fellow, the *Times*. There is rarely a trace in its habitual attitude of capacity to appreciate the tremendous nature of the issue at stake, and never a word of support or sympathy for the Government in the immense responsibility thrown upon it; no acknowledgment of the strenuous energy with which it has tackled the task forced upon it by civilisation's brutal foe. The *Daily Mail's* audacity in self-glorification perhaps hardly goes so far as that of the *Times*, which seeks to shield its cantankerous snarling beneath the reputation of "Billy" Russell, of Crimea fame, ignoring the contrast between then and now; but it systematically belittles and throws mud on the Government, whereas the *New York Herald* stands up with admirable courage and consistency for our righteous cause, and for the men who labour and fight that it may prevail. Moral: when abroad read the *New York Herald*.

It was pointed out by Mr. T. F. Richards, President of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, in a speech at a Trade Union Conference in Northampton last Sunday, that the working classes themselves were in a measure responsible for the increase in the cost of living. We are glad to find a working man representative frank and independent enough to make that assertion in public, because it is only too true, and only too completely ignored, not only by trade unionists, but by labour of all kinds. The beginning of the present rise in the cost of many commodities may be put down to the advance in wages obtained by the railway servants. The Government gave way to them, could probably do nothing else in the circumstances, and the consequence was that the railway companies in turn put pressure upon the Government to be allowed to raise their charges as compensation. As a consequence the consumer now pays more for many commodities, above all for his coal, and without hope of relief in the future. If trade unionists, said Mr. Richards, had shut their eyes to bonuses, and had made up their minds that instead of taking a bonus they would keep down the price of necessities, the position to-day would have been different. Bonuses benefited about one million, but had punished about 15 million of people by reason of the advances in the price of commodities. These figures are a guess no doubt, but they fairly enough adumbrate the truth. The short-sighted clamour for higher pay is doing his best to make life harder for all who live by their labour.

Preliminary figures relating to our harvest for the current year have been issued by the Board of Agriculture. They show the largest wheat crop since 1898, in England and Wales the yield being 1,180,000 qrs. up on 1914 at 8,490,692 qrs. This is the result of an increase of 363,000 acres in the area under cultivation, for the yield per acre was at 31.30 bushels, fully one bushel less than in 1914, which showed 32.34 bushels. In fact the yield is about  $\frac{2}{3}$  bushel below the average of the past ten years. And there was a heavy reduction in the yield of barley. It was only 4,558,069 qrs. compared with 6,173,948 qrs. last year, and much the lowest on record. This is due to the greatly reduced acreage, as well as the poor average yield per acre, which was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bushels under last year's and  $3\frac{1}{2}$

bushels below the ten years' average. Oats, however, have done a little better than a year ago, the total production being 900,000 qrs. more than last year at 10,452,128 qrs., the highest since 1910. Beans gave  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre under the average, the total yield being 895,000 qrs., the lowest since 1904, and the total production of peas harvested was just under 300,000 qrs.,  $1\frac{1}{3}$  bushels per acre above the very poor crop of 1914, but two bushels under the average. Better crops of hay from clovers and rotation grasses than expected were, however, secured, and the second cut was in many cases equal to or even better than the first, so that the total yield per acre is nearly 1 cwt. above the average and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwts. above last year. The total production amounts only to 6,600,000 tons, and with the exception of the very poor crop of 1911 is the smallest since 1901. It is thus wheat alone which shows a really large increase, and we must make haste to expand not only the area under that crop, but under all cereals. What are the landowners doing, what the Government?

A pleasant surprise was given to the Stock Markets on Thursday by the directors of J. and P. Coats, Ltd. They announced the same dividend of 30 per cent. for its past year closed June 30 as for the five years preceding, the only difference being that the additional 5 per cent. bonus paid for these years is this time withheld. When one remembers the devastation wrought by the German armies in Poland, and the suspension, partial or complete, of the company's foreign business at other places, this result must be considered remarkably good. In fact, the profit for the year declined only £35,422 to £2,598,966, whereas for the year ended June 30, 1914, the decline was £268,859. It would, therefore, have been easy enough for the board to have given the 5 per cent. bonus. Instead of that it increased the sum carried forward by £362,619 to £1,379,112 after adding £30,000 to the depreciation suspense account. This was prudent, looking at the possible mass of depreciation which may have to be dealt with after the war ends. No provision, for instance, has been made for losses which may come to light when the bank and other balances of the company lodged abroad standing in its books at upwards of £1,000,000 come to be claimed and remitted. Moreover, the company's holdings in allied companies abroad, some of which are within the territory of our enemies, are said to represent about £4,000,000 of its assets. Probably whatever the total, the Allies will see to it that the company does not lose. Still, it is well to husband resources until the matter comes to the proof.

Much the same fate has overtaken the Hotel Cecil, Ltd., which had to be acknowledged last week by the neighbouring Savoy Hotel. The nett revenue was £48,374 less at £19,196. Had the same amount been spent on repairs and renewals, as in the previous year, the decline would have been £56,357, but only £7,315 was in these ways absorbed, or £7,983 less. Actually the business done yielded £102,144 less at £121,630, and the nett revenue was only £19,196, so that after providing for debenture interest, directors', trustees' and auditors' fees, loan interest and law costs there was a deficit of £9,040. A year ago the profit was £39,881, and the board was able not only to give £10,000 to meet the arrears of preference dividend, but to pay the 5 per cent. dividend on the preference capital for the year, as also to write £2,460 off capital expenditure. Nothing of all that was possible for the past year, but happily the balance of profit brought forward was £20,079, and after writing off last year's loss there is still £11,039 left to carry forward. What a company such as this is going to do in the present distressing circumstances must form a most engrossing problem for the board. Is it indiscreet to suggest that it might find some scope for enlarging the profits in a reduction of the charges to clients and customers? It has for long seemed to us almost inevitable, if not quite, that the directors of these expensive hotels



would have to follow the lead given by the Lyons hotels, and become "popular." Otherwise they would seem to be threatened with extinction.

There is nothing to detain us in the half-yearly balance-sheet of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, because its accounts require no criticism, and give scope for but little analysis. Its half-year closed June 30 last brought an increase of £3,988,262 in its ordinary deposit liabilities, &c., raising them to £8,547,526, and the savings bank department also brought an increase of £2,775,379 in its liabilities, raising them to £7,420,647, so that the amounts owing to the public under these two categories aggregate £15,968,173. The balance-sheet also shows a reserve fund and a redemption fund amounting together to £2,221 ros., equally divided between the two. The coin, bullion and cash balances have risen by £1,748,222 to £4,418,688, and the money floating in the London market is £1,375,000 larger at £2,840,000. There is also an increase of £2,660,499 in the investments in British, Colonial and Government securities, making the total £5,479,480, while bills discounted have gone up £755,255 to £2,147,339. Furthermore, £90,196 has been added to the bank's assets in the shape of bank premises, now valued at £128,575. The profit for the half-year was £17,695 better at £25,788, that is compared with the same half of last year, but in the interval a debit balance of £36,996 has been cleared off. The balance-sheet aggregate, exclusive of small contingent liabilities on letters of credit, is £16,720,723.

Sundry influences of an adverse sort affected the profits of Dalgety and Co., Ltd., for its year closed June 30, and yet in spite of the drought in Victoria, "one of the worst on record," the great dryness in Queensland, &c., and war anxieties, the £388,686 shown as the nett income, including the balance brought forward, is £101,672 up, and the board is easily able to continue the 8 per cent. dividend to the shareholders as also to add £50,000 to the reserve, raising it to £600,000, and to apply £40,000 towards writing down cost of premises, as well as to place the usual £10,000 to the staff benevolent fund. A year ago neither the reserve fund nor the premises account got anything, but two years ago each got £50,000. The balance left to carry forward will then be £11,672 larger at £208,686. No doubt the shareholders would have liked to finger some of this money in present circumstances, but they may well be thankful and wait. Everything, or almost everything, promises well for the current season in all parts of Australasia. Drought has disappeared in West Australia, South Australia has been favoured with good rains, Victoria is now enjoying an excellent season, as well as New South Wales, and all is not bad even in Queensland, where conditions have been somewhat ameliorated by sporadic rains. In New Zealand, too, the position is, on the whole, distinctly prosperous. Moreover, prices have been good throughout the year, and there is promise of a record wheat crop. Wool prices have been strong, the only drawback being in the dairying industry, where a short output is expected. It is unnecessary to go fully into the accounts, for the changes are of no great significance, but it may be noted that amongst the investments held are £250,000 Treasury bills, £76,574 3½ per cent. War Loan, and the deposit on application for £150,000 of the 4½ per cent. War Loan. Advances are down £505,285 to £4,119,579, and the decrease indicates the restriction in business. That restriction is not all due to the war, but indirectly, through the scarcity of steamer tonnage, it may be put down to that.

Some particulars regarding the export trade and revenues of the Argentine Republic have come to hand, and give satisfactory news. In the nine months of the year to September 30 the value of Argentine imports amounted to \$159,853,319 gold and of the exports to

\$413,030,207 gold, so that the value of the entire international trade was \$573,783,526, or nearly £115,000,000, and the surplus of exports over imports was no less than \$254,076,888, or \$77,079,838 above the corresponding period of 1914. The increased value of the exports is 54 per cent., and details show that 3,413,454 tons of maize, 2,584,630 tons of wheat and flour, 827,014 tons of linseed, 533,489 tons of oats, and 330,000 tons of chilled and frozen meats had been exported. Recent news from the Republic is indicative of another good year, and should the rather late spring rains be followed by a genial season, the fact that 23,290,000 acres have been laid down in wheat, linseed, and oats should foreshadow a very large amount of produce for export. No wonder, then, that cedulas and national bonds are steadily rising in value until cedulas are now within 5 per cent. of par. Government 5 per cent. Treasury bills are being negotiated at par, and all Government revenues are increasing without any addition to the taxation. Naturally, railway receipts reflect this state of affairs, and all we can say is, may it long continue. We want cheering commercial and financial news from somewhere in these times.

With severe drought in Australia and the financial depression in Argentina the Australian, Mercantile, Land and Finance Co. was unable in the year ended June 30 to repeat the achievement of the previous 12 months, and the gain of £85,445 in profits then shown has been followed by a decrease of £86,858 to £222,546. At the same time current expenses, debenture interest, and Imperial and colonial income-tax rose by £18,307 to £161,195, so that the nett surplus was £105,165 smaller, but £101,516 more at £226,428 was brought in, and the divisible balance of £287,779 was therefore only £3,649 down. The directors, however, transfer £30,000 to investments reserve against nothing a year ago, and, although the dividend is maintained at 10 per cent. the bonus of 2½ per cent. which has been regularly paid for so many years has to be knocked off, while the balance carried out is reduced by £20,649 to £205,779. Fortunately the outlook for the current year appears to be much more promising. The drought in Australia ended in May, when welcome rains fell over the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. A continuance of moderate rainfall has greatly relieved the pastoral industry and a bountiful harvest is expected, but more rain is needed, especially in Queensland, to ensure the safety of the flocks through the summer. In Argentina, too, the harvest has been large and has realised excellent prices, while pastoral conditions are satisfactory and prospects of another good harvest are encouraging. Under these circumstances the directors have evidently felt that they could work with rather more freedom, and loans on land, stations, stocks, &c., show an expansion of

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£168,193 at £2,413,047. Advances on wool and other produce also are £36,899 up at £54,163, but debtors owe £19,341 less at £154,376, and cash, short loans in London, &c., have been reduced by £62,321 to £280,192, while £372,783, or £95,402 more, is due to creditors and on customers' balances. The company's reserve stands at £400,000 as against the paid up capital of £520,000, and is practically all invested in good-class securities standing in the books at £365,488. The market value of these on June 30 was about £23,000 higher, and altogether the position is strong.

No previous report having been forwarded, we can only give the figures of the Bank of Taiwan as shown in the half-yearly statement of June 30 last. This shows a gross profit of 5,511,732 yen, from which working expenses, interest, &c., took away 4,823,210 yen. A balance of 246,487 yen was brought forward, and after paying the dividend and bonus—the dividend being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum—and adding 180,000 yen to the reserve fund, there was 250,509 yen left to carry forward. Deposit and current account liabilities amounted to 79,083,173 yen, and bills payable, acceptances, &c., to 26,863,905 yen, these being the principal liabilities to the public. The chief assets were bills, loans, and advances 101,742,310 yen, and cash in hand 6,238,727 yen, cash at bank 7,234,815 yen, and investments, exclusive of a loan of 4,949,967 yen to the Government, 10,023,335 yen. The bank also held bullion and foreign money to the amount of 2,953,008 yen, the total of the balance-sheet being 145,230,265 yen. According to the president's speech at the shareholders' meeting held in Tokio on September 1 last, the business of the bank continues to expand in a satisfactory manner, reflecting, for one thing, the prosperity in Formosa, where the general conditions of industry have improved. The colony's foreign trade went up 6,400,000 yen to 76,200,000 yen in the first half of the year. On the whole, the foreign exchange business of the bank is making good progress, the president said, especially since arrangements were made with the Bank of Japan regarding purchases of export bills on London and the southern parts of Asia. The premium of 333,443 yen obtained through the issue of 10,000 additional shares has been added to the reserve, which amounted on June 30 to 3,970,000 yen.

A frank circular has been issued by the directors of the Monterey Railway, Light and Power Co. to the holders of the 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, which gives a brief account of the company's history. After telling the debenture-holders the character and scope of this business and its investments, it goes on to explain why no interest can be forthcoming. It is not because the chaos in the Mexican Republic has interfered with the company's street railway system, or that the water and light and power installations which the railway company has bought up and incorporated are in disorder or stopped, but owing to the disastrous fall in the exchange. In 1909, and for some years before, the Mexican peso, or dollar, was exchangeable into United States money within a fraction of 50 cents to the gold dollar. Since the expulsion of President Diaz in the following year large issues of paper money have taken place, and have reduced the exchange value of the Mexican dollar to 10 cents, or 5d. No further explanation is necessary to account for the suspension of interest payments. There is now on hand about 1,000,000 pesos in notes issued by the different so-called Governments of Mexico, but it would nearly all disappear in any attempt to remit. That being so, surely the best course for the debenture stockholders is to sit still and do nothing. That is what the directors would like them to do, and the British Empire Trust Co., Ltd., and National Trust Co., Ltd., who are trustees for the debenture stockholders, endorse the recommendation. Should the time come when it may be necessary for the holders of the debenture stock to assert themselves and to take an active interest in the fortunes of the company, they may rely upon it that due notice will be given to them by their trustees. All shareholders

and debenture-holders alike are partners in a great misfortune, and must reconcile themselves to wait for better times. To try and wring money out of the company now would be like trying to squeeze blood out of a stone.

A long explanatory report of its position has been issued by the Canadian Western Lumber Co., Ltd., which embraces the Columbia River Lumber Co., Ltd., and the Columbia Western Lumber Yards, Ltd. It is a story of suspended business, and contains a recommendation that the capital should be reorganised. It is proposed to convert \$5,000,000 of 6 per cent. cumulative preferred shares into ordinary shares, raising the total of the ordinary capital to \$15,500,000, which would be divided into 3,100,000 ordinary shares of \$5 each. Debenture-holders of both the Canadian Western Lumber Co., Ltd., and the Columbia River Lumber Co., Ltd., are asked to surrender their debentures at the rate of £100 nominal, taking in exchange £50 in new 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the Canadian Western Lumber Co., Ltd., and £50 in the same company's new 5 per cent. cumulative income debenture stock. They will also receive \$225 in the ordinary shares of \$5 each. The execution of this plan will relieve the company of heavy obligations, reduce the fixed interest to be paid, and put it in a position to recover quickly when better times come. Meantime, there is a great property in timber lands which will not waste away. The board has been writing down sundry of the assets, having devoted \$877,774 to cover the deficiency in the profit and loss account of the Columbia River Lumber Co. for 1914. It is taken into the accounts of the Canadian Western Lumber Co. to provide for the depreciation of the company's investments in the shares of the River Co. We do not quite grasp the process, but it is no doubt all right. The quantity of lumber manufactured and the quantity sold in 1914 were the one 53,743,000 ft. and the other 45,612,000 ft. lower than for 1913, and there will be great difficulty in getting the logs or lumber to market even if the production went on. Reports, the directors say, widely circulated in British Columbia for several months past would convey the impression that there has been a large demand from the United Kingdom for lumber. Such is not the case. Orders were placed in January and February last for a few million feet of railway sleepers, most of which are still mostly lying waiting for ships. Prospects for the current year are, therefore, "not very encouraging." Even a good harvest such as has been reaped does not seem likely to make much change for the better. Here also, then, the inevitable had best be accepted, even though it involves the acceptance of deferred interest warrants in lieu of cash, said warrants falling due December 1, 1919, or otherwise two years after the war ends.

It has been well known for some time that the Canadian Car and Foundry Co. had obtained contracts for the supply of war materials to the British and Russian Governments, and rumour has been busy with the extent of its good fortune. A circular has been issued by the company giving some particulars regarding the work which has been undertaken and the prospects, which are interesting so far as the future is concerned. No reference, however, is made to the results for the year ended September 30, and it seems reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the contracts did not affect the earnings to the extent which had been hoped. The circular states that several of the company's plants as well as those of Canadian Steel Foundries, Ltd., have been equipped for the manufacture of parts of shells, and that they are working 24 hours a day, while production is constantly increasing. A large portion of the work is for the British Government, on which substantial deliveries have already been made, but the company has also secured three contracts from the Russian Government for complete shrapnel and high explosive shells. Work on these has progressed to a point where the first shipments are about to be made, and the directors feel that they are now in a position to make fairly reliable estimates as to costs and nett earnings. They do not give details of these, but they state that the busi-



ness for the year ended September 30 should be in excess of \$150,000,000, as compared with \$27,000,000 in the best previous year. A reasonable profit is being made on this turnover, and while no definite statement is made as to the disposition of the surplus earnings, the shareholders are told that they may look forward with confidence to an early resumption of dividends.

Owing to the movement of troops from place to place, the British Automatic Co.'s machines were exceptionally well patronised in the year ended September 30, and as the manufacturing business in Glasgow also did well, the nett profits showed the exceptionally large increase of £10,269 at £43,047. Adding £6,585 brought forward, the amount to be dealt with is £9,910 larger at £49,633, out of which £2,122 or £2,682 less is written off for cost of new machines, £5,000 is again transferred to reserve, and a like sum is set aside to meet the contingency of excess profits taxation. The dividend is then raised from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per share, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., as against  $5\frac{2}{3}$  per cent., and £7,511, or £925 more, is carried forward. Stocks are £5,377 up at £24,252, debtors owe £6,566 more at £15,938, and cash has risen by £14,540 to £29,228, while £13,875 more at £29,935 is due to creditors.

To some extent no doubt the Anglo-India Jute Mills Co. was helped by war conditions in the year ended August 31, but less was due to these than to natural causes affecting the jute trade. In the previous 12 months raw material was excessively dear, and the demand for manufactured goods fell off, with the result that profits showed a decrease of £118,746, but last year the crop of jute was both plentiful and cheap, and an increase of £157,939 to £191,455 followed. After transferring £25,000 to the reserve fund, compared with £10,000 put to depreciation fund a year ago, and providing for debenture interest and interim dividends, the nett balance, including £11,047, or £3,535 less, brought in, was £128,274 larger at £147,455. The ordinary shares, therefore, come back into the dividend-paying list with a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., both subject to income-tax, and the balance carried forward is then increased by £100,774 to £115,905. Additions to the block account cost £12,582, raising the total to £802,576. Stocks are £85,061 lower at £280,516, but debtors owe £34,340 more at £73,625, and cash is £1,768 up at £3,822. On the other hand, sundry creditors on open accounts have been reduced by £83,614 to £32,528, the amount due to Calcutta agents is £13,176 down at £82,344, and the bank overdraft is £80,513 down at £2,759, while liabilities on deposits have risen by £5,917 to £21,265. During the year a further £25,000 of debenture bonds was paid off, reducing the amount outstanding to £180,000. Since September the inquiry for goods has developed, and with an improved manufacturing margin the period of daily working was increased from 11 hours (single shift) to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  hours (double shift), so that the prospects for the current year would seem to be very promising.

As might have been expected, the nett profits of Ansell's Brewery for the year ended September 30 showed a setback. The total was £4,491 lower at £87,055, bringing it back to about the level of two years ago, but as £11,771 more at £70,920 was brought in, the distributable total was still £7,280 better at £157,975. Out of this the ordinary shares get 10 per cent., as before, and after again transferring £25,000 to reserve, making that fund £325,000, the balance carried forward is increased by £7,130 to £78,050. Loans on security and book debts have risen by £15,763 to £81,874, cash is £12,320 higher at £37,157, and stocks have been increased by £13,093 to £77,833, while, on the other hand, £33,252 more at £105,380 is due to sundry creditors. Freehold and leasehold licensed and other properties are valued at £933,648, or £15,171 more, brewery property is £5,331 up at £164,906, and loose plant, casks, &c., are £3,855 up at £41,872.

Notwithstanding the difficulties attending the shipment of goods for abroad, the Edison and Swan United Electric Light Co. was able to report a marked increase in its export trade, particularly to the British colonies and India, during the year ended June 30. On the engineering side of the works it was possible to meet in part the abnormal rise in the prices of raw materials by a corresponding advance in selling values, but this could not be done on the lamp side. In spite of this, however, trading profits were £5,718 up at £56,962, and as there were no costs of removal to swell the expenses this time, the nett balance was £9,451 better at £14,147, to which is added £5,732, or £4,696 more, brought forward, making a total of £19,879. The increased turnover of the business and the rise in the cost of raw materials and labour taxed the resources of the company so severely that further working capital is required, and as this can only be provided out of profits, the directors, instead of paying a dividend, transfer £15,000 of the above balance to reserve, leaving £4,879, or £853 less, to be carried forward. Stocks and work in progress show an increase of £26,284 at £211,273, and debtors owe £24,961 more at £89,792, but cash has been reduced by £6,518 to £14,488, while £80,814, or £32,639 more, is due to sundry creditors and loans have risen by £10,000 to £17,000. During the year £7,190 was spent on the freehold and leasehold properties, £4,253 on plant and machinery, and £2,997 on fixtures, fittings, &c., bringing the total cost of the works up to £170,893. No steps have yet been taken to reduce the item of cost of establishing the business, goodwill, remaining patents, &c., which amounts to £390,432, as against a share capital of £389,369, and until something is done to relieve the company of this heavy burden there is not much prospect of the shareholders receiving a return.

### The New Vote of Credit.

Whatever accusation may be hurled against the Ministry by those who have not yet grasped the magnitude or significance of the conflict in which we are engaged, they cannot say that it hides the truth about our financial position. Mr. Asquith's statement in the House on Wednesday about the amount of money required to carry on the war would be enough to daunt us in ordinary circumstances. As things are, it can only attune the nation to increased effort. In order to carry the war on to the middle of February, another £400,000,000 is asked for. That will raise the total amount of credits the war has forced us to create to £1,662,000,000, of which £1,300,000,000 falls within the current fiscal year, and even that will not be sufficient to carry us to its end on March 31. Assuming that the expenditure continues at the rate of, say, £4,500,000 a day, the total war credits will have been raised by March 31 next to upwards of £1,800,000,000. Project the calculation still further, and assume that for 1916-17 an expenditure of only £4,000,000 a day will be necessary, and the prospect is that the debt of the nation by March 31, 1917, will have been augmented by £3,250,000,000 by Prussian aggression. Can we stand that? Undoubtedly, if the whole resources of the Empire are pledged to the task, but it will be a changed world for all of us should we have to saddle a burden so enormous, and, therefore, the more strenuously the fight is fought now the better. And the most consoling portion of the Prime Minister's speech was his description of the efforts being made to introduce economy into the conduct of the war. That, one may say, has been the clamour of this journal from the very outset. Making all allowance for the extreme haste in which we had to gather up a mighty army and accumulate weapons of offence and defence, there has been throughout an amateurish revel in lavishness of outlay quite unparalleled in the history of any nation. Only last week we reckoned that when the end came, between £500,000,000 and £1,000,000,000 of the total war expenditure would probably be found on strict investigation, which will never be applied, to be money wholly misspent.



What, then, is the Government doing to try and stop the destruction of wealth war waste implies? It cannot reduce, though it may cheapen, the output of arms and ammunition, nor can it lessen much the pay of the fighting forces, diminish naval construction, or economise in the numbers of those serving with the colours. It can, however, strictly supervise the prices paid for all supplies; it can shed off useless men from the Army, and send them back to civil employment; it can see to it that the scandalous waste of food which has gone on from the outset, and which not improbably costs at least £250,000 a day, can be put an end to. All it can do in these and like directions will save no immense amount of money, but it might knock off £500,000 a day, and in a war so costly and all-devouring as this every pound will count. We have the utmost confidence that the Ministry is fully alive to its duty, and striving to make progress, hampered only by the difficulty of finding the men capable of executing its will. Mr. Asquith's own attitude is exactly what we should expect, a strenuous and constant solicitude to remove the causes of waste and to increase efficiency. In many directions much help can be given by the public—not by carping criticism, but by intelligent co-operation. Government contractors who fail in their duty ought to be severely punished. There is, in fact, far too little of what may be called retribution meted out to those who, however unthinkingly, betray the best interests of their country, and play traitor by doing their utmost to fleece it for their own profit, and we sincerely wish there were more men of business available like Mr. Henry Holloway and Mr. S. H. Lever.

Into the details of Mr. Asquith's analysis of the expenditure we need not go, but there are one or two significant facts which ought to be put on record. First of all, our enormous expenditure is by no means entirely for our own direct share in maintaining the fight. We are continually making advances to our Allies. Serbia alone, for example, must receive from ourselves and France every penny its heroic people requires to maintain the struggle, and from that point of view it is not surprising that our contribution to the outlay of our weaker Allies should now have risen to £1,285,000 a day. Since April 1 last we have advanced £58,900,000 to those Allies and £29,400,000 to States, exclusive of India, within our own Empire. And inevitably these advances must go on and tend to increase until the fury of the foe begins to slacken; but that part of our expenditure must also be supervised, and vigilantly so, for if there is a tendency here to corruption purely through the inefficiency, incapacity, or inexperience of most of those who have the handling of public money, that tendency is at least as pronounced in our overseas dominions. So vigilance is demanded on all hands, and the careful supervision of expenditure must be regarded as one of the main forces conducing to ultimate victory.

Just to put on record how the war expenditure has mounted, a few figures should be set down here. Between April 1 and July 17 our outlay averaged £2,700,000 a day. From July 18 to September 11 it was £3,000,000 a day, from September 12 to November 6 £3,500,000, and the estimate now is that from November 7 to February 14 the outflow will be £4,350,000 a day, that figure no doubt including the just mentioned advances to the Allies. Between April 1 and November 6 the expenditure on the Army, Navy and munitioning has been £517,300,000, and the loans to the Allies and British dependencies have aggregated £98,300,000, while food supplies and miscellaneous charges have mopped up £23,900,000. In addition to this £104,000,000 has been repaid to the Bank of England, clearing off all its advances to the Government under the moratorium arrangements of last year and the provisions made to meet the requirements of our dependencies abroad. The Bank of England has again put the Government under obligation to it on sundry accounts, but these are to be provided for out of the additional money now to be raised. With expenditure now running to, say, £30,500,000 a week, the urgency of the demand for vigilance in economising becomes

supreme, and we welcome the attitude of both Houses in this matter. A powerful speech was delivered by Mr. Duke, one of the rising lawyers in the Commons, in which it was asserted that the waste was universal, and the demand made for stringent and pitiless control. On this subject we are, and always have been, thoroughly at one with the malcontents, but we have hopes that the new Army Council of the Allies, whose foundations Mr. Asquith announced in his speech, will take effective measures in these directions. As yet it is all in embryo, one may say—a high staff officer from France being established here to work with our Army Council and a similar officer fulfilling the same function in Paris. It will have to be enlarged and a central spot, if possible, selected where it could meet. It ought also to embrace the representatives of the Russian and Italian Governments, so that every question arising, whether of war policy, strategy, and tactics, or of Army supplies, could be promptly settled. Already steps have been taken to prevent competition between the Powers in the matter of contracts for supplies, but much remains to be done, and in proportion as the Allies grasp the supreme importance of unity and harmony in things civil as well as things military, will probably be the rapidity with which success comes to their armies.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

All eyes and thoughts of this week have been fixed upon the struggle in the Balkans, and the question has been continually in the mind or on the lips, "Will the French and British be in time?" The Powers have undoubtedly been tricked by Bulgaria and Germany, and also deceived by the Greeks. In France, as Dr. Dillon quite truly stated in last week's *Land and Water*, the blame is laid on M. Delcassé, and although he was not publicly maligned and mud-splashed, as our Foreign Minister often is, he had to quit office and disappear. His heart cheated his intellect, and our Foreign Office, it is to be feared, followed his lead rather too confidently. We all did, in fact; and even this rather sceptical journal adhered to hope about Greece until M. Venizelos ostentatiously retired into private life after his first checkmate by Constantine the Dane. Then we began to doubt and still doubt.

But the disposition of the Allied Powers is always to look on the brighter, the better side of human nature, and because it is so the Prussians again took us by surprise, again collaborated a scheme of invasion through which the Kaiser hoped to reach Constantinople and Asia Minor, perhaps Egypt. A dash was made against Serbia from the North and East simultaneously with an inrush of Bulgarians from the West. At first all except the killing went in favour of the invaders, or was alleged to have done so. The story of the Prussian invasion of Belgium and France last year seemed to repeat itself, and again the defenders were unready or too feeble. The French and ourselves had re-equipped the Serbian Army, but it alone, splendid though its heroism always is, could not hope to cope with the masses of its enemies, still less to overcome them. For the past three weeks, therefore, we have been treated to a daily tale of Teuton and Bulgarian triumphs, informed of posts and towns and cities captured, of mobs of prisoners—Macedonians probably, not Serbians—captured, of fabulous quantities of booty secured, and, above all, of Nish occupied by the triumphant Bulgarians, whose flag was hoisted over it to fly there "for ever." It was undeniably depressing while it lasted, but already the silver lining behind the cloud begins to emerge.

It may be that the Austro-Germans, as their bulletins allege, are pouring thousands of tons of supplies into Bulgaria, apparently *en route* for Constantinople, and that further munitionments and heavy artillery are being shipped by the Danube *en route* for the Dardanelles, but the Serbian armies have not yet been beaten, still less surrounded. The strength, moreover, of the French and British supporting armies daily increases, and already they have begun to drive the Bulgarians back, while the Russian fleet retains the control of the Black



Sea and British submarines dominate in the Sea of Marmora. In spite, therefore, of the lying and boasts of the enemy we begin to believe that his success has already attained its maximum, or almost, and as the check wears round towards his discomfiture our fears of Greek treachery or Rumanian supineness diminishes. Sternly resolved are the French and ourselves to persevere until the Prussian menace is obliterated from among civilised mankind.

Consider how powerfully the Kaiser's discomfiture in Bulgaria will contribute to this end. How easy it will be to make Bulgar, Greek, and Rumanian hear reason about armies and armaments when the war is over! By the way, Greece is said to have been granted a loan of £1,600,000 by the Allied Powers. Greek finance, it should be remembered, has been under international control for many years past in the interests of the State's creditors. The loan is, therefore, in all probability a means of preventing complete default of interest upon the Greek debt, but even so, it cannot be allowed except under stringent conditions.

Lord Kitchener was right, then, about the Germans and their "last bolt" in Russia, just as he was more right than any one, scribbler or politician, at the outset about the probable duration of the war. The Huns are more and more getting the worst of it all along the fighting front in Russia and Galicia. Hindenburg is really now the "hided," and we shall not be at all surprised to hear that starving Berlin has discovered his Moloch-like wooden statue to be good firewood. Ere long Mackensen—who it seems really is descended from a Mackenzie—may perhaps find the Russian army on his rear, and be obliged to contemplate the alternative of having either to try to escape through Bosnia or surrender. That is at least already as probable as a conquest of Serbia by Austria with German and Bulgarian help. And in France and Flanders the progress of the Prussians towards discomfiture is more rapid than appears. Their onslaughts bring them no real advantage at any point, only continuous and disastrous losses of lives and material. The tactic of the Allies seems to be wisely a goading or provoking tactic. They draw the Prussians on to dash themselves now against this point on their line, now against that, and mow them down, varying the process with just enough offensive to ensure the continuance of the enemy's costly assaults. While war is being won on other fields it is unnecessary for us to waste precious lives and costly material in spectacular battles.

Italy, on the other hand, is attacking continuously, and with continuous success, gaining position after position from the Austrians after most heroic fights, and thereby rendering priceless assistance to the French and British troops now burrowing their way north to the rescue of Serbia. But for the strenuous effectiveness of the Italian onslaught, Austria might have flung a much larger army into Serbia on the west and munitioned it more effectually than she has, therefore it is unwise and unfair of us to complain about Italy's refusal to declare war on Germany. She is doing her part right valiantly and loyally, and we were glad to note the tactful cordiality with which M. Paul Cambon alluded at the Lord Mayor's banquet to the presence there of the Italian Ambassador, our Ally. Perhaps the Italian Government may be moved to take the step urged upon it should it be proved that the abominable outrage upon the Italian mail steamer *Ancona*, through which many lives were lost in the Mediterranean, was the work of a German submarine, but it is their concern entirely. Lord Kitchener will doubtless take the opportunity while on his mission in the East to discuss that and other questions with the Italian Ministry. Our duty here is to keep quiet, to work hard, to maintain our share in the fight without flinching, keeping always in view that distant goal so finely shadowed forth for us once again by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sozonoff. At the close of a most interesting interview granted by him to the able Petrograd correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in which he contrasted German ideals and aims with those of Russia in the East, he

spoke thus:—"German policy is something that is incompatible with Christian ethics. We are grappling with a power which threatens to overturn the whole fabric of civilisation as developed by the world of Christendom. The future of European culture as opposed to German Kultur depends upon the overthrow of this power and the means taken to prevent its ever breaking out again. We must have the policy of this century based firmly upon an alliance between Russia, England, and France. Other nations will probably come into our alliance, but we three must form the nucleus. We must say to Germany: 'There are your frontiers and your limits. Work within them as you please, but out into the world you go no more. We have had enough of the disintegrating influence you bring to bear in every quarter of the world. We desire to live at peace as Christian nations. Your unscrupulous rule, based on the principle of armed force, has threatened to enslave the world. That principle is abhorrent to us all. You must be content to stay quietly at home, and to conduct your commerce and your domestic affairs as may please you best, but you shall no more encroach upon the sacred rights of your neighbours.' That is what Russia, England, and France, in alliance, must say to Germany; and to the voices of these three will doubtless adhere many a Christian nation of the world. It is my firm conviction that if the policy of this twentieth century does not rest upon a solid alliance between Russia, England, and France then this great war, into which we have been deliberately forced by Germany, will have been waged in vain, and all the blood and treasure expended upon it, and still to be spent, will have been utterly wasted." Surely this is the truth. Away with carping and lying, then; gird up the loins and press on!

### Our Foreign Trade in October.

Steadily the adverse balance, for it has become emphatically that now, on our foreign trading account increases. For the 10 expired months of 1913 it was £108,469,000. For the same period of last year it had risen to £130,528,000, and for the 10 months of this year now expired the total of £306,014,000 is £175,486,000 above last year's. Nothing can prevent it from continuing to grow except a diminution in our military expenditure, larger exports or larger supplies from home sources. We have had an excellent cereal harvest and fine grass and root crops, but, unfortunately, all that counts so little in the aggregate of our requirements that it will not help us very much to meet the strain. We shall therefore have to raise further credits abroad, and endeavour to finance our commitments until the end of the war. When will that be? Some time next year probably, but it will be rash to hazard a prediction until we see how long it takes the Anglo-French troops to begin their task of rolling back the Bulgarian and Austro-German hosts now swarming over Serbia. We can, however, make diligent provision to increase our home agricultural production next year, and we should much like to know what use in this direction is being made of our prisoners. Surely we are not maintaining them in idleness?

For the month of October alone our imports

## THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK

HEAD OFFICE: LIMITED.  
5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £22,947,804.

PAID UP CAPITAL, £4,780,792. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000.

EVERY KIND OF FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.  
BILLS COLLECTED. COMMERCIAL CREDITS GRANTED.  
CHEQUES AND DRAFTS ISSUED.  
BILLS FOR COLLECTION, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH  
THE FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICE, 8, FINCH LANE, LONDON, E.C.



amounted to £67,793,000, or £16,413,000 more than in October, 1914. Exports also increased £3,367,000 to £31,969,000, and that would be the best help of all towards adjusting the balance if it would continue. As it is, imports are nearly 32 per cent. up and exports only 11.7 per cent. up on the month, while re-exports of £7,163,000 are £17,000 below last year's total. For the 10 months, as our table shows, imports have gone up 24 per cent. and exports of British and Irish produce down almost 28 per cent. There has also been a decrease of over 14 per cent. in re-exports. Probably if we examined the figures of French trade or Russian, we should find there a state of affairs little if at all more satisfactory. But there is no consolation in such comparisons; we must accept our fate and be stimulated by the position to greater effort, larger home pro-

## IMPORTS.

	October.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 71,730,176	£ 51,379,435	£ 67,792,557	+ 16,413,122
Gold .....	5 215,483	941,225	265,789	- 675,436
Silver .....	1,244,400	775,004	919,393	+ 144,299
Total .. ..	78,190,059	53,095,664	68,977,649	+ 15,881,985

## EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	46,622,699	28,601,815	31,968,965	+ 3,367,150
For. and Col. M'dae..	9,556,144	7,179,857	7,162,633	- 17,224
Gold .. ..	8,642,649	338,965	9,052,200	+ 8,713,235
Silver .. ..	4,175,159	245,038	345,395	+ 100,357
Total .. ..	68,396,651	36,365,675	48,529,193	+ 12,163,518

## IMPORTS.

Ten Months ended October.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	629,476,245	573,791,657	711,634,539	+ 137,842,882
Gold .. ..	49,846,369	49,362,977	7,586,396	- 41,776,581
Silver .. ..	12,586,606	9,932,919	8,098,246	- 1,834,673
Total .. ..	691,909,220	633,087,553	727,319,181	+ 94,231,628

## EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	437,378,308	379,350,178	315,060,651	- 64,289,527
For. and Col. M'dae..	91,926,576	83,976,063	82,782,519	- 1,193,544
Gold .....	40,238,692	29,712,990	17,403,139	- 12,309,851
Silver .....	13,896,188	9,520,038	6,058,875	- 3,461,163
Total .. ..	583,439,764	502,559,269	421,305,184	- 81,254,085

## VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

October.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	78,190,059	53,095,664	68,977,649	+ 15,881,985
Exports.. ..	68,396,651	36,365,675	48,529,193	+ 12,163,518
Excess value of im- ports over exports	9,793,408	16,729,989	20,448,456	+ 3,718,467
Ten Months ended October.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	691,909,220	633,087,553	727,319,181	+ 94,231,628
Exports.. ..	583,439,764	502,559,269	421,305,184	- 81,254,085
Excess value of im- ports over exports	108,469,456	130,528,284	306,013,997	+ 175,485,713

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

ductiveness, and, if possible, greater economy. In connection, by the way, with the dispute between us and the United States about blockade and contraband, it is worth putting on record a statement by the New York correspondent of the *Times* illustrative of how things have been going between the United States and Germany. In the first eight months of 1914, the States sent £31,200,000 worth of merchandise to Germany; in the same months of this year only £2,320,000 worth was sent. This is a decrease of £28,880,000, and if that were all the story would be a strong proof of the effectiveness of our blockade. Unfortunately the exports to Norway, Sweden and Holland have risen on the same comparison by £24,960,000. It is surely a fair inference, therefore, that nearly the whole of the decrease in the direct exports of the States to Germany was made good by indirect exports. All the

more stern and thorough must now be the stoppage of this kind of help to the enemy.

It is unnecessary to go into the details of trade movements further than to note the fact that our imports of articles of consumption and materials used in our manufactures, such as butter, margarine, coffee, copper, cotton, flax, iron and steel, meat of various kinds, tea and wool, &c., have increased enormously in quantity, although seldom so much as in value. And as for exports, we are sending abroad much less cement, smaller quantities of chemical manures, soda compounds and jute and linen piece goods, but larger quantities of cotton yarn and twist, beer and ale, jute yarn, seed oils, refined sugar, wool, woollen yarn and tissues, and other articles, many of them of a kind that seem to hint at a tendency of our export trade to revive. That is the most hopeful point of all to insist upon. And our trade will assuredly revive when peace comes, especially if we use all diligence in getting ready to meet all demands.

## The Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Co., Limited.

More interest probably attaches to the report of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Co., Ltd., than to that of any other of the companies owning the main network of Argentine railways because to all appearance this great property has suffered the worse setback to them all. How great its enterprise now is may be judged from the fact that the total length of lines worked is 3,536 miles, of which 1,430 miles are owned by the company and 2,106 miles leased to it. These figures are exclusive of 728 miles of sidings not apparently included in the total as they would be in the case of United States railroads. Last year, happily, things began to mend—a little, not much—but still enough to give hope of greater improvements to follow. The company was only able to give £2 16s. 6d. per cent. by way of dividend on its second preference stock—and even that was 6s. 6d. per cent. more than had been estimated—whereas a year ago the full 5 per cent. was paid, and it had to draw slightly upon the large balance of undistributed revenue brought forward in order to do this. But for all that things are mending. Already, as the traffic figures we publish from time to time show, business is expanding, the increase in gross receipts for the 17 weeks of the July to June year, ended October 30, being estimated at £293,000, whereas for the past year gross receipts fell off £342,722. By rigid economies the board was able to save £256,770 in working expenses, but even so nett profit was £85,952 down, and the company has very heavy fixed charges and rentals to meet before anything is left over for its unsecured stockholders. For example, its own debenture stock interest amounted last year to about £756,000, which was £50,583 more than for the previous year. Then the rentals under the leases by which the company has obtained control of the Argentine Great Western, the Bahia Blanca, and North-Western and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railways came to £968,221, or £166,281 more. Also there was a falling off of £19,499 in the income from the Argentine Transandine Railway Co., the B.A. and Pacific Co.'s proportion of its receipts having been only £8,563 for the past year.

If the whole of the costs of the flood repair expenses had been charged to revenue, the amount left for the stockholders would have been smaller than it is. Nett revenue account, however, is altered about a little, so we cannot make exact comparisons. A year ago, for example, the income-tax was included in the current outgoings, whereas this time it is deducted from the balance brought forward. On the other hand, the preference dividend is charged against the year's revenue account, whereas it was deducted from the final balance in the previous year. It makes no real difference to the position, for the end of it all is that the balance of £318,020 left to carry forward is £23,181 less than was brought in. Capital expenditure last year was.



restricted and wisely so. It will have to be kept down for some years to come were it only because the company will not be able to raise new money with the old facility. It added £1,000,000 to its debenture debt last year, raising the total capitalisation by that amount to £29,142,763, and the stock had to be sold at 97½ per cent., so that £62,858 is charged against capital for discount and expenses. Thanks, however, to the £1,000,000 of debenture stock sold last year, the available money in hand was £656,881 up at the year's end at the comfortable figure of £2,138,925. The actual capital expenditure on the company's own system last year was only £349,776, and some of its outlays on account of the leased companies were offset by credits for stores, &c., returned. The capital outlay on the Argentine Great Western was, for instance, £221,942, but against that £293,489 was credited back for construction material returned to stores, and the same thing happened on a much smaller scale in the case of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western and Villa Maria lines.

As matters stand, there is now £10,000,000 of ordinary stock outstanding, which for two years has gone without any dividend, and it may be still another two years before it would be wise on the part of the directors to resume dividend payments on any scale. This does not mean that the position is bad, but it does, perhaps, mean that the company went ahead too eagerly, and assumed heavy responsibilities and commitments which the course of trade and the progress of the country did not immediately give warrant for. But its debenture stock looks well covered even now, and all its properties leased and owned are excellent and of excellent promise, so that there should be nothing in the report and accounts to prompt any stockholder to part with his security at present prices. So much depends upon the harvest that nothing can yet be predicted with certainty about the outcome of the current season; all that can be said is prospects are decidedly better. As a telegram to the board of November 1 date, quoted in the report, says, "Recent rains make wheat, oats, and linseed prospects decidedly encouraging," but down in Bahia Blanca the rain came too late to save the crops, and consequently only a 50 per cent. yield is looked for there and from points 80 or 90 miles up north of it. The position of the camps, though, is excellent, and there ought to be a good year for cattle farmers. Altogether flood repairs cost £48,637 last year, and of this £25,108 is charged to revenue, the rest being put to capital account, because some improvements were made in the course of effecting repairs. One-third only, however, of the revenue-borne portion, or £8,369, is charged against last year's revenue, but the balance is to be paid off this year and next. Perhaps the most welcome statement of all in the report is the directors' announcement that no new branches or extensions have been applied for. We hope no extensions will be attempted until the company's position is much more solid than it can yet be said to be.

No part of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific's system has suffered more cruelly than the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Co., yet it, too, began to show a faint revival of elasticity last year, its gross receipts having risen by £212,973 to £755,753. For 1913-14, however, the falling off was £293,256, so that the past year has not come up to the 1912-13 level, the high-water mark so far reached. Prospects are not particularly good, either, for the current year, but probably rather better than in the past year, and the company is beginning to reap benefit from its extensions. It, for instance, is reported by the general manager that the extension of the Patagones line continues to give satisfactory results. Nevertheless, there will have to be a long pause in further reachings forth into the unexplored, even granted that it is a necessity of the company's existence to get possession of Western feeders as fast as possible. Capital expenditure last year was kept down to a mere £12,000, and most of that was written off against credits. In other respects the accounts are of no importance, because all charges are borne by the lessee, the B.A. and Pacific.

## Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa.

Shareholders in this curious conglomeration of concerns—gold, tin, petroleum, and hydro-electric power, with copious doses of salts in prospect—had such a paralysing shock last year that they will probably regard the report just issued as a rather brilliant performance. And the lucky ones who have paid less than £6 or £7 for their shares, now worth under 30s., may even think how clever the directors must be to evade the excess profits tax with such a magnificent vista of prosperity as some of their far-flung ventures are said to promise. On the other hand, there may be a few doubting Thomases who will wonder what particular aptitude the board has for tackling such a multiplicity of varied interests as the company is concerned in, and especially those leavings of the Yankees in which so much money has been sunk in recent years. Lord Harris has played cricket in South Africa, and presumably some of the other directors know a little about conditions in the Transvaal and Rhodesia, although many of their speculations in the latter country have not, to put it mildly, proved brilliantly successful. But what they know about oil in Mexico, Texas and Trinidad, potash salts in California, and electric power on the Mississippi is probably not worth knowing. However, these little playthings of a million or two may keep them out of mischief now that con-tango business on the Stock Exchange (which they do understand) has dried up.

All things considered, the company did not do so badly in the year ended June 30 last. Revenue, mainly derived from interest and dividends on investments, amounted to £323,246 or £98,600 less than for the previous 12 months, and after deducting expenses and debenture interest the nett profit is £90,000 down at £299,152. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent., leaving £80,088 or £4,380 less to be carried forward. For the previous year an interim of 5 per cent. was paid, but there was no final distribution, £150,000 being taken from reserve in order to set aside £850,000 as a special provision for war contingencies. In 1912-13 the shareholders received 2s. or 10 per cent., and for each of the two years 1908-9 and 1909-10 they got 35 per cent., but previous to that the dividend record was distinctly disappointing, and it does not look particularly hopeful for the future. Indeed, the shares have never had much merit except as gambling counters, and their attractiveness from that point of view has gone—probably for ever—in spite of the very substantial interest the company still possesses in the Transvaal gold industry. Including the above-mentioned sum of £850,000 no less than £2,500,000 had to be written off for depreciation in the two years ended June, 1914, two millions being taken

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from reserve and the balance from profits, a record that does not redound to the far-sightedness or business capacity of the directors. Thanks to the Treasury regulations the company has been able to reduce its Stock Exchange loans by £780,000 to £385,000, and this has enabled it to repay £526,000 of its own indebtedness, the amount owing to sundry creditors being now only £216,000. On the other hand, it has increased cash advances and mortgages by £205,000 to £810,000, and cash in hand by £89,000 to £318,740. There is still a reserve fund of £800,000, but only £384,000 of this is invested outside the business. Shares in other companies at or under cost stand at £3,770,650 after deducting depreciation, and that is perhaps quite as much as they are worth.

But for its wild adventures the company ought to have done well, for its subsidiaries produce nearly 10 per cent. of the Transvaal gold output. In the 12 months to July 31 last the group produced 806,264 ozs. of gold valued at £3,379,870, against 745,192 ozs. valued at £3,132,850 in the previous year, and the mining profits amounted to £924,400 against £889,600. A scheme has been arranged for the amalgamation of the Robinson Deep, South Deeps, Booysen's Estate, and Booysen's Freehold, and there will doubtless be a turn for the Gold Fields Co. out of it. In view of the improved supply of native labour arrangements have also been made for the reopening of the eastern section of the Jupiter mine, which will be worked in conjunction with the Simmer Deep, and it is anticipated that crushing will soon reach 20,000 to 25,000 tons per month. As to the various American projects on which the company has embarked it is impossible to express any useful opinion. The oil ventures have been hampered by the troubles in Mexico, and a Klondyke dredging proposition suffered from the sinking of one of the large dredges. The power companies do not make much headway, and none of the large amount of capital involved in these concerns appears to be dividend producing. They may do all right in time, but the general experience is that the Yankees only allow outsiders to put up capital for such undertakings when the people on the spot will have nothing to do with them. It does happen sometimes that they are afterwards bought up at rubbish prices and turned into respectable successes.

### Letters to the Editor.

#### THE CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY'S INVESTMENTS.

SIR,—In your issue of November 6 your friendly comments upon the speech which I made from the chair at the annual meeting of this society need correction in one point. You are under the impression that I "resisted the temptation to convert our 2½ per cent. Consols into new War Loan stock." What I did say of the new War Loan was that it "seemed so desirable on all grounds that, after converting our Consols and our first War Loan, we now hold £310,000."

I added that I felt some reluctance in parting with Consols at £66 13s. 4d., but in doing that I was only expressing the regret which many of us feel at the necessity of parting with a security which has for so many years headed our balance-sheet. In the case of a life office, however, which, under Act of Parliament, has to make periodical valuations of its assets, it would be very inadvisable to continue to hold such security at the present time, but the position of a private holder who can afford to wait is very different.

Yours obediently,

JOHN COLES, Chairman.

15, St James's Square, London, S.W.,

November 10, 1915.

[\* \* We are glad to stand corrected, and apologise for the mistake.—ED.]

As the result of the war, the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for October amounted to 119,655 tons, while the imports were 95,580 tons.

### Insurance News.

The Postmaster-General in the House of Commons on Tuesday outlined a scheme of aircraft insurance through the Post Office, and explanatory leaflets will be issued immediately. The insurances are intended to deal with property of comparatively small value, and not with buildings, loss of life, or bodily injury. A payment of 6d. would insure losses up to £25, 1s. covers losses up to £50, and 1s. 6d. up to £75, the maximum. The Post Office scheme is not intended for property worth more than £100. Insurances of £100 or over are, of course, effected under the previous war risks scheme. Claims made to any post office would be dealt with by the Government War Risks Office. If on a claim being made the total value of the property to which the insurance relates should be found to be more than £100, the sum to be paid will be proportionately reduced. The insurance relates to furniture and other household goods, personal effects, &c.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been asked whether, in view of the fact that neither in Lord Derby's scheme nor in any other way is adequate protection afforded to young married men who enlist or offer to enlist against the risk of their businesses being damaged or even ruined, he would consider the practicability of bringing into existence a scheme of Government insurance whereby such a man on payment of a single premium could be assured of a fixed capital payment in the event of his being called up before a certain date. But the Chancellor has come to the conclusion such a scheme would not be practicable.

Men placed in their groups under Lord Derby's scheme will still be insured persons under National Insurance. The position is made clear, for employers and men alike, in an announcement by the National Health Insurance Commissioners. Men enlisted who are allowed to return to their homes on furlough and are in receipt of military pay and allowances, will be insured as soldiers, and contributions in respect of them will be paid by the military authorities. Should a man engage in civilian employment no insurance contribution will be payable in respect of him by his civilian employer.

Warnings have appeared in some of the American newspapers pointing out that American companies and others having treaties with German reinsurance companies and those who hold policies of German companies should realise that the existence of these concerns depends entirely upon the result of the war, in view of the fact that their funds are being freely drawn upon by the German Government for war purposes. Defeat for Germany will mean an unparalleled financial crash, in which will be engulfed many insurance companies. A writer in the *Boston Transcript* quotes prominent Germans as saying that the insurance companies, among others, are forced to subscribe to the war loans, the Government simply taking 25 per cent. of their bank deposits and holding and writing them down as subscribers to the loan for that amount. The writer goes on to say the knowledge of this procedure should prove a warning to those in the United States who are blindly and foolishly trusting to the scraps of paper issued in the United States by these imported German concerns. There is no good reason, he adds, why residents of the United States should rely upon such questionable protection.

It has been urged upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he should exempt insurance and underwriting from the trades and businesses to which the excess profits duty is to apply, it being contended that the nature of insurance was such that it was not a fit subject for a tax of that character in view of the great fluctuation comparing one year with another. Apparently the Government quite recognises that there are considerations affecting the datum line for insurance companies, and considerations affecting the manner in which their profits are reckoned, which ought to be taken into account, and it is proposed to deal with the matter by amendments to Clause 35 of the Finance Bill.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		Nov.	£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down.	Nov. 5	3,171	—	498	163,095	+ 19,808
Grand Canal .. ..	" 5	1,376	+	65	21,255	— 1,474
Great Northern .. ..	" 5	23,035	—	815	1,030,425	+ 29,425
Gt. Southern and Western.	" 5	35,341	—	1,023	1,475,104	+ 96,481
Midland Great Western ..	" 5	13,518	—	249	509,297	+ 12,462

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		Aug.	£	£	£	£
Beira .. ..	Aug. *	33,224	—	4,472	—	—
Canadian Northern .. ..	Oct. 31a	\$1,271,400	+	\$504,400	\$3,678,500	+ \$100,200
Canadian Pacific .. ..	Nov. 7	\$3,015,000	+	\$1,107,000	\$43,296,000	+ \$951,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line .. ..	" 7	148,589	+	1,385	6,934,113	— 510,597
Gr. Trk. Western .. ..	" 7	40,295	+	12,370	1,480,410	+ 62,108
Detroit G. H. & M. .. ..	" 7	13,576	+	2,647	321,866	+ 36,423
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc .. ..	" 7	41,232	+	15,018	422,866	+ 57,251
Mashonaland .. ..	Aug. *	49,470	—	3,912	282,897	+ 165,025
Mid. of Westn. Aus. .. ..	Sept *	5,300	—	1,080	11,068	— 7,361
New Cape Central .. ..	Oct. 16	1,637	—	65	73,198	+ 748
Rhodesia .. ..	July *	77,976	—	11,294	521,774	+ 177,239
W. Pass & Yukon .. ..	Oct. 7	\$43,239	+	14,465	\$1,404,667	+ \$33,316

a 10 days.

\* Months.

† July 1.

† Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		Oct. 21	\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio .. ..	Oct. 21	857,000	+	31,000	13,858,000	+ 1,334,000
Chicago G. W. .. ..	" 21	328,000	—	12,000	4,558,000	— 170,000
Colorado & South'n .. ..	" 14	316,000	+	13,000	4,161,000	+ 118,000
Denver & Rio Gran. .. ..	" 31a	846,000	+	65,000	9,215,000	+ 587,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e .. ..	" 21	1,142,000	+	113,000	17,286,000	+ 80,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) .. ..	" 14	741,000	+	5,000	9,527,000	+ 129,000
Missouri Kansas .. ..	" 21	643,000	—	45,000	9,591,000	+ 558,000
Missouri Pacific .. ..	" 31a	1,826,000	—	71,000	20,689,000	+ 808,000
Southern .. ..	" 21	1,363,000	+	147,000	20,040,000	+ 654,000

a 10 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Assam Bengal	Sept 30a	2,10,000	+	34,348	†	33,54,541	+	88,952
Barsi Light	Oct. 16	11,800	+	2,000	†	5,70,300	+	26,000
Bengal & N.-W.	Sept 30a	4,97,980	+	24,653	†	87,79,833	+	13,76,818
Bengal Nagpur	Oct. 9c	9,60,000	+	90,000	†	9,60,000	+	90,000
Bombay, Baroda	Nov. 6	11,36,000	—	31,000	†	61,03,000	+	7,21,000
Burma	Sept 30a	5,52,332	+	74,145	†	95,29,799	+	11,40,987
Delhi Umballa	Oct. 30	79,000	+	6,348	†	3,09,630	—	9,058
East Indian	Nov. 6	19,62,000	—	1,29,000	†	1,03,71,000	—	60,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 6	14,67,500	+	1,62,100	†	77,69,200	+	7,57,589
Lucknow-Bareilly	Sept 30a	50,405	+	10,300	†	9,57,090	+	11,867
Madras and S.								
Maharatta	Oct. 16	7,80,000	+	65,685	†	17,45,000	+	1,38,868
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 16	1,13,880	+	18,828	†	2,42,515	+	20,911
" (Metre)	" 16	55,605	+	7,891	†	1,30,331	+	1,300
Rohilkund and								
Kumaon	Sept 30a	49,857	+	10,507	†	9,03,374	+	22,366
South Indian	Oct. 9c	6,55,035	+	55,282	†	6,55,035	+	55,282
Southern Punjab	June 8	6,37,843	+	75,436	†	14,32,236	—	35,513

a 12 days.

c 9 days.

b 5 days.

† April 1.

§ Month.

† October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchison T. & S. F.	Sept.	\$3,639,000	+ 3,000	3	10,589,000	+ 687,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	440,000	+ 349,000	3	764,000	+ 255,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,194,000	+ 560,000	3	9,666,000	+ 1,992,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	662,600	+ 71,900	3	1,886,500	+ 79,400
Canadian Pacific .. ..	"	4,745,000	+ 378,000	3	10,988,000	+ 521,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,511,000	+ 398,000	3	2,723,000	+ 1,059,000
Chicago & N.W. .. ..	"	2,837,000	+ 370,000	3	6,847,000	+ 191,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Aug.	2,675,000	+ 506,000	2	4,635,000	+ 965,000
Chicago G.W. .. ..	Sept.	380,000	+ 67,000	3	953,000	+ 130,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	Aug.	2,510,000	+ 350,000	2	5,322,000	+ 778,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Aug.	1,273,000	+ 335,000	2	1,911,000	+ 678,000
Colorado & Southern ..	Sept.	481,000	+ 96,000	3	1,136,000	+ 151,000
Cuba .. ..	"	411,923	+ 97,247	3	1,248,647	+ 207,939
Do. .. ..	"	96,989	+ 44,335	3	360,187	+ 155,074
Delaware & Hud. .. ..	"	833,000	+ 81,000	8	5,338,000	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	840,600	+ 258,603	2	1,477,000	+ 338,000
Erie .. ..	"	2,422,000	+ 968,000	9	12,082,000	+ 2,995,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line .. ..	"	\$241,700	+ \$8,000	9	\$1,749,250	+ \$13,950
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	\$46,150	+ \$34,250	9	\$30,930	+ \$97,300
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	"	\$13,400	+ \$15,850	9	\$20,100	+ \$61,700
Gt. Northern .. ..	Aug.	2,623,000	+ 600,000	2	4,989,000	+ 1,130,000
Illinois Central .. ..	Sept.	1,327,000	+ 68,000	3	2,982,000	+ 244,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	318,000	+ 67,000	3	927,000	+ 76,000
Lehigh Valley .. ..	"	1,150,000	+ 40,000	3	3,269,000	+ 98,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,019,000	+ 134,000	3	4,000,000	+ 967,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) .. ..	Aug.	833,000	+ 191,000	3	1,582,000	+ 211,000
Miss. K. & Texas .. ..	"	791,000	+ 15,000	3	1,262,000	+ 173,000
Missouri Pacific .. ..	"	1,145,000	+ 246,000	3	2,092,000	+ 708,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	5,273,000	+ 897,000	8	27,980,000	+ 8,872,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,114,000	+ 482,000	2	4,309,000	+ 1,115,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	Sept.	186,000	+ 2,000	3	916,000	+ 6,000
Norfolk & Western ..	Aug.	1,534,000	+ 489,000	2	3,222,000	+ 1,083,000
Norfolk Pacific .. ..	Sept.	3,443,000	+ 548,000	3	8,008,000	+ 884,000
Pennsylvania East ..	Aug.	10,858,000	+ 1,245,000	8	49,405,000	+ 5,253,000
Reading .. ..	Sept.	562,276	+ 818	3	1,687,161	+ 18,281
St. Louis & San F. ..	Aug.	1,137,000	+ 4,000	2	2,124,000	+ 16,000
Seaboard Air Line .. ..	"	339,000	+ 24,000	2	723,000	+ 74,000
Southern .. ..	Sept.	1,679,000	+ 641,000	3	4,386,000	+ 1,074,000
Southern Pacific .. ..	"	4,738,000	+ 829,000	3	13,928,000	+ 3,382,000
Union Pacific .. ..	"	3,923,000	+ 4,000	3	10,179,000	+ 124,000
Wabash .. ..	Aug.	910,000	+ 62,000	2	1,414,000	+ 174,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Nov. 6	Ps. 16,000	—	2,000	Ps. 535,200	—	Ps. 26,550
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 7	25,390	+	3,450	1,069,140	—	3,318,405
Arauco .. ..	Sept. 7	7,200	—	1,425	62,575	—	8,540
Argentine N.E. .. ..	Nov. 6	5,538	+	1,288	126,107	+	39,587
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Oct. *	5,895	—	43	50,348	—	1,879
Bolivar .. ..	Sept. *	7,750	+	3,202	22,000	+	5,081
Brazil .. ..	Aug. *	M3,706,000	+	M133,649	M25,821,000	+	M783,137
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	"	M3,750	+	M 4,900	M271,600	+	M28,000
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 6	76,000	+	13,000	1,464,000	+	306,000
Do. Gt. South'n .. ..	" 7	100,000	+	16,000	1,585,908	+	291,967
Do. Western .. ..	" 7	49,000	+	6,000	822,000	+	139,000
Central Argentine .. ..	" 8	107,100	+	6,800	2,081,300	+	240,900
C. Ur. Gt. of Mte V. ..	" 6	13,534	+	3,252	203,577	+	44,677
Do. East'n Ex. .. ..	" 6	3,621	+	603	65,099	+	19,110
Do. North'n Ex. .. ..	" 6	2,038	+	549	33,423	+	8,328
Do. West'n Ex. .. ..	" 6	1,911	+	408	30,682	+	7,638
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	10,200	—	326	104,242	—	1,131
Cordoba Central .. ..	Nov. 6	23,550	—	6,735	585,440	—	107,545
Costa Rica .. ..	Aug. 28	5,340	—	1,303	39,812	—	25,727
Cuban Central .. ..	Nov. 7	7,808	+	1,702	143,676	+	22,317
Dorada Extension .. ..	Oct. *	7,100	—	100	78,400	—	5,400
Egyptian Delta .. ..	" 10	6,274	+	2,076	81,440	+	18,877
Entre Rios .. ..	Nov. 6	9,100	+	400	173,400	+	30,300
French Sante Fé .. ..	Sept.	77,880	+	9,321	676,192	—	68,344
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 30	Ps. 67,676	+	Ps. 6,661	Ps25,89,923	+	Ps298,263
Gt. West. of Brazil. ..	Nov. 6	10,700	—	3,500	421,900	—	108,600
Havana Central .. ..	" 6	5,705	+	1,063	99,839	+	11,356
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Sept. c?	6,370	+	3,501	174,637	+	39,465
La Guaira and Car. ..	Oct. *	6,750	+	1,500	67,750	—	20,750
Leopoldina .. ..	Nov. 6	31,891	+	5,365	1,312,642	+	3,436
Manila (Northern) ..	" 6	2,972	—	1,236	224,296	—	42,951
Do. (Southern) .. ..	" 6	2,691	—	1,206	163,406	—	13,977
Midland Uruguay .. ..	Oct.	9,415	+	2,296	42,020	+	10,518
Mogvaya .. ..	Aug.	M2,705,000	+	M147,2670	M15,079,000	+	M17,494,88
N.W. of Uruguay .. ..	Oct.	\$20,500	+	\$5,750	\$2,504	+	\$25,681
Nitrate .. ..	" 31b	19,845	+	7,943	287,836	—	219,232
Paraguay Central .. ..	Nov. 8	\$497,000	+	\$265,000	\$8,439,000	+	\$39,160
Paulista .. ..	Aug.	M3,400,000	+	M1,743,972	M16,950,000	+	M16,020,11
Peruvian Corp. .. ..	Oct. *	\$806,900	+	\$176,130	\$3,106,057	+	\$234,393
Puerto Cab. & V'len. ..	Sept. *	2,792	+	637	32,216	—	306
Salvador .. ..	Nov. 6	\$16,500	+	\$4,150	\$356,100	+	\$55,994
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Oct. 30	38,883	+	4,151	662,505	+	173,813
Sorocabana .. ..	Aug. *	M1,692,000	+	M778,770	M10,724,000	+	M878,841
Talca .. ..	"	17,708	+	7,538	65,461	+	2,643
United of Havana .. ..	Nov. 7	26,663	+	7,511	451,446	+	100,400
West'n of Havana .. ..	" 6	4,752	+	100	89,285	—	6,271
Zafra and Huelva .. ..	Sept.	10,156	+	2,614	72,973	—	43,245

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days. § Apl. 1.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bath Electric .. ..	"	—	—	—	—
Bristol .. ..	Nov. 5	9,651	+	1,388	4



## THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.  
ASSETS EXCEED £14,100,000.

Head Office:  
1, Dale Street, Liverpool.

London Chief Offices:  
1, Cornhill, E.C.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Although no very marked effect has been produced on the Money market as yet by the daily sales of Treasury bills at the Bank of England or by the steady outflow of gold, there is little doubt that the floating supplies of credit are being steadily reduced. Money seems to be still plentiful enough to meet the moderate requirements of the market, but except in the very beginning of the week there have been no surplus balances offering during the later business hours at low rates. Borrowers have had to pay 4-4½ per cent. for their overnight accommodation, and have found it increasingly difficult to secure any large proportion at the lower figure. This afternoon, however, owing to the complete stoppage of discount business, balances were offered freely at 3½ per cent. Weekly fixtures are still quoted at 4½-4¾ per cent., but here also there has been more disposition to pay 4½ per cent. for good money rather than 4¾ per cent. for funds upon which less reliance of their being continued could be placed.

The supply of bills in the discount market continued scant and very irregular, brokers reporting one day that there was a fair number offering and the next that they had not been able to buy a single bill. In these circumstances rates were more or less nominal, but most houses held to 4¾-4½ per cent. for two months' bills and 4¾ per cent. for threes, although it was impossible to obtain the longer dated paper at anything over 4½ per cent. These were the conditions until yesterday, but to-day the market was completely upset by the unexpected announcement that the rate for Treasury bills over the counter had been advanced to 5 per cent. for all maturities. At the same time the Bank of England intimated that it would not take bills from the market below 5½ per cent., and its action was understood to be meant as a warning that the Bank rate might be advanced in the near future unless open market rates were kept up. Business was naturally brought to a standstill, and although brokers quoted 5½-5¾ per cent. for all dates, we could only hear of an occasional transaction being done in the very finest paper at 5½ per cent. Tenders for the £3,500,000 India yearling bills on Wednesday amounted to £6,175,000, and applicants at £94 12s. 3d. received 78 per cent., the average rate of discount being £5 7s. 0.13d. per cent. This was much about what had been expected, and it was assumed that the market got the whole amount. The bills were offered yesterday at 5½-5¾ per cent., but without attracting buyers to any appreciable extent.

Among foreign exchanges the most notable event has been the violent fluctuations in Petrograd. Early in the week this went to 149½, or the highest point touched, but a good deal of speculation seems to have taken place on the belief that the arrangements for establishing a credit here were nearly completed. As the result of this, the rate ranged between 147 and 142½, and closed at the latter figure. The Dutch exchange too has fluctuated, touching 11.08½, and then reacting to 11.04, Paris has risen to 27.90, and the Italian rate has also improved. New York exchange has been

much less active, and the cable rate has gradually risen to 4.66½. According to a Reuter telegram from New York, an International Committee of Bankers has been organised to regulate the exchange, on which Lord Cunliffe, Sir Edward Holden, and Sir Felix Schuster will represent Great Britain. Good progress is being made with the arrangement of a credit in the U.S., but no definite information regarding the amount is yet available.

Gold continues to leave the country in large amounts, the export during the Bank of England's week having been £1,594,000, and as very little came in from the provinces the stocks of coin and bullion were reduced to £1,304,000 to 55,352,000. A decrease of £234,000 in the note circulation left the reserve £1,070,000 down at £40,603,000, but the proportion to liabilities is nearly ½ per cent. lower at 29.1 per cent. Sales of Treasury bills probably account for the increase of £3,421,000 in Public Deposits, and as there is a drop of £873,000 in "Other" Securities, the "Other" Deposits show a decrease of £5,359,000 at £90,415,000.

According to the official statement of currency notes, during the week ended November 10 £3,691,629 in £1 notes, £1,111,818 in 10s. notes, and £1,350,000 in note certificates were issued. In the same period £2,029,749 in £1, £759,249 in 10s. notes, and £530,000 in note certificates were cancelled. There was therefore an increase on balance of £2,734,449, leaving a total of £87,690,389 outstanding, made up of £60,811,784 in £1 notes, £21,138,605 in 10s. notes, and £5,740,000 in currency note certificates. There is also an investment reserve account of £446,969 8s. 6d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £44,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £14,560,795 6s. 7d. at the Bank of England, while £189,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £267,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

China has been a seller of Silver on most days this week, but other supplies continue small, and with a good demand for coinage purposes the offerings were readily absorbed. The price fluctuated between 24½d. and 24¾d. per oz., and closes at the top, showing a gain of ½d. on the week.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., in their weekly circular, say that some fluctuation has taken place in the price of bar silver during the week, but on balance the change is slight. The Continental demand has been well in evidence, so much so that a further amount of the London stock has been absorbed. China has been a rather uncertain factor, figuring sometimes on the same day as seller and buyer. The sales, however, have exceeded the purchases. The recognition of General Carranza will doubtless increase the ultimate export of silver as well as of silver ores from Mexico. The strength of the market lies in the large demand for coinage.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 6,80,000 in bills, Rs. 2,45,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 18,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 1,73,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 43,32,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 4,95,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-16d. receiving about 61 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 9th inst. the total sales were Rs. 7,90,36,061, realising £5,270,070, compared with Rs. 6,13,36,861 for £4,091,751 to November 10 last year.

Chartered Institute of Secretaries.—Mr. F. J. Barthorpe, of the London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., has been elected president of the Institute, Messrs. John C. Mitchell (Underground Electric Railways Co. of London, Ltd.), and G. Henry Wright (Birmingham Chamber of Commerce), vice-presidents, and Mr. J. J. Bisgood (Edinburgh Life Assurance Co.), treasurer for the ensuing year.



BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 10, 1915.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. .. .	£ 73,642,385	Government Debt .. .. .	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. .. .	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	55,192,385
		Silver Bullion .. .. .	—
	£73,642,385		£73,642,385

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital .. ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities .. ..	£ 18,895,068
Reserve .. .. .	3,219,928	Other Securities .. .. .	97,667,484
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. .. .	40,443,590
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin .. ..	159,289
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) .. ..	48,958,426		
Other Deposits .. .. .	90,415,018		
Seven Day and other Bills	19,059		
	£157,165,431		£157,165,431

Dated Nov. 11, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year.		Nov. 3,	Nov. 10,	Increase.	Decrease.
Nov. 11.		1915.	1915.		
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,203,460	Rest .. .. .	3,212,219	3,219,928	7,709	—
19,249,493	Pub. Deposits ..	45,537,438	48,958,426	3,420,988	—
137,286,671	Other do. .. .	95,774,304	90,415,018	—	5,359,286
14,725	7 Day Bills ..	30,986	19,059	—	11,927
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
17,004,087	Gov. Securities.	18,895,068	18,895,068	—	—
105,091,369	Other do. .. .	98,540,391	97,667,484	872,907	—
52,211,893	Total Reserve ..	41,672,488	40,602,879	1,069,609	—
				5,371,213	5,371,213
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,519,030	Coin and Bullion	33,433,230	33,198,795	—	234,435
69,280,923	Proportion .. ..	56,655,718	55,351,674	—	1,304,044
33 1/2 p.c.	Bank Rate .. ..	29.5 p.c.	29.1 p.c.	—	0.4 p.c.
5 ..		5 ..	5 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,594,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. 6 ..	291,855,000	233,189,000	58,666,000	—
" 13 ..	269,450,000	243,921,000	25,529,000	—
" 20 ..	270,952,000	248,954,000	21,998,000	—
" 27 ..	258,662,000	258,472,000	190,000	—
Nov. 3 ..	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10 ..	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
Total ..	11,554,437,000	13,181,187,000	—	1,626,750,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 6.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs .. .. .	1,281,000
Excise .. .. .	467,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	466,000
Stamps .. .. .	81,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	360,000
Land Values Duties .. ..	—
Post Office .. .. .	800,000
Crown Lands .. .. .	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. .. .	207,001
Bullion advances repaid ..	100,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	33,779,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	6,500,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	230,000
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. .. .	160,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Housing Act .. ..	150,000
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments .. ..	—
Canard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	350,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. .. .	—
	£44,331,001
National Debt Service .. ..	4,091
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	553,228
Development & Road Impvt. Payments to Local Taxation	360,380
Other Consolidated Fund Charges .. .. .	1,000
Supply Services .. .. .	20,424,000
Bullion Advances .. .. .	150,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Red- emption Act, 1910 .. ..	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 .. ..	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Public Buildings Ex- penses Act, 1903 .. ..	—
E Africa Protectorate Loan	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid .. .. .	15,177,000
Increase in Exchequer balances .. .. .	7,661,302
	£44,331,001

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
£	£
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Saturday—Spain .. ..
Friday—Bars .. .. .	" Switzerland .. ..
	" (set aside) .. ..
	Monday—Miscel. .. ..
	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Continent .. ..
	Thursday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Spain .. .. .
	Friday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Spain .. .. .
	" S. America .. ..
	" Canada .. .. .
Nett Efflux .. .. .	
£4,136,000	£4,136,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended November 6, amounted to £33,180,000, or a daily average of £5,530,000. Bills to the amount of £15,177,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £18,003,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1916.	
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 1/2
*245,500,000	—	—	—
255,500,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 22, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 8, 1915.
£	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	45,401,000	45,391,200	45,553,800
Gold Redemption Fund .. ..	242,470	242,400	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund .. ..	10,934,000	11,724,000	11,170,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	6,925,200	3,040,600	4,260,400
Total reserves .. .. .	63,502,600	61,307,200	61,226,600
10-day bills and loans .. ..	1,452,600	1,338,800	1,178,600
30-day bills and loans .. ..	2,239,600	2,587,800	2,761,200
60-day bills and loans .. ..	2,818,800	2,940,600	3,038,400
90-day bills and loans .. ..	1,795,600	1,623,200	1,830,800
Maturities over 90 days .. ..	357,800	301,400	264,000
Total .. .. .	8,064,400	8,791,800	9,073,000
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. .. .	2,096,000	2,076,000	1,896,600
Municipal Warrants .. ..	5,076,200	5,316,600	5,405,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,136,000	3,047,200	3,104,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. .. .	2,468,400	2,032,000	1,544,600
All other assets .. .. .	632,400	601,600	624,800
Total assets .. .. .	85,576,000	83,174,400	82,876,000
Paid-up capital .. .. .	10,966,800	10,955,500	10,956,200
Government Deposits .. ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	68,088,800	65,753,200	65,357,400
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,961,800	2,958,200	3,045,000
All other liabilities .. ..	558,600	508,000	517,400
Total liabilities .. .. .	85,576,000	83,174,400	82,876,000
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. .. .	79.3%	82.3%	81.5%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. .. .	88.9%	88.%	87.6%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 6, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Nov. 7, 1914
£	£	£	£	£
Loans .. .. .	616,360,000	607,934,000	601,254,000	428,940,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	105,230,000	104,822,000	103,710,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,464,000	32,768,000	31,770,000	90,008,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	9,524,000	9,218,000	9,248,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits .. ..	633,080,000	623,962,000	615,832,000	384,610,000
Nett Time Deposits .. .. .	28,838,000	28,510,000	27,842,000	—
Circulation .. .. .	7,086,000	7,138,000	7,135,000	26,052,000
Excess Lawful Reserve .. ..	38,300,000	38,740,000	38,126,000	3,182,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans .. .. .	122,018,000	120,562,000	120,450,000	112,080,000
Specie .. .. .	10,456,000	10,408,000	10,312,000	8,400,000
Deposits .. .. .	127,528,000	125,798,000	125,086,000	111,040,000
Legal Tenders .. .. .	1,854,000	1,854,000	1,842,000	2,600,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 29, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.	Oct. 14, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1914.
£	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve .. .. .	8,417,700	7,921,300	7,677,000	9,372,300
Cash in reserve .. .. .	159,825,800	159,563,500	159,515,500	162,290,500
Gold in reserve abroad .. ..	3,559,900	3,718,300	3,741,500	21,552,300
Circulation note issue .. ..	509,500,000	507,000,000	497,000,000	280,000,000
Treasury deposits .. .. .	21,098,800	20,765,000	20,335,800	22,473,800

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 6, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Nov. 7, 1914
£	£	£	£	£
Gold .. .. .	33,344,545	33,318,685	32,793,140	14,310,889
Silver .. .. .	206,497	210,127	202,006	402,863
Bills discounted, &c. .. ..	15,002,426	14,974,299	13,815,294	26,825,128
Note circulation .. .. .	47,398,821	47,487,472	45,958,440	39,905,611
Deposits .. .. .	1,255,304	1,124,036	1,067,893	1,475,381



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 11, 1915.	Nov. 4, 1915.	Oct. 28, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	191,281,200	190,185,200	189,199,160	187,706,960
Silver in hand ..	14,458,650	14,495,740	14,529,840	14,531,680
Bills discounted ..	10,929,680	12,980,680	11,210,800	10,733,040
Advances ..	22,757,200	22,651,560	22,718,840	23,020,480
Note circulation ..	567,526,640	563,141,960	554,702,160	553,279,760
Public deposits ..	2,307,160	2,080,060	1,538,040	3,303,760
Private deposits ..	100,998,920	100,835,320	101,834,320	102,061,120
Foreign Bills ..	53,000	66,040	51,160	58,800

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £288,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £36,893,880, decrease £190,080, and at the branches to £38,986,500 decrease £156,160.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	123,344,250	123,342,050	123,322,300	96,079,000
Treasury Notes ..	48,016,150	56,892,350	56,272,700	42,960,900
Bills discounted ..	214,244,750	210,325,050	196,172,350	132,147,150
Advances ..	721,400	946,800	741,150	1,657,370
Note circulation ..	295,500,000	297,318,200	283,750,850	204,242,100
Deposits ..	78,726,800	8,134,450	80,920,700	64,103,000

Clearing House returns during Oct. £242,546,610 against £270,499,060 in Sept.,

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 6, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Nov. 7, 1914
Gold ..	32,036,107	31,862,410	31,186,713	22,380,523
Silver ..	29,354,796	29,561,817	29,473,984	27,682,530
Foreign Bills ..	4,095,054	4,168,807	4,145,862	6,585,483
Discounts and Short Bills ..	27,316,005	27,105,742	26,893,954	33,214,308
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,570,560	28,109,822	28,576,019	29,833,142
Notes in Circulation ..	83,729,789	82,962,833	82,993,027	84,233,444
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	25,668,092	25,945,105	25,310,865	24,224,301
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,465,670	2,171,565	1,688,195	1,527,855
Government Securities ..	1,262,419	1,275,332	1,398,138	4,054,600

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915	Oct. 10, 1914
Total cash ..	54,982,880	55,156,120	55,401,960	50,458,126
Gold ..	20,352,960	21,307,560	22,713,840	33,462,200
Foreign Bills ..	835,560	832,600	832,280	3,127,000
Advances ..	9,283,000	8,458,560	8,332,280	5,874,520
Government securities ..	7,795,880	7,455,240	7,465,680	8,215,640
Circulation ..	113,929,400	111,579,640	111,586,840	87,453,440
Deposits at notice ..	11,360,400	10,668,200	10,860,560	7,477,000
Current accounts ..	16,435,760	18,701,260	18,109,280	970,717,000

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 31, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	12,153,930	12,220,282	12,187,968	9,951,256
Bills ..	6,054,983	5,932,144	5,367,156	8,188,504
Note circulation ..	17,724,474	16,805,395	16,883,436	17,159,076
Current and deposit accounts ..	2,790,837	3,492,054	3,197,224	2,383,348

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	30, 1915.	Oct. 3, 1915.	Oct. 16, 1915.	Oct. 31, 1914.
Gold ..	6,298,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	5,774,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,590,000	6,614,000	6,677,000	2,660,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,005,000	3,015,000	3,030,000	1,479,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,235,000	4,897,000	4,967,000	8,966,000
Notes in circulation ..	17,151,000	16,136,000	16,257,000	15,779,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,168,000	4,752,000	4,664,000	3,243,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 22, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1914.
Gold ..	3,760,000	3,656,000	3,684,000	2,251,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,738,000	3,732,000	3,694,000	1,662,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,198,000	4,014,000	4,060,000	6,847,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,603,000	8,254,000	8,338,000	7,305,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,368,000	1,369,000	1,354,000	1,280,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 9, 1915.		Nov. 11, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland ..	Three months' bills ..	11.25	11.30*	11.22	11.27
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.04	11.08*	11.02	11.07
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	30.35	30.55	30.40	30.5 *
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.05	30.15	30.10	30.15
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	33½	34½	33½	34½
Do. do. ..	Three months' bills ..	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.
Paris ..	Three months' bills ..	27.75	27.80	28.25	28.45*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	28.13	28.23*	27.88	27.92*
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	143	144	143½	144½
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	17.30	17.50	17.20	17.50
Do. ..	Three months' bills ..	17.65	18.05*	17.55	18*
Spain (Bnk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	46	46½	nom.	nom.
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.90	25.00	33½	34½
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.12	25.25	25.15	25.25*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	21.67	24.77	24.70	24.80

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .....	chqs.	27.63	27.90	Antwerp .....	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy .....	sight	29.95	30.20
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.00	11.06½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Batavia .....	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna .....	sight	—	—	Calcutta .....	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	142½	142½	Bombay .....	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.66½	4.67½	Hong Kong .....	T.T.	1/10d.	1/10½d.
Lisbon .....	sight	34d.	33½d.	Shanghai .....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
Madrid .....	sight	24.90	24.95	Singapore .....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama .....	4 mths	2/3½d.	2/1½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	4½	5
Six months ..	4½	5
Nine months ..	5	5
Twelve months ..	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	4½	5½-5½
Three months ..	4½	5½-5½
Four months ..	4½-5	5½-5½
Six months ..	5	5½-5½
Three months fine island bills	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months ..	5½	5½-5½
Six months ..	5½-6	5½-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
Do. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
Do. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
Do. for call loans ..	4-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

A fair amount of activity continues to be displayed on the Stock Exchange, but it has no stability so far as the home groups of securities are concerned outside the Rubber market and one or two mine groups. The price of rubber has been firm, and is tending upwards still so as to prompt buyers of shares to come forward. They seem right to do so, and the time to sell has not yet arrived. In the American Railroad market, however, the gamble, though fitful, continues vigorous, and, following New York, the prices for shares on our market have again jumped upwards, and Canadian railway securities, especially Canadian Pacific, have rather tended to rise with them. It should be unnecessary to repeat the opinion again and again expressed in this column that the Yankee securities, the railroad shares, ought to be parted with by investors in this country whenever they see a profit on their holdings, for the present rise is not substantially based, is a matter of sentiment, and by-and-by the reaction will come. It might prove to be a very severe reaction. Moreover, the more liberally American railroad stocks can be parted with now by people here without loss, the easier will it be for the Government and our banks to finance the country's present inconvenient indebtedness to United States manufacturers and exporters. It is all to the good, in fact, if we can by this means establish a large counterpoise to our excessive purchases of war material and food. Generally speaking, the position of the London market is healthy enough, and what little speculation exists cannot get out of hand under present market regulations. All the happenings are not gloomy either—witness the P. and O. and Coats' dividends—and for most of the disappointments we are now well steered.

Having comparatively little to do on the whole, many members of the Stock Exchange have again become very hot over the question of German-born or German-named members, and at a meeting called anonymously early this week strong resolutions were passed in a scurry way practically demanding the expulsion of every German from membership of the Stock Exchange. That is rather a tall order, and we hope that common sense will reassert its sway before the time comes to take action. That Germans should be thus regarded after what the Allies have suffered at the hands of the Prussians is nowise surprising, and this latest horror, the torpedoing of the Italian liner *Ancona*, with the jeering of the German submarine crew over the distress



of the drowning passengers, will still further intensify that feeling of instinctive loathing which will meet the German race at every turn in every place of public resort the world over for many a year to come. That instinct will constitute the strongest and most insurmountable barrier to the renewal of German aggression in commerce and banking perhaps for generations; but of that more another day. Meanwhile, we must try our best to be just, and endeavour to discriminate. All Germans are not Prussians, and to our knowledge some of the German members on our London Stock Exchange are men as humane and upright as any native-born British citizen among us all. So while in no way surprised at, or able to protest against, the action of the objectors in the market, we trust the wise heads, who after all control the market, will be able to assert themselves and prevent retribution from falling on the innocent.

Stock markets again opened in a cheerful mood, and investors appeared to be picking up securities with increasing confidence. The advance in prices proved to have been a little too rapid, and profit-taking caused a set-back, but it was only momentary, and the upward movement has been resumed. A fair business was recorded in War Loan stock, and the price remained steady at 96½. The Bank of England announced that in consequence of the enormous amount of work to be carried through in connection with the payment of the first dividend, due December 1, it regretted that it would not be able to give effect to any dividend instructions received from stockholders since November 1, and that in all cases where no formal directions had been received prior to that date warrants for the dividend would be sent by post direct to the sole or first stockholder in each account. Old War Loan, after being steady most of the week, fell to 90½. The new South Australian loan was so far successful that the underwriters were released, but it was not oversubscribed, as cash applicants got full allotments, and the price has dropped from 1¼ premium to par—½ premium. Japanese loans were again the most prominent among Foreign Government securities, with gains ranging between ½ and 1. Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury bonds were also bought in view of the payment of a half-year's coupon on the 15th inst., and the price improved to 102½. Brazil new funding loan rose to 75½, San Paulo Treasury bonds were lifted to 100 on purchases which were believed to be for the sinking fund, but Peruvian Corporation ordinary and preference closed below the best, while Mexican 5 per cent. were offered and relapsed to 60½.

A demand sprang up for Home Railway ordinary stocks, especially for those of the passenger lines, and Brighton deferred, Great Eastern and South-Eastern deferred all scored substantial gains, but the rise brought out sellers, and they closed below the best. District was rather sought after for a time, and rose to 16½, but relapsed to 15½, and there was also some inquiry for Underground Electric income bonds, on hopes that the full dividend would be paid for the current half-year. The "heavy" stocks were less active, but North-Western, Great Western and Midland deferred were higher, and among Scotch stocks Caledonian deferred and Glasgow and South-Western deferred both put on small fractions. Profit-taking sent Canadian Pacific shares down to 193½, but they recovered to 196¾ on the declaration of a dividend at the old rate of 10 per cent. per annum, which was regarded as indicating that the directors expect to be able to maintain that rate for the whole year. The price eased to 193½ on New York impulses, but it jumped again to 197½ on the traffic increase of \$1,107,000. Grand Trunk stocks moved in sympathy. American Railroad shares were dull most of the week, following on the reaction in New York, which was nominally caused by fears of political disturbances, but was just as much due to profit-taking induced by the recent rapid advance. Towards the end of the week, however, Wall Street again turned round, and quotations were once more sent moving upwards. Among Foreign Railways Argentine ordinary stocks relapsed owing to realisations, but Leopoldina, San Paulo and Brazil Railway preference were harder, although they finished a little below the top prices of the week. United of Havana closed at 78½ after touching 79, but Mexican (Vera Cruz) stocks were offered, and showed losses of ½ to 1.

Bank shares have met with a fair amount of support, and a good many of the London group show more or less substantial improvements, the only exceptions being Parr's and South-Western, which lost ½ and ¼ respectively. London Joint Stock put on ¾, Lloyds 5½, and Barclay "B" shares and National Provincial, 1½ paid, ½ each. Hongkong and Shanghai gained 1, Bank of Australasia ½, and several South American institutions, including British of South America, London and Brazilian, and London and River Plate, were ¾ to 1 higher. Business was quieter in the Miscellaneous sections. There was again a good demand for Royal Mail, and the price rose to 92½, but it dropped back to 91½, and P. and O. deferred, after improving to 29½ on the satisfactory dividend announcement, relapsed to 289. Nominally, the final dividend is 5 per cent., with a bonus of 5 per cent., making a total of 15 per cent. for the year, or the same as for the past two years, but the actual distribution is decidedly better than this, as the payment is now made tax free instead of less tax. International Mercantile Marine issues fell sharply in sympathy with other American things, the common touching 15½ and the preferred 51, but they rebounded to 21 and 61. Hudson's Bay shares were again

sold, and relapsed to 61, but Forestal Lands ordinary and preference were firm at 41s. 6d. and 31s. respectively, and a little support for British North Borneo sent them up to 11s. 3d. Brazil Traction ordinary were offered down to 57, and the preference also gave way a little. Motor shares were firm, with Dennis Bros. in demand on the declaration of a dividend and bonus of 15 per cent., as against 10 per cent. last year. Sunbeam were bought at 49s., and Vauxhall touched 23s. Canadian Iron and Steel issues were heavy. The circular issued by the Canadian Car and Foundry Co. was considered disappointing.

Min. Prcs.		Last Week	This Week	Min. Prcs.	Last Week	This Week	
66½	Consols.....	65	65	—	N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.	97½	97½
—	War Loan 3½.....	96½	96½	95	" 4½ 1922-7..	97½	97½
62½	India 3½.....	60½	60½	92	New Zealand 4½ ..	95½	95½
80½	" 3½.....	80½	80½	—	Queensland 4½ ..	92	92
92	Canada 4½, 1940-60 ..	92	92	—	" 4½ new ..	97½	97½
92	" 4½, 1920-5 ..	96½	96½	—	Union of S. Africa	—	—
92	N.S.W. 4½.....	95	95	—	4½, 1920-5 ..	97½	97½
—				—	Victoria 4½, 1920-5	97½	97½
66	Belgian 3½.....	66½	66½	—	French Rentes ..	65½	65½
—	Brazil, 1913.....	63	63	82½	Japan 4½ (1st) ..	91½	92½
—	" New Funding ..	75½	75½	83	" (2nd) ..	91	91½
—	Chinese 1896 ..	94½	94½	—	Russia 4 ..	73	73
—	" 1913 ..	82	82	—	" 4½ ..	74½	74½
—	Egypt Unified 4½ ..	85½	85½	—	" 5½ ..	92½	92½
Brighton defd. ....	53	57	London and S.-W. dfd. ....	24	24	24	
Caledonian defd. ....	8½	92	Do. ....	100	100	100	
Chatham ord. ....	71½	82	Metropolitan ..	23½	25½	25½	
Gt. Central pf. ....	13	142	Do. 5½ New pf. ....	95½	95½	95½	
" dfd. ....	6½	72	Met. District ..	142	152	152	
Gt. Eastern ..	33	37½	Midland dfd. ....	56½	58	58	
Gt. Northern dfd. ....	38	39½	Nth. British dfd. ....	15½	16½	16½	
Gt. Western ..	91	92½	Nth.-Eastern ..	100½	100½	100½	
Lanes. and Yorks. ....	68	69	Nth.-Western ..	99½	101	101	
			Sth.-Eastern dfd. ....	24½	26	26	
Canadian Pacific ..	200½	198½	Chesapeake ..	65½	66½	66½	
Do. 6½ Notes ..	100½	111	Erie ..	47	45½	45½	
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	95	95	Milwaukee ..	101½	101½	101½	
Grand Trunk ord. ....	12½	12½	N. Y. Central ..	112½	112½	112½	
Do. 3rd pf. ....	20½	20	Southern ..	26½	25½	25½	
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes ..	98½	98½	Southern Pacific ..	109½	110½	110½	
Do. 5½ 5-yr. " ..	98½	98½	Union Pacific ..	143½	146½	146½	
Atchison ..	115½	116	U. S. Steel ..	92½	93½	93½	
Baltimore ..	101½	100½					
Antofagasta dfd. ....	122½	122	Cent. Argentine ord. ....	87½	88½	88½	
Do. 6½ Notes ..	103	103	Do. 5½ Notes ..	105½	104	104	
Brazil Common ..	92½	92½	Do. 6½ " ..	100½	101½	101½	
B. A. & Pacific ..	48	48½	Leopoldina ..	40	42	42	
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	84½	84	Mexican ord. ....	20	20½	20½	
B. A. Western ..	86½	87	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	182½	181	181	
			United of Havana ..	78	78½	78½	
Bank of Australasia ..	106½	107½	London City & Midland ..	72	72½	72½	
Barclay & Co. "A" ..	8	8½	London County & West. ..	14½	14½	14½	
Do. "B" ..	10½	112	London Joint Stock ..	19	19½	19½	
Capital & Counties ..	192	192	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	22	22½	22½	
Chartered of India ..	53½	53½	Do. (£12 pd) ..	26½	26½	26½	
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	73½	74½	Parr's ..	29½	29½	29½	
Lloyds ..	202	218	Standard of S.A. ....	102	102	102	
London & Provincial ..	14	14½	Union & Smiths ..	222	22½	22½	
London & S.W. ....	102	108					
Apollinaris ord. ....	2	2	Forestal Land ..	40½	41½	41½	
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	33½	34	Furness, Withy ..	32½	32	32	
Associated Cement ..	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay ..	64	64	64	
Birmingham Small Arms	37½	38½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	23½	23½	
Borax dfd. ....	23½	23½	Do. dfd. "A" ..	35½	35½	35½	
Bovril ..	19½	19½	Kynochs ..	27½	28½	28½	
Brazil Traction ..	57½	57½	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	20½	20½	20½	
British Amer. Tobacco ..	64½	64½	Lyons, J. ....	34	42½	42½	
Brown (John), & Co. ....	27½	27½	Marconi ..	18½	18	18	
Brunner, Mond ..	38	38	Maypole Dairy dfd. ....	24½	23½	23½	
Cammell-Laird ..	5	4½	Mond Nickel ord. ....	37½	37½	37½	
Casner-Kellner ..	60½	60½	National Steam Car ..	10½	10½	10½	
Coats ..	47½	8	Nobel Dynamite ..	15½	15½	15½	
Cunard ..	60½	61½	Pears, A. & F. ....	148	148	148	
Dennis Bros. ....	28½	29½	P. & O. dfd. ....	296	289	289	
Dorman, Long ..	22½	24	Royal Mail ..	90	91½	91½	
Eastmans ..	7½	6½	South Durham Steel ..	27½	29½	29½	
English Sewing Cotton ..	30½	32½	Underground Inc. Bds. ....	72	72½	72½	
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	23½	24½	Vickers ..	32½	32½	32½	
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	5½	6½	Mexican Eagle pf. ....	1½	1½	1½	
Baku (10s.) ..	2½	2½	North Caucasian ..	25½	25½	25½	
Burnham ..	38½	38½	Roumanian Cons. ....	11½	12½	12½	
Lobitos ..	28½	28½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	47	47	
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3½	3½	Shell ..	48½	48½	48½	
Maikop Pipeline ..	5½	4½	Spies (10/-) ..	13½	13½	13½	
Mexican Eagle ..	1½	1½	Ural Caspian ..	18½	18½	18½	
Anglo-Malay ..	8½	9½	Linggi ..	14½	16½	16½	
Batu Caves ..	11½	11½	London Asiatic ..	5½	6½	6½	
Bukit Mertajam ..	2½	2½	Malacca ..	38	48	48	
Bukit Sembawang ..	2½	2½	Malayalam ..	20½	22½	22½	
Damansara ..	2½	2½	Merlimau ..	4½	4½	4½	
Gula Kalumpung ..	12½	12½	Rubber Trust (15/- pd.) ..	9½	10½	10½	
Highlands ..	44½	23½	United Serdang ..	9½	9½	9½	
Johore Rubber Lands ..	13½	15½	Vallambrosa ..	13½	13½	13½	
Abontiakoon (10/-) ..	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	11½	11½	11½	
Brakpaikoon ..	38½	38½	East Rand ..	15½	15½	15½	
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	44½	44½	Gt. Boulder (2½/-) ..	14½	15½	15½	
Cam & Motor ..	13½	13½	Meyer & Charlton ..	53½	57½	57½	
Central Mining (£12) ..	6½	9½	Modder "B" ..	58	58½	58½	
Chartered ..	10½	11½	Do. Deep ..	58	58½	58½	
City Deep ..	37½	38	New Modder (£4) ..	15½	15½	15½	
Cons. Gold Fields ..	13½	13½	Rand Mines (5/-) ..	44½	44½	44½	
Cons. Langlaagte ..	18½	18½	Rio Tinto (£5) ..	54½	54½	54½	
Crown Mines (10/-) ..	38	38	Van Ryn Deep ..	24½	24½	24½	

ing as regards the immediate prospects, and realisations sent the common back to 97½ and the preference to 100½. Steel Co. of Canada, Dominion Iron and Steel, and Nova Scotia Steel all showed more or less substantial declines. In Armament and Iron and Steel issues Dorman Long rose sharply on the announcement of a dividend of 13 per cent., which is the best since 1899-1900, and compares with 7½ per cent. last year. An improvement was also shown in Thornycrofts in anticipation of the forthcoming report, and Curtis's and Harvey and Eley Bros. were both harder. Coats jumped sharply on the dividend announcement, and other Textiles were firm. Gramophones were bought after the meeting, and a fair amount of support was forthcoming for Van den Berghs, Liptons, and Lyons.



In the Oil share market Anglo-Egyptian "B" came into favour, and were lifted to 7s. 3d., while Shell and Royal Dutch met with support, but Spies were a shade easier. Eagle Transport preference were in request, and rose to 57-32, and Mexican Eagle debentures were bought at 90 and 89½. Dealings in Rubber shares were stimulated by the further advance to 2s. 9d. in the price of the commodity, and the steady flow of satisfactory reports and dividends announcements. Anglo-Malay improved on the declaration of a further interim dividend of 12 per cent., making 20 per cent. to date, as against 12 per cent. last year. Djember were in request on the first interim dividend of 4 per cent., tax free, and amongst others a good business was done in Anglo-Java, Bukit Sembawang, Linggi, Kapar Para, Malacca, United Serdang, and United Temiang.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was no new feature to note in this market, a fair business being carried through in refined descriptions at unchanged rates. With regard to cane sorts from the West Indies, supplies are indeed at a very low ebb, which hampers trade, while it is quite apparent that preserve makers are in need of this class of sugar, as white qualities remain so scarce.

**COFFEE.**—There was more life in this market in the early part of the week, owing to exporters being encouraged in the nature of securing licences to ship to Denmark with greater freedom. Later, however, a subdued tone set in, and offerings in auction were mostly taken out. The terminal market is very featureless at the moment. December delivery sold, 39s.

**COCOA** is very firm with a good sustained demand, and it would appear that the trade deem it advisable to keep their stocks at a high level, as great stringency in the freight world bids fair to shackle the movement of supplies from producing countries at no very distant date. Then, again, American houses are keen competitors for the supply of the raw product in countries of origin.

**TEA.**—Market steady during the week for all good liquoring grades, but with a superabundance of supplies respecting common and stinky kinds; these are only saleable at comparatively low prices. It seems that a considerable quantity of this class hitherto held up is now being put on the market.

**SPICE.**—Pepper is dearer, but trade checked, as forward offers from Singapore and Penang are above buyers' ideas on this side.

**FRUIT.**—Currants in fair demand, and prices steady. Provincials and Pyrgos quoted 39s. to 40s.; Gulf, 45s. to 48s.; and Vostizza, 46s. to 53s. Sultanias firm. Smyrna, common to fine, quoted 85s. to 105s.; Afghan, 85s. to 87s. 6d.; Greek, 100s. to 115s. Figs quiet. Calamata, 42s. to 44s.; Malaga, 35s. to 42s. Muscatels: Californian, loose, to arrive, 1914 crop, afloat, 37s.; and 1915 crop, prompt, 32s. to 36s., c.f. and i., via New York. At public sale new crop Valencia raisins met a slow demand at 1s. to 2s. decline. Half-boxes, sold, at 66s. to 71s.; quarters, 72s. to 85s.; eights, 74s. to 87s.; and seedless, 62s. to 78s. Muscatels in fair request, common kinds being steady, but good to fine easier. Common to choice sold at 60s. to 120s.; extra choice, 130s.; loose, 53s. to 77s. Old Turkey figs realised 61s. to 67s.; Malaga, 31s. to 37s. Egyptian dates, sold, 40s.

**RICE.**—Business in forward positions is very quiet, owing to the extreme rates asked in consequence of the prohibitive level of rates ruling for freights and the great difficulty to secure tonnage. The same remarks apply to meal.

**JUTE.**—After being firmer on few offers from Calcutta, this market assumed a quieter tone, and closed slightly under best points. Native first marks, November-December, London, sold, £25 10s.

**HEMP.**—A featureless market during the week, business being limited, and tendency of rates easier. £33 5s. was accepted for January-March new graded coarse.

**SHELLAC** steadier. T.N., December, sold, 73s. 6d.; and March, 76s.

**QUININE.**—Market dull, and spot sold, 4s. 6d. to 4s.

**RUBBER** advanced sharply during the week, mainly on the small quantities which reached the sale-room counters from time to time, and the extreme stringency existing with regard to the freight situation. Plantation spot crepe, sold, up to 2s. 9½d.; also ribbed smoked sheet. Fine hard Para, spot and near, 2s. 8d.

**COPRA** opened quietly, but became firmer. To London: Ceylon, October-November, sellers, £30; Malabar ditto, £30 10s.; R.M.S., Singapore, November-January, £29 value; South Sea Islands, November-December, buyers, £27 17s. 6d. To Marseilles: F.M., Straits, October-November and November-December, sellers, £28 5s.; Cebu, October-November, £28 10s., buyers; Manila, September-October, £27 5s. value; October-December, buyers, £27 2s. 6d., c.f. and i.

**WOOL.**—Public sales continued with a good demand for all combing merinos, which tended in sellers' favour. Short and faulty kinds, though still at a discount compared with bulky descriptions, are realising satisfactory prices, the demand being well maintained. Amongst crossbreds all greasy fleece lots are now 10 per cent. dearer than the close of last series, while scoureds have been appreciated to the same extent. South African sorts are mostly confined to short and shabby parcels, and meet with quiet attention. The quantity available for the next and final series of the current year to be held on December 7 is estimated at about 100,000 bales.

**METALS.**—Copper: The standard market manifested an easier tendency last Monday, while buyers were showing reserve, cash declining to £73 5s. and three months to £73 15s. Sympathetically with a rise in the price of electrolytic, prices hardened until last Thursday, and fair disposition prevailed for business, values of these dates reaching £75 10s. to £75 15s. respectively. Electros, £90 10s. to £91 10s. Tin: Steady general buying at intervals and

sellers scarce from time to time led to a higher range until Thursday, standard cash delivery reaching £167 5s. and three months £166 15s. Lead dearer. Soft foreign, November to January, £25 10s. to £24 15s. Spelter stronger and held with reserve at the advance. G.O.B., November, has advanced to £88 and December to £83. Iron dearer.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—A more subdued, but very firm tone governed this market generally during the past week, while sellers have exercised much the same reserve, small supplies, both spot and near, being still felt. In a few cases quotations were slightly easier since last Monday. Wheat firmer. Flour tending upwards. Barley held for the recent advance. Maize and oats lower since last Monday. Wheat: English, both whites and reds range up to 59s. per qr., 504 lbs., delivered. Of imported, No. 1 Northern Manitoba

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 12, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Australian	1 0 — 2 8½	1 1 — 2 8½
Ditto, No. 2...	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Merino	1 8 — 2 13	1 8 — 2 13
Fine granulated...	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 5½ — 1 5½	0 8½ — 1 5
Lyle's granulated	32 3 — 32 9	32 3 — 32 9	Greasy Merino	0 11 — 1 3	0 6½ — 1 5
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 0½ — 2 4	2 1 — 2 3½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 11 — 1 6½	0 10 — 1 3½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1 5½ — 2 3½	1 7½ — 1 11½
French Cube	nom.	nom.	<b>India</b> —rubber, lb		
Crystallised, West			Plantation, Spot	0 2 7	0 2 9½
India	27 0 — 31 9	26 3 — 31 6	Crepe		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1/-	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 8 — 1 12	0 7½ — 1 12	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 8½ — 1 22	0 8 — 1 22	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 8½ — 1 2	0 8½ — 1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 — 1 5½	0 9 — 1 3½	Steamers, best	19 6 — 20 0	19 6 — 20 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 7½ — 1 12	0 7½ — 1 10½	Seconds	16 6 — 17 0	16 6 — 17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½ — 1 12	0 8½ — 1 12	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 9 — 1 12	0 9 — 1 0	English Pig	25 15 0	27 0 0
Orange	0 8½ — 1 1	0 8½ — 1 1½	Foreign soft	25 10 0	26 15 0
Broken	0 10 — 1 19	0 10 — 1 1½	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£ 16½ — £ 16½	£ 16½ — £ 16½
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½ — 0 9½	0 8 — 0 9½	<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1½d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	161 — 162	171 — 172
Trinidad	87 0 — 93 0	88 0 — 91 0	Do, bars	162 — 163	172 — 173
Grenada	80 0 — 90 0	80 0 — 88 6	Standard cash	£ 162 0 0	£ 172 5 0
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	19 0 — 20 0	20 0 — 20 3
Ceylon Plantation	74 0 — 92 0	77 0 — 90 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton		
Guayquil Arriba	88 0 — 91 0	90 0 — 92 0	English, Tough	£ 89 — £ 90	£ 91 — £ 92
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2½/- per cwt.			per ton	£ 89 — £ 90	£ 91 — £ 92
East India	56 0 — 94 0	56 0 — 94 0	Best Selected	£ 107	£ 107
Jamaica	40 6 — 120 6	40 6 — 120 6	Sheets	£ 74 0 0	£ 77 10 0
Costa Rica	55 0 — 82 0	55 0 — 82 0	Standard		
<b>Provisions</b> —			<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Butter, per cwt.			Native firsts for sh'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£ 25 10 0	£ 25 12 6
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Irish Creameries	146/-156/-	150/-158/-	Linseed, per ton.	£ 31½ — £ 32½	£ 32½ — £ 33½
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English,		
Russian finest	126/-130/-	124/-130/-	casks		
Normandy baskets	112/-152/-	112/-152/-	Brown English,	£ 40 — £ 41	£ 41 — £ 42
Danish finest	160/-164/-	170/-174/-	naked	£ 38	£ 39
Brittany rolls			Cott'n Seed, crude	30 10 — 30 15	£ 34
doz. lb.	14 6 — 17 0	14 6 — 17 0	Petroleum, refined	£ 33½ — £ 40	£ 35 — £ 41
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Irish	98 0 — 105 0	98 0 — 105 0	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
Continental	90 0 — 105 0	96 0 — 105 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Canadian	86 0 — 93 0	84 0 — 95 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 2 6	3 5 6
American	78 0 — 81 0	77 0 — 89 0	Rape, Gujarat		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Nov.-Dec.	3 3 6	3 5 0
Irish	128/-144/-	130/-144/-	<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Canadian	96 0	100 0	Cleveland Cash	3 7 6	3 8 8
American	57 0 — 94 0	57 0 — 96 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —per duty, unmanufactured 5/6 to 6½ per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
Canadian	82 0 — 86 0	86 0 — 89 0	Virginian	0 5½ — 1 6	0 5½ — 1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6 — 0 10	0 6 — 0 10
English Cheddar	88 0 — 100 0	90 0 — 100 0	Latakia	0 4½ — 1 0	0 4½ — 1 0
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 — 6 0	1 0 — 5 0
New Zealand	32 0 — 84 0	nom.	Manila	0 6 — 2 0	0 6 — 2 0
<b>Rice</b> —Rangoon—open charter, new crop, per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.		
Moulmein	nom.	nom.		2 0	2 0
Bassein	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Saigon c.f. and i.	nom.	nom.	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	250/-600/-	250/-600/-
Dutch	21 0 — 23 0	23 0 — 26 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	10 6 — 13 0	11 0 — 13 6	Town households, official	46/-	47/-
Danish	20 0 — 22 0	22 0 — 24 6	American, 1st patents	45/6	45/6

held for 62s., ex ship, ready. Flour: American first spring patents, 44s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., landed. Barley: Plate, 41s., ex ship; 41s. 6d. to 42s., landed. Maize: La Plata (sound), 38s. 6d., ex ship; 39s. 6d., landed. Oats: Plate, 32s. upwards, landed.

**TALLOW** very firm. At public sale, 1,285 casks were brought forward, and 939 sold, prices being 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 44s.; fair to good, 42s. to 44s.; dark to dull, 37s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; hard, 43s. Beef: fine, 43s.; fair to good, 41s. 9d. to 42s. 3d.; dark to dull, 36s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; sweet, 43s. 6d. Market letter 2s. dearer for tallow and 9d. up for stuff. Town tallow, 40s. 6d.; melted stuff, 28s. per cwt. Rough fat, 9½d. per 8 lb.

**O.I.S.**—Linseed firmer. Spot, pipes (landed), £32 10s.; barrels £33 10s.; Hull (naked), spot, £31. Rape: English refined



pale, spot (barrels), £41 to £42; ordinary brown (naked), spot, £38. Ravison (naked), spot, nominal. Japan (cases), November-December, £36, c.f. and i. Cotton: Crude, spot (pipes), £34; refined, pale, spot (pipes), £35; sweet (barrels), £39, £41. Cocoa-nut, Ceylon, spot, £46. Cochiti, spot, £46, £48. Soya bean, Oriental (cases), London, October-November, £28 10s., c.f. and i. Turpentine dearer. American, spirits, on spot, 43s. 6d. Spanish, spot, 40s. 6d. Petroleum: American, 194d.; water-white, 104d. per gallon. Linseed market firmer. Calcutta, spot, 65s.; October-November, 65s.; November-December, 65s. La Plata, November-December, 62s. 6d. Rapeseed firm. Brown Cawnpore, November-December (pure), 57s. 6d. Guzerat, ditto, 63s. 6d. Toria (3 per cent.), nominal. Cottonseed firmer. London, Egyptian, November, £12 2s. 6d. Resin, common strained, on spot, 17s. 6d.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—A stiff feeling has prevailed throughout the market during the past week, and any slightly easier tendency in raw cotton rates has very little influence upon yarn and cloth prices. The position of affairs with regard to the supply of labour is becoming more and more acute, and many producers are now refusing to complete contracts within a fixed time, as it is impossible to gauge the extent of output during the next few months. Raw cotton news has been rather mixed, but there is still a tendency to increase estimates of supply and reduce ideas with regard to consumption. The balk of the inquiry in cloth for export has been at unworkable rates. Some shippers to India have purchased speculatively in certain fabrics which are believed to be obtainable at cheap rates. There has been very little doing for China, and most of the bids are a long way out. Freight charges to the Far East have been put up, and this development makes things more awkward than ever. A fair amount of inquiry has come through for Egypt, but the Near Eastern markets as a whole are under a cloud. Several attempts have been made at operations for South America, chiefly in printing and finishing cloths, and sellers have met with varied success in securing orders. The home trade continues to give useful support in a variety of fabrics, and the consumption at the present time is undoubtedly healthy. American yarns for home use have tended to harden in quotation, and although orders have been placed rather unevenly, some spinners have extended their engagements. Certain counts and qualities are being sold at a premium owing to the fear on the part of users of increased scarcity in the near future. Most of the buying in export numbers has been for the Continent. Egyptian yarns have been firm in quotation, and producers of fine counts are in a stronger position than for some time back.

### American Business Notes.

Pettifogging is the meanest of all exercises in legal knowledge and forensic acumen. The long Note addressed by the United States Ambassador to Sir Edward Grey is pettifogging in *excelsis*, and therefore the deepest impression made by its perusal is a humiliating sense of its meanness. As one proceeds the impatience at first evoked gradually gives place to a feeling of shame. Can it really be, one asks oneself, that the great American people are so oblivious or indifferent to the character of the devastating war now going on between the spirit of human development, between progress in human freedom and the savage spirit of brute force and oppression, as to take pride in trying to thwart the Allies at death grips with the foe? We are loath to believe it, and yet here is the evidence. Not one word in all the laboured rigmarole betrays the smallest appreciation of the dread issues at stake. "We can't stop you," the Washington legal pundits seem to say, "our fleet is not yet big enough, but we mean to do our best to fabricate a 'case' against you so as to be in a position to worry you in order to get heavy damages out of you when the war is over." This is not a noble attitude; but, we do not know, it may be one that will help the Democratic party at the Presidential contest now at hand.

Out of the whole word torrent we can fish but few bits of plausible argument. "You British have no right under International Law to drag arrested ships into port so as to overhaul their papers and cargo at your leisure; you ought to do that at sea." Our practices are therefore "vexatious and illegal." The Washington Government claims the right to trade with the enemy as much as it can, as freely as with the Allies. To that our reply is, "Certainly you have the right, and we, in self-defence, the equal right to prevent you." Then a great parade of legal ink-smudging is made over the jurisdiction of our Prize Courts. They are not constituted in accordance with Washington conceptions of International Law, it would seem, are mere product of "municipal law." Therefore said Washington Government proclaims its fixed intention not to be bound by them. "The jurisdiction over merchant vessels is that of the nation whose flag it (*sic*) right-

fully flies." And how, pray, are we to determine the "rightfully" in the case of a large proportion of the merchant vessels trading between the United States and Europe? Mr. Lansing himself would find difficulty in answering that question, for the United States, having no great show of a mercantile marine of its own, gets its trade conducted for it by ships of all nationalities or none. Nominal owners may not be the real ones, witness sundry lines of steamers that sail under the British flag though owned by "the Morgan Shipping Combine." How will the "law" appealed to in this Note suffice to deal with cases of that sort?

On one point only does there seem real ground for complaint. Seized vessels are fined port and other charges, even if their capture is proved on investigation to be unwarranted by the facts. That, if the truth, would seem to be a genuine grievance, and we wait to hear what our Government has to say in reply. Another cogent looking contention is that our blockade is not real or complete; therefore we have no right to say and maintain a fiction, and our "failure" in the Baltic is summoned in support of this view. Is not all that part of the letter somewhat out of date? Already the effectiveness of our control of the Baltic trade is as great as, if not greater than, that of the Northern States over the Southern coast line in the American Civil War.

Much more might be said, but the words "civil war" invite a pause. Might we request American citizens to reflect on the determination of the Northern States to win in that war at all hazards? They "stuck at nothing" to attain their end, not even at the starvation of our cotton operatives—to whom they never thought of offering compensation, although they wrung £3,000,000 out of us in payment of "damage" claims in large part fanciful—still less at the starvation of their own South. Do they imagine us less resolute? They make the mistake of their history if they do. Hunger is the most effective tamer of savagery known. Mere killing is much less effective and slower—witness the "peace" suggestions continually shoved forward by the Prussians, almost as bounderishly arrogant to-day as ever, except perhaps in the matter of the amount of the "indemnities"—and besides, we cannot kill without getting killed. What would the Government in Washington do were it to behold the best blood of the nation being shed every day in deadly struggle with an enemy endowed with all the murder appliances the cunning of an ingenious but savage and brutalised race has been able to invent during generations of brooding hate towards all that is best in mankind on earth? Would it not, as in the Civil War, "stick at nothing" to win? If starvation looked likely as the best means to victory, as the surest and swiftest way to preserve the nation from being bled white—as it did in the case of the Southern States—then would it not use every means within its power to stop supplies so that the fell enemy might swiftly be brought to death's door by hunger? That is what we aim at to-day, and whether the Government of President Wilson relishes it or not, with this end in view our blockade will be maintained with ever-increasing rigour to the end. Nothing that Government can say or do can divert us from our purpose. We have been slow to grow stern, but every day our resolution becomes more fixed. We owe it to the sons of the three kingdoms, Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotsmen, and Welshmen, who day by day and month give their lives for home, Empire, and liberty, that ever-increasing energy and resource shall be displayed in closing the world to Germany and Germany to the world in order the sooner to end the slaughter. In our stern resolve it undoubtedly would have been a help and a consolation to us to have felt the sympathy of our kinsmen in the North American Republic flowing out towards us. It is not to be. But we shall survive and, along with our brave and loyal Allies in Europe, fight the fight out to its emancipating finish.

Ah, but the head of the Washington Government is superior to "humanities" of that sort. It is "championing" the integrity of neutral rights, which have received the sanction of the civilised world, against the lawless conduct of belligerents arising out of the



bitterness of the great conflict which is now wasting the countries of Europe. Mr. Wilson "unhesitatingly assumes" this superior person's duty, and his Government "will devote its energies thereto." No doubt this is why it has neither time nor energy to check or subdue the "bitterness" of the chaos in Mexico. Ah, Pecksniff left a large progeny!

**GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—In spite of a decrease of \$9,692,000 in the gross earnings for the year closed June 30 last, there was an increase of \$1,412,000 in the nett income, because expenses were lessened by \$11,104,000. In the previous year the gross receipts had also gone down and the working expenses up so that the nett revenue was worse instead of better. In both years, however, Mr. J. J. Hill and his co-directors were able to continue the 7 per cent. dividend, and with a surplus left over. A poor harvest and other adverse influences brought down the revenue.

**NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD.**—It cannot as yet be said that this company has recovered much from the disasters of the Morgan-Mellon régime, but while gross earnings fell \$2,074,000 last year, working expenses were cut by \$5,106,000, so that the nett revenue was \$3,000,000 better, or, if taxes are deducted, and these were \$834,000 less, \$1,885,000 better. No dividends can be paid, for after meeting the fixed charges the year closes with a deficit of \$4,396,000.

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.**—Gross receipts dropped \$8,654,000 and expenses \$5,908,000. Taxes, too, were \$792,000 down, and the "gross corporate income"—that is to say, free income—was \$99,000 less at \$53,481,000. The usual 6 per cent. dividend is paid and a surplus of \$3,270,000 carried forward, or \$821,000 less than in the previous year.

**NORTHERN PACIFIC.**—This is a partner of the Great Northern, and between them they own and control the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy property, the nett revenue from which is included in the statements. Thanks to this the revenue of the Northern Pacific shows an increase of \$5,145,000, but the charges imposed by the Northern Pacific Railway's share of the bond obligation created to enable the partners to pay for the Burlington stock involves an increased charge of \$4,731,000. The company, however, is able to pay the usual 7 per cent. dividend, and the nett balance left to carry forward is only \$832 down at \$1,463,000. Actually the total charges, including the stock dividend, have risen \$4,878,000 to \$30,569,000.

### The Week in Mines.

The Mining markets have shown a reactionary tendency this week as a result of profit-taking in various departments. But, on the whole, prices have been well maintained, and there have been several features of strength, including that of Chartereds and the Russian group, the latter being supported on the news of several Russian successes on the Eastern front. Mr. S. B. Joel, in presiding at the meeting of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., made some interesting remarks regarding the Rand. He confirmed the recent favourable rumours as to the progress of the Barnato group. The recent rise in costs he attributed to a surplus of labour, a unique phenomenon in the history of the Rand. In consequence of the increased labour supply more excess development work was being carried out, and this had raised costs. Mr. Joel also foreshadowed an early resumption of washing at the diamond mines, but only on a small scale.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The principal event in the South African market this week was the issue of the Gold Fields report, which came as a pleasant surprise to the market, which resulted in some support being given to various shares in this group. Gold Fields advanced 7-32 to 1½, and South African Gold Trusts, on hopes of a resumption of dividends, jumped up to 17s. Simmer and Jacks also improved to 9s. Van Ryn Deeps have been actively

supported, but profit-taking caused the shares to relapse to 227-32, after marking 229-32. Modder Leases rose 11s. to 28s. 6d. on Mr. Joel's statement that arrangements have been made to spread the repayment of the company's debt over a long period so as to enable dividends to be paid, and that a favourable modification was to be made of the sliding scale governing the division of profits between the Government and the company. Modders at 15½, Deeps at 5½, and "B's" at 5½ have been well supported. Central Minings have also been in good demand, the shares rising to 6½, reacting later on realisations to 6½. City Deeps and Brakpans, which continued to attract a good deal of attention, have relapsed to 3½. Consolidated Langlaagtes improved to 129-32, and Randfontein Centrals rose to 12s. 3d. on the October return. Luipaard Vleis rose 6d. to 8s. 6d. on the declaration of a dividend, the first since 1909. Johnnies have been good at 15s. 9d., and Rand Mines at 4½ are higher. Among Diamond shares, De Beers advanced to 12½, but then reacted to 11½, and Premier Deferreds were finally 4½ after being over 5. Provincial buying of Chartereds has hoisted the price to 11s. 6d. Cam and Motors hardened to 14s., but Gaikas eased to 13s. 6d. on the report. In the West African section Presteas improved to 9s. 6d., and Abossos rose ½ further to 15-32 and Taquahs to 16s. 6d. on the reports.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares were strong at first, Anacondas rising from 17½ to 18½, Rio Tintos to 54½, and Utahs to 16; but profit-taking followed, Anacondas falling to 17½, Rio Tintos to 54½, and Utahs to 15½. South American Copper was firm at ½ on the resumption of dividends. Active support has been forthcoming for the Russian group, notably Russo-Asiatics, which have spurted to 4½, Tanalyks, which have risen to 129-32, and Kysh-tims, which have been up to 2.

West Australians call for no special mention, but in the Alaska group Alaska Goldfields have jumped up further from 4s. 6d. to 7s., while Alaska Mexicans have advanced ½ to 1½. There is talk of an amalgamation of the Alaska group. Tomboys improved 2s. to 24s. 6d., and the Mexican descriptions have been supported, with Camp Birds at 8s., the preferences at 11s. 9d., Esperanzas at 12s., and Santa Gertrudis at 17-32. Canadian Minings at 9s. 3d., and Casey Cobalts at 7s., are higher. In the tin group Ipohs have risen 3-32 further to 21-32, and Forum Rivers to ½. Southern shares have jumped to 5½, and Malaysians ½ to 1½ on the report.

### MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.**—The production of gold last month amounted to £3,388,122, which compares with £3,373,998 in May, 1913, the previous highest figure. The total for March, 1912, was swollen by the inclusion of reserves abolished after the East Rand scandals. If the present rate of production is maintained the year's output will be the highest on record. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,768,470	3,037,058
February ..	2,445,688	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March ....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,017,346	3,202,514
April .....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,324	3,160,651
May .....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,111,794	3,373,998	2,599,340	3,243,347
June .....	2,655,602	2,967,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,249,558	3,208,224
July .....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258
August .....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,395	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975
September ..	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,990,686	2,982,630	3,299,423
October .....	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122
November ..	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	—
December ..	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,207,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total ..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,675	34,991,976

**SIMMER AND JACK PROPRIETARY.**—In the 12 months ended June 30 808,300 tons were treated for £866,619, or 21s. 5d. per ton, as compared with 769,000 tons for £703,630, equal to 20s. 7d. per ton. The profit on working rose by only £1,878 to £334,559, or 8s. 3d. per ton, against 8s. 4d. per ton; but the total profit was £15,045 larger at £300,573, or 8s. 11d. per ton, against 8s. 10d. per ton. The dividend is reduced from 11½ to 10 per cent., and £78,876, against £83,817, is carried forward. Ore reserves, fully developed, are estimated at 2,155,000 tons.



valued at 5.2 dwts., against 2,320,000 tons, valued at 5.4 dwts. Both values and widths of ore recently exposed by development in the lower levels are very satisfactory, and the ore reserves are expected to be largely increased in the near future.

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The native labour figures are again very satisfactory; they show an increase of 4,954 "boys," the coal mines lost 230, and the gold mines thus secured 5,184 more natives:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
September, 1914.....	169,619	9,389	—	179,008
October.....	170,438	9,212	—	179,650
November.....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December.....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915.....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February.....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March.....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April.....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May.....	183,961	8,857	—	192,818
June.....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July.....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August.....	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September.....	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October.....	210,017	9,513	—	219,530

The number of natives on the gold mines is the largest on record, the previous high-water mark of 207,733 being reached in March, 1913.

**GLYNN'S LYDENBURG.**—The revenue from gold in the year to June 30 was £83,271, or 34s. 10d. per ton milled, which compares with £100,434, or 43s. 8d. per ton. Working costs increased by 2d. per ton to 21s. 11d., and the profit consequently fell from £53,926 to £34,906, equal to 14s. 7d. per ton, instead of 23s. 5d. Dividends amounting to 20 per cent., however, have again been paid, and £28,813, against £34,441, is carried forward.

**CHILLAGOE.**—Gross receipts in 1914 amounted to £112,840, as against £383,150, and the expenditure declined from £359,446 to £102,287. This leaves a credit balance of £10,553, as compared with £23,704, to which has to be added £1,125, surplus bonus after paying the Newbridge Railway debenture interest, and sundry receipts, making a total of £11,872. Against this amount has to be charged debenture interest, £29,559, various other charges £8,255, and depreciation £1,808, raising the debit brought forward from £32,519 to £60,270, which is carried forward. The company is possessed of a valuable property, and will one day we hope come into its own, but the task is very difficult, for some reason, and we fear more capital will have to be raised some time.

**BURMA CORPORATION.**—The report for the year ended December 31, which has only just been issued, states that the corporation has acquired over 99.8 per cent. of the issued shares and over 77 per cent. of the debenture stock of the Burma Mines, and has agreed to provide the working capital for the development of the Baldwin Mines, in virtue of which agreement it has been appointed general manager. Developments at the mine continue highly satisfactory; the technical committee estimates the proven and probable ore reserves at 2,000,000 tons, assaying 25 oz. silver, 27 per cent. lead, and 22.5 per cent. zinc, as against 1,310,000 tons of an average assay value of 19.8 oz. silver, 23.2 per cent. lead, and 21.6 per cent. zinc, in its December report. There has been a marked improvement in the smelting and refining operations. In the half-year to June 30 last the average production of lead was 1,125 tons monthly, as against 706 tons in 1914, and the average refined lead derived from hard lead per month has risen from 324 tons to 457 tons.

**MEXICO MINES OF EL ORO.**—The directors report that, owing to the delay in the receipt of the accounts, it will probably not be possible to hold the meeting until early next year. Latest advices from the mine are satisfactory; the property has not been damaged; development is proceeding on a reduced scale, but the unstable conditions have so far prevented the resumption of milling.

**MALAYAN TIN DREDGING.**—In the year ended June 30 503½ tons of tin ore was produced, as compared with 236 tons, which yielded £44,989, as compared with £23,997, the average price realised being £89 6s. 9d. per ton, against £101 13s. 7d. Profits increased by £2,523 to £12,002, and after adding £6,521 brought in, there is available £18,523. Since the close of the financial year a dividend of 1s. per share has been declared, absorbing £6,050, and after writing off £5,953, the cost of freight on the dredges, £6,520 is carried forward.

**ZAAIPLAATS TIN MINING.**—Revenue from 699 tons of concentrates produced in the year ended July 31 (a decrease of 500 tons compared with the preceding year) amounted to £73,076. The working profit was £30,140, the nett profit £24,632, and £11,652 was brought in. Dividend, No. 16, of 35 per cent. absorbed £21,000, and £11,917 is carried forward.

**AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT.**—The report of this company for the year to June 30 states that operations on its farms were seriously interfered with by the absence of men on military service. Many economies have been effected in administration, and the nett expenditure was reduced from £8,964 to £6,282. Receipts from dividends and interest, however, declined from £12,254 to £5,570. The year's operations resulted in a loss of £3,096, and after deducting the credit of £2,858 brought in, a debit of £238 is carried forward. A valuation of the company's securities shows a depreciation of £138,071 on their book cost.

## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Official figures of the exports of rubber from the Federated Malay States show a considerable expansion in the past month, the total being 4,120 tons compared with 3,334 tons in September, 2,897 tons in October, 1914, and 2,160 tons in the same month in 1913. For the ten months the exports were 34,127 tons, against 24,447 tons last year, and 18,785 tons in 1913.

A good many rubber undertakings which relied upon coffee-growing to provide them with revenue while their rubber trees were coming to maturity, have recently been cutting out the coffee under the belief that it was injuriously affecting the growth and production of the Hevea trees. Apparently, however, it is by no means certain that the coffee is harmful and the Besoeeki Planting Experiment Station is now engaged in making trials on estates with different climates and at different heights in order to obtain decisive proofs for or against the theory. In the meantime, in order to prevent irreparable and very great losses on those estates where orders have been given to remove the coffee, the chairman of the Experiment Station has issued a circular stating the conclusions which have been arrived at from the figures already obtained. From this it appears that the extent to which inter-planted coffee retards the growth of the Hevea trees depends upon the planting distance, the method of working employed, and the local circumstances, while the cutting out of the coffee sometimes affects very injuriously the rubber production. Directors are therefore advised, before deciding upon the removal of the coffee, to have trials properly made in order to get decisive proofs for each estate itself whether or not the cutting out is profitable for the future production of rubber.

Further satisfactory progress was made by the Sungei Kari (Sumatra) Rubber Estate in the year ended June 30. The output of 287,510 lbs. exceeded

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the estimate by 17,510 lbs., and the previous crop by 65,791 lbs., while the nett price was only 0.91d. down at 2s. 0.84d. No details as to cost are given, which seems a pity, as the profits show that the directors have nothing to be ashamed of in this respect. Receipts amounted to £29,761, or an increase of £5,965, of which £22,318, or £5,653 more, was retained as profit, and after providing for London office charges, depreciation, &c., the nett balance, including £326 less at £2,137 brought in, was £4,636 better at £22,163. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 17½ per cent. to 22½, and the participating preference shares therefore receive a payment of 15½ per cent. in addition to their fixed dividend of 7 per cent. Preliminary expenses having been eliminated a year ago by an appropriation of £2,000, there is no special item to be written off now, so the directors transfer an extra £1,000 at £2,500 to reserve, and after providing for their own extra remuneration and staff commissions, they carry forward £4,466, or £2,330 more. No further additions were made to the planted area, which remains at 1,043½ acres, but £3,234 was spent on development and maintenance of the unproductive portion, making the cost £58,472. The crop for the current year is estimated at 300,000 lbs., of which 101,580 lbs. were secured during the first four months.

The Bajoe Kidoel Rubber and Produce Co. again did well with its coffee crop in the year ended March 31, the output being 4,355 piculs up at 15,384 piculs, but the average nett price was 2s. 6d. down at £2 13s. 11d., while the "all in" cost rose by 8½d. to £1 10s. 8½d. Rubber yielded 27,566 lbs. more at 71,925 lbs., and the gross price rose by 2.02d. to 2s. 3.41d., but the "all in" cost, including .48d. for war risk insurance, was 1.12d. higher at 1s. 9.12d., partly because revenue was debited with upkeep expenditure on a large area as yet unproductive. Including £3,555 more at £6,013 brought in, the nett profits were £7,778 up at £24,035, and as there is nothing to write off, compared with £3,681 for preliminary expenses, the directors find it possible to double the dividend at 10 per cent., and still leave £2,233 more at £8,246 to be carried forward. Property account, including buildings and machinery, has risen by £11,876 to £167,038, and cash has been reduced by £10,567 to £4,789. Produce in hand is valued at £24,965, or £14,356 less, while current liabilities are £7,920 down at £7,553. A rather smaller coffee crop is expected for the current year, the estimate being only 12,100 piculs, but the rubber crop is put at 110,000 lbs.

In the year ended June 30 the Batu Rata (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations harvested 252,473 lbs., or 72,122 lbs. more, and was able to reduce the "all in" cost by 2.26d. to 1s. 1.61d. notwithstanding heavier freight charges and the expense of war risk insurance. The gross price realised was only .50d. lower at 2s. 3.15d., and the nett profits, after providing £1,000 for depreciation and transferring £2,000 to reserve, as against £3,500 set aside in the previous 12 months, showed an improvement of £6,224 at £12,471. To this was added £4,410 brought forward, giving £16,881, or £7,520 more, to be dealt with, and the directors increase the dividend from 5 per cent. to 12½ per cent., leaving £4,503 to be carried forward. Expenditure on the property, less depreciation, amounted to £4,523, making a total of £108,796, against which the reserve now stands at £11,000. Stocks are £4,778 up at £9,168, and the company has invested £4,925 in Treasury bills, with the result that cash balances show a decrease of £6,383 at £5,645. A further substantial increase to 325,000 lbs. is expected in the output for the current year.

During the year ended July 31 the United Temiang (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates brought a further 199 acres into bearing, and at the same time obtained an increase of 68 lbs. to 365 lbs. in the yield per acre, with the result that the crop was 108,520 lbs. larger at 264,219 lbs. The all-in cost was further reduced by 2.72d. to 1s. 3.28d., and as the gross price was 1.64d. better at 2s. 2.94d. profits were £7,765 up at £12,947. With

£2,717 brought forward the amount available was £15,664, or £8,497 more, out of which £5,000 is transferred to reserve, against £2,000 to that fund and £2,449 written off London expenses to July, 1913, a year ago, and the shareholders then get a dividend of 5 per cent., their first since 1911-12, leaving £4,079, or £1,362 more, to be carried forward. During the year £6,402 was spent on the immature area, making the cost £131,066, exclusive of buildings and machinery, and against this the reserve now amounts to £7,000. Stocks of rubber are £5,292 larger at £9,705, and cash is £2,113 up at £5,107, while £1,195 more at £2,705 is due to creditors. A further big increase to 414,000 lbs. is expected on the crop for 1915-16.

Much better results were obtained by the Consolidated Estates Co. in the year ended September 30 than in the preceding 12 months. Not only was the tea crop 96,448 lbs. larger at 2,068,057 lbs., but the nett price was 1.36d. better at 8.93d., while the cost was reduced by 0.31d. to 5.42d. The rubber crop showed an increase of 155,239 lbs. at 675,871 lbs., and realised only ¾d. less at 2s. 0½d., but the directors do not as yet give the costs of production. Including £4,619, or £1,204 less, brought forward, the nett profits were £25,387 up at £68,626, and the directors, having learned by experience, transfer £20,000 of this to development fund as against £7,500 to reserve a year ago, and resume the appropriations to the debenture redemption fund with £6,901. Out of the balance remaining a dividend of 45 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, compared with 40 per cent. last year, and £2,486 more at £7,105 is carried forward. Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £2,358, but £3,100 was written off on redemption of debentures, so that the book value of the property is slightly lower at £211,841, and against this the reserve and debenture redemption funds will now amount to £99,888. Cash balances were £25,943 higher at £41,999, so that practically the whole of the increase in profits was held in cash at the date of the balance-sheet. Forward sales have been made of 30 tons first latex for delivery from November to April at a price equivalent to 2s. 6d. per lb., London landed terms.

At the extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Java Rubber and Produce Co. the proposed reduction of capital was opposed by some of the shareholders on the ground that the debenture-holders would receive undue advantage from the fact that they would continue to have the right to convert each £50 debenture into shares of the nominal value of £50, whereas the shareholders would only receive seven 2s. shares for their original £1 share. A new scheme has therefore been drawn up after negotiations with the trustees and holders of a large part of the total issue of debentures which it is hoped will prove an equitable adjustment of the points at issue. Under this new arrangement the debenture-holders are asked to surrender their right of conversion in consideration of receiving a cash payment of £2 10s. for every £50 debenture, and an option to subscribe at any time before June 30, 1922, at a premium of 25 per cent. for shares to the nominal value of £10 for every £50 debenture held. The scheme is of course contingent upon the resolutions for the reduction of the capital being passed by the shareholders.

**BROOKLANDS SELANGOR RUBBER.**—The output of rubber has now begun to show a substantial increase, and the company has therefore been able to bring down its "all-in" cost to a very satisfactory figure. In the year ended June 30 the output was 174,050 lbs., or 110,568 lbs. more than that of the previous 12 months, and the cost was reduced by 4.08d. to 11.26d., while the company was also fortunate enough to obtain a gross price of 2s. 2.54d., or only 0.29d. less than in 1913-14. After charging the proportion of London office expenses, writing off £1,500 or £1,000 more for depreciation, and transferring £1,500 to reserve against nothing last time, the amount available, including £4,936 brought forward, was £6,976 up at £11,913, out of which an initial dividend of 9 per cent. is paid, leaving £2,048 less at £2,888 to be carried forward. Expenditure on development for the year amounted to £13,170, making a total of £115,514, in addition to which the cost of buildings and machinery was increased by £4,270 to £11,845, against which £7,585 was received on account of the debenture issue. Produce in hand is valued at £6,870 or £4,545 more, but cash is



£9,546 down at £1,832. A crop of 370,000 lbs. is expected this year, of which 83,949 lbs. were harvested during the first three months, and the "all-in" cost is estimated at 11.33d.

SCOTTISH TRUST AND LOAN OF CEYLON.—The year ended August 31 opened in a very unpromising manner, as the production of tea for several months was reduced by severe drought, but an improvement then set in, and the total output was only 28,640 lbs. down at 1,500,800 lbs. At the same time, the company benefited by an increase of 1.58d. to 9.55d. in the net average price, and by a further reduction in the f.o.b. cost, with the result that net profits, including £411 more at £1,258 brought in, were £8,398 higher at £22,156. Out of this an extra £3,000 at £5,000 is transferred to estates cultivation fund, and £5,000 is set aside to provide for the war tax. The dividend is then raised from 12½ per cent. to 15, and the appropriations of £2,000 to reserve and £1,000 in reduction of coast advances are repeated, leaving £1,149, or only £109 less, to be carried forward. A purchaser has now been found for the rubber estate, Rajjamaana, at a price which is better than was at one time expected. It, however, leaves a loss of £12,000, and this has been written off out of the estate cultivation fund, reducing the cost of the property to £47,971.

ANKOLA TEA AND RUBBER.—During the year ended April 30 this company was able to effect a distinct improvement in the general condition of its estates. Plucking was temporarily suspended, apparently in order to overcome the effects of grey blight, and the total crop was only 80,801 lbs., or 10,420 lbs. less than in the preceding 12 months. The net price was 1.16d. better at 9.12d., and in addition 3,427 lbs. of tea seed were sold at 18.96d., or an increase of 11.32d., the proceeds from these sales being written off capital expenditure. The cost of property was increased by £10,818 to £101,098, and the company had to obtain a loan of £9,870 partly secured upon debenture stock. Thanks to the policy adopted the gardens are reported to be in excellent condition, and the crop for the current year is estimated at 382,000 lbs.

### MINING RETURNS.

Abbotiakoona.—12,065 tons; yield, £20,433; cost, £16,125.  
 Abosso.—9,947 tons, producing £16,827.  
 Ashanti.—11,698 tons; value, £37,546 (Sept. profit, £14,749).  
 Aurora West.—15,200 tons, £16,828; profit, £3,122 (Sept., £4,039).  
 Balaghat.—2,900 tons, 1,213 ozs. bar gold, tailings 265 ozs., equal to 1,339 ozs. fine gold, against 1,298 ozs for Sept.  
 Bantjes Cons.—20,490 tons; value, £22,389; profit, £759 (Sept., £1,112).  
 Brakpan.—64,000 tons crushed; value, £90,038; profit, £33,111.  
 Bullfinch Proprietary.—6,390 tons, 2,843 ozs; value, £8,046; profit, £3,218.  
 Cape Copper.—Total output, 216 tons.  
 Champion Reef.—Total, 11,661 ozs., equal to 10,684 ozs. fine gold.  
 City and Suburban.—28,400 tons, 12,106 ozs., £50,348; profit, £20,538.  
 City Deep.—63,000 tons, £122,668; profit, £60,501, against £60,080.  
 Consolidated Langlaagte.—54,100 tons, £68,618; profit, £28,123 (Sept., £29,024).  
 Consolidated Main Reef.—29,130 tons, £42,022; profit, £13,934 (Sept., £13,547).  
 Crown.—221,000 tons, £276,050; profit, £97,331, against £95,515.  
 Durban Roodepoort Deep.—27,000 tons, £37,301; profit, £5,664, against £5,850.  
 East Rand Proprietary.—197,600 tons, 56,050 ozs.; £234,332; profit, £57,023 (Sept., £55,011).  
 Ferreira Deep.—59,880 tons; £101,482; profit, £43,031, against £50,887.  
 Geduld Prop.—27,200 tons; £43,534; profit, £14,195, against £12,779.  
 Geldenhuis Deep.—59,000 tons; £74,597; profit, £13,830, against £11,484.  
 Ginsberg.—15,800 tons; £17,911; profit, £4,039 (Sept. £4,169).  
 Glencairn.—21,850 tons; £14,897; profit, £2,656 (Sept. £2,430).  
 Government Areas (Modderfontein).—50,200 tons; £70,276; profit, £16,059 (Sept., £15,216).  
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,178 tons; value, £6,614; profit, £2,754.  
 Globe and Phoenix.—6,502 tons, 7,497 ozs.; profit, £17,526.  
 Carried to reserve, 2,333 ozs.  
 Golden Horse Shoe.—20,688 tons, 9,306 ozs.; value, £39,664; profit, £12,662.  
 Great Boulder Perseverance.—19,907 tons; £20,079.  
 Ji'ntil (Anantapur).—2,900 tons, 800 ozs fine gold.  
 Jupiter.—21,000 tons, value £19,234; net loss, £315.  
 Knight Central.—29,020 tons, £31,557; profit, £4,053.  
 Knights Deep.—110,000 tons, £83,023; profit, £16,184.  
 Langlaagte Estate.—52,608 tons for 7,712 ozs.; cyanide, 6,461 ozs.; profit, £14,035. Official Note.—Gold calculated at 83s. 2d. per oz., allowing for war charges, instead of 84s.  
 Luipaards Vlei.—Crushed, 22,140; profit, £5,105.  
 Lonely Reef.—4,750 tons, 3,055 ozs.; value, £12,842; profit, £4,441.  
 Main Reef West.—26,520 tons, £28,276; profit, £3,839 (Sept., £3,671).  
 Meyer and Charlton.—14,990 tons, £33,952; profit, £20,831, against £20,767.  
 Modderfontein B.—45,500 tons, £98,774; profit, £64,182, against £61,160.

Modderfontein Deep.—34,700 tons, £63,581; profit, £34,559, against £34,746.

Mount Boppy.—Clean up from 7,142 tons, 1,319 ozs.; cyanide, 1,272 tons, 545 ozs.; slimes, 5,034 tons, 1,450 ozs.; concentrates, 30 tons, 120 ozs. (fine); total, 3,434 ozs.; value, £10,120.

Mount Lyell.—27,941 tons ore treated, being 17,218 tons from the Mount Lyell and 10,723 tons from the North Mount Lyell; converters produced 638 tons blister copper, containing 632 tons copper, 39,364 ozs. silver, 802 ozs. gold.

Mysore.—26,673 tons, 14,277 ozs.; sands, 2,268 ozs.; slimes, 2,059 ozs.; total, 18,604 ozs., equivalent to fine gold 17,032 ozs.

New Goch.—30,700 tons, £29,468; profit, £8,573, against £8,035.

New Modderfontein.—53,000 tons, £104,394; profit, £58,431, against £57,762.

Nourse.—59,300 tons, £71,843; profit, £13,289, against £11,095.

New Heriot.—13,800 tons, 5,730 ozs.; value, £23,884; profit, £9,507.

New Primrose.—22,500 tons, £18,293; profit, £5,061 (Sept. £6,077).

New Unified.—13,750 tons, £14,242; profit, £5,006 (Sept., £5,037).

North Anantapur.—Output, 1,054 total ozs. bar gold, equal to 1,339 ozs. fine gold.

Nundyroog.—8,000 tons, 5,750 ozs., tailings and slimes 1,448 ozs.; total, 7,198 ozs., equal to 6,416 ozs. fine gold, against 6,392 ozs. fine gold for September.

Ooregum.—Production, 7,886 ozs., equal to 7,168 ozs. fine gold.

Princess Est.—23,000 tons, £28,706; profit, £607, against £756.

Randfontein Central.—217,400 tons, 31,556 ozs.; cyanide, 30,758 ozs.; profit, £66,622. Official Note.—Gold calculated at 83s. 2d. per oz., allowing for war charges, instead of 84s.

Robinson.—60,700 tons, £76,923; profit, £37,197, against £38,403.

Robinson Deep.—59,200 tons, £77,362; profit, £25,087.

Roodepoort United.—34,931 tons, £32,274; profit, £2,067, against £2,539.

Rose Deep.—70,100 tons, £80,474; profit, £21,814, against £18,535.

Sheba.—6,988 tons, 2,603 fine ozs.; profit, £2,013.

Simmer and Jack.—70,500 tons, £76,950; profit, £29,069.

Simmer Deep.—71,300 tons, £54,088; profit, £2,441. Official note.—Owing to large increase in tonnage, recovery of the gold has been adversely affected, improvement in grade later on in the month should become apparent in next month's figures.

Taqua.—5,861 tons ore, producing £17,002.

Transvaal and Rhodesian.—Crushed 2,000 tons, value £4,086.

Transvaal Est.—13,815 tons, £28,640; profit, £11,894.

Van Ryn.—38,810 tons, £46,989; profit, £19,647, against £19,599.

Van Ryn Deep.—40,260 tons, £78,769; profit, £43,061 (Sept., £43,119).

Village Main Reef.—11,200 tons, £19,902; loss, £4,239. Loss due to curtailment of tonnage owing to the recent accident and heavy expenditure in underground repair work, which is proceeding satisfactorily.

Village Deep.—54,400 tons, £76,971; profit, £25,197, against £25,771.

West Rand Consolidated.—£31,750 tons, £41,699; profit, £13,300, against £10,278. Increased profit due to what is regarded as a temporary enrichment of stopes.

Witwatersrand.—43,130 tons, £55,222; profit, £25,210 (Sept., £25,035).

Witwatersrand Deep.—43,850 tons, £55,356; profit, £16,050 (Sept., £16,034).

Wolhuter.—35,600 tons, £43,500; profit, £13,920 (Sept., £13,672).

VILLA MARIA AND RUFINO RAILWAY CO., LTD.—Under the terms of the lease this company's capital charges are provided for by the B. A. and Pacific Railway Co., and we need only note here the slight recovery in the traffic receipts for the past year. They came to £64,356, as compared with £63,643 for the previous year closed June 30 and £61,903 for 1912-13. This last was the lowest depth touched, but as recently as 1911 receipts were £77,308. No accounts are published or necessary.

Cities Service Co.—At a special meeting held by the board of directors of Cities Service Co. the officers were authorised to sell five million dollars' worth of preferred and two and a-half million dollars of common stock. A strong syndicate of American interests have purchased this stock, and its sale will enable the company to retire the entire floating debt, and give ample working cash capital. Arrangements with purchasers provide that their stock will not be offered to the public at present, and purchasers may withdraw their stock from the syndicate only upon agreement that the preferred stock will be sold for not less than 85 per cent. of par and common at not less than 125 per cent. of par. Holders of preferred stock of record December 15 will be given the right on January 1 next to receive 5 per cent. convertible debentures for 9 per cent. of their holdings as payment for the deferred dividends to that date, holders to have a right to convert these debentures at any time into stock upon a basis of 100 of preferred stock and 25 of common stock for each 100 dollars in debentures. Holders of common stock will have 9 per cent. in debentures set aside for them, and certificates issued to holders of record December 15, which will entitle them to receive debentures when all holders of preferred stock have been paid their deferred dividends. Company will resume regular monthly dividends in cash on its preferred stock February 1 to holders of record January 15.



## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

Receipts from coaching traffic in the year ended March 31 fell off by £25,969, while goods traffic yielded £29,398 less, and miscellaneous items £5,746 less, the decreases being attributed by the directors entirely to the conditions brought about by the war. The new Indo-Ceylon steamboat service, however, was in operation for the full year, as against only one month in 1913-14, and the revenue from this source was consequently £7,994 larger, reducing the drop in the total income to £53,119 at £1,818,214. Working expenses took £39,346 less at £1,042,512, thanks mainly to substantial reductions in maintenance of way and in carriage and wagon expenses, so that the nett earnings were only £13,773 lower at £775,702. The company's share of the surplus profits amounted to £11,184, to which were added £33,865 or £1,358 more for balance of stockholders' revenue account on March 31, 1915, and £736 for interest, making a total of £45,785. Out of this two dividends of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. each have been declared, making with the guaranteed interest  $\frac{4}{3}$  per cent. for the year ending December 31, 1915, and £36,973 or £2,546 more is carried forward. Provision had been made for an expenditure on capital account of £501,867, but the outbreak of war led to all work being deferred which could be possibly postponed, and the actual outlay was £326,630, of which £156,319 was on additions to rolling-stock and £170,311 on improving the line and increasing the facilities for working traffic.

### ORDERS AND HANDFORD STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

Five of this company's six steamers have been on charter to the Admiralty since the commencement of the war, and the new one was only delivered on August 19, so that it was not in a position to take advantage of the high freights. The Government contracts, however, would seem to have been very remunerative, as the gross receipts, which fell off by £27,181 in the previous year, show an increase for the 12 months ended October 31 of £33,249 at £135,542. At the same time there was a very substantial reduction of £24,788 in port and general charges, and after providing management and other expenses, the nett balance was £51,633 up at £64,478. A year ago the dividend was cut down from 15 per cent. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but the directors are now able not only to make a distribution of 20 per cent., but to write £20,000, or £15,000 more, off capital account, together with £4,000 off investments, and also to set aside £20,000 to meet war taxes, while still leaving £1,378 more at £3,342 to be carried forward. The new vessel cost £41,000, and after allowing for the amount now written off, the book value of the fleet is £21,000 up at £75,500. Debtors owe £20,143 or £8,005 more, and cash has risen by £10,278 to £29,595, against an increase of £18,277 to £27,836 in sundry creditors and bills payable.

### STUTTAFORD AND CO., LTD.

Under present conditions in South Africa, it is decidedly satisfactory to find that this company was able to increase its nett profits for the year ended July 31 by no less than £11,972 to £63,060. No profit and loss account is submitted, so that we cannot see for ourselves how the result was obtained, but the directors explain that it was largely due to a considerable reduction in expenses which they have been able to effect. Savings have also been made in interest charges, through the repayment of large sums due to cash creditors. Adding £18,704 brought forward, the divisible total was £81,704, or £16,346 more, and the dividend on the ordinary shares, which a year ago was reduced from 9 per cent. to 7, is now raised to 10 per cent., while £15,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £10,000 last time, and £25,420, or £5,943 more, is carried forward. Liabilities to cash creditors show a decrease of £25,186 at £28,223, and the directors hope that they will be able to reduce this item still further during the current year. Trade creditors are £5,921 up at £11,461, against which stocks are £6,606 higher at £137,130, and cash is £16,004 up at £29,354, but debtors owe £7,822 less at £49,391. With the present appropriation the reserve will stand at £35,000, practically all of which is employed in the business.

### BOVRIL AUSTRALIAN ESTATES, LTD.

A satisfactory improvement of £18,533 to £42,976 is shown in the gross profits for the year ended December 31, and after providing for working expenses, debenture interest, &c., the nett balance is £15,450 higher at £23,020. Out of this the dividend on the preferred ordinary shares is met, £600 is again transferred to lease redemption fund, and the balance carried forward is increased by £15,503 to £64,196. An interim dividend on the preferred ordinary stocks on account of 1915 will be paid before the end of next month. It is estimated that the company's cattle now exceed 145,000 head, and the book value is £15,874 up at £247,756. Debtors owe £24,979, or £23,427 more, but as the company has invested £10,000 in debentures, the cash balances have been reduced by £9,282 to £8,922. During the year a further £42,750 was received on account of the 5 per cent. debentures issued, making the total outstanding £52,690, and the first instalment, amounting to £18,000, of the mortgage given in part payment for the property has been met, leaving £72,000 to be repaid over a period of four years.

### LAGUNAS SYNDICATE, LTD.

Both of this company's oficinas were closed for about 10 months of its financial year ended June 30, and profits in consequence dwindled almost to vanishing point. The gross profit was £70,316 down at £8,116, while London expenses, thanks to an increase of £2,353 in income-tax and to the necessity for providing no less than £4,773 for loss on ex-

change, took £6,137 more at £13,965. Credit, however, is taken for the £15,755 transferred to suspense account last year pending the realisation of nitrate sold, and £27,000 is also taken from the special reserve for the service of debentures, giving a total of £36,906 available. After providing for debenture interest and setting aside £16,260, or £23,150 less, for debentures redeemed, £757 is carried forward, as against £268 brought in. Work at the South Lagunas oficina was resumed on October 15, but the reopening of the North Lagunas oficina will depend on the demand for nitrate being more assured than it is at present. Nitrate sold but not delivered is valued at £17,096, or £53,755 less, and nitrate, caliche and iodine stocks are £3,760 down at £7,830, but there is a new item of £2,635 for iodine stocks at Hamburg at the outbreak of war. Bills receivable have been reduced by £19,840 to £19,348, and loans at short notice by £18,000 to £12,000, but cash balances are £26,071 higher at £44,699, while, on the other hand, £40,151 less at £41,850 is due to creditors and on bills payable. Property account has been reduced by £17,650 to £891,052 by the action of the sinking fund.

### WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

A drop of £5,028 to £36,454 is shown in the revenue for the six months ended June 30, while expenses, notwithstanding a reduction of £3,263 in the cost of repairs to cables, were rather higher at £27,225. Profits consequently showed a decrease of £5,353 at £9,229, and the nett balance, including receipts from interest and £6,349, or £4,444 more, brought forward was £892 smaller at £17,319. The dividend on the ordinary shares is therefore reduced from 1s. 3d. to 9d. per share, but the balance carried forward is £1,316 up at £2,238. In August last a hurricane passed over the West Indies affecting an unusually large area, and resulting in damage to several of the main line cables, which caused great dislocation of traffic for about 12 days. The cost of repairs to cables is consequently expected to be above the average in the current half-year.

### SECOND SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LTD.

In the 12 months ended October 1 this company earned £38,767, or £1,669 more, but the gain was practically all swept away by heavier charges for interest and income-tax, and with £1,523 less at £2,227 brought in the surplus available was £1,780 smaller at £23,915. Of this, £2,000 is transferred to reserve, against £3,000 a year ago, and the dividend on the deferred stock is reduced from 9 per cent. to 8, leaving £2,633, or £405 more, to be carried forward. Liabilities on debentures have been increased by £3,600 to £87,260, and sundry creditors have risen by £1,305 to £3,441. On the other hand, investments are valued at £787,041, or £6,737 more, and cash is £14,850 up at £16,862, but temporary loans of £11,871 have been called in, and the item of £1,802 for sundry debtors in the previous balance-sheet has also disappeared.

### PEARKS' DAIRIES, LTD.

There is not very much comfort to be extracted from the first report of this undertaking, which covers a period of about 10 months to June 26. The company took over the business of Pearks, Ltd., as from September 5, 1914, and the directors say that they have given their attention to building up the turnover of the shops and restoring the credit rather than to making immediate profits. They appear to be satisfied with the results in view of the difficulties which have had to be faced, but, in spite of the company having had the benefit of certain advantageous contracts which it may not have to the same extent in the near future, the nett outcome was a tiny profit of £229. The company would seem to have handicapped itself from the outset by paying £126,058 for goodwill out of a total capital of £155,253, and it has had to lean very heavily on credit. Liabilities on loans amount to £90,035, and in addition £155,667 is due to sundry creditors, against which stocks are valued at £57,958, debtors owe £50,858, and the company has £17,120 in cash. Fixtures, fittings, &c., stand in the books at £82,313 and trade investments at £65,775.

### NEW YORK RAILWAYS CO.

This appears to be a combination of a number of small tramway companies working on the streets of New York and suburbs. The aggregate length is 154 miles, of which about 21 miles are horse tramways. This being so, the business is of little interest here except as a possible source of investment securities. Its share capital amounts to \$17,495,000, and its funded debt to \$48,679,000. Probably its 30-year real estate and refunding mortgage 4 per cent. gold bonds, amounting to \$18,047,000, might be a fair security. They are not, however, really a first mortgage upon the property, for there are underlying mortgages outstanding to the amount of \$10,800,000 nett. Last year the nett revenue was \$191,000 less than in the previous year at \$900,000, and after meeting the various fixed charges, including the interest on the New York Railways Co. adjustment mortgage 5 per cent. income bonds, a surplus of \$64 was left, which was \$168 less than the surplus at June 30, 1913. The margin is therefore slender enough.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-Malay Rubber.—Second interim of 12 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 3, making 20 per cent. so far this year, as compared with 12 per cent.

Asanti Goldfields.—25 per cent. (1s. per share), payable, less tax, at 3s. 6d. in the pound, on Dec. 10, same as a year ago.

Balijan Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, of season 1915, payable Nov. 10, against 5 per cent.



Chargola Tea.—Interim on account of 1915 on the ordinary of per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

Credit Foncier of Mauritius.—5 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended June 30 last, payable Dec. 1, against 2 per cent.

Culloden Consolidated.—Interim of 2½ per cent. (actual), free of tax, in respect of period ending Dec. 31.

Demerara Railway.—For half-year to June 30 at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary.

Djember Rubber.—Interim of 4 per cent., free tax, payable Nov. 30. This is the company's first dividend.

Dennis Brothers (1913).—10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., against 10 per cent.

Dorman, Long, and Co.—5 per cent., making 8 per cent., and a bonus of 1s. per share, free of tax, for year ended Sept. 30, against 7½ per cent., less tax.

Dunlop Rubber.—The directors announce that, owing to the depletion of the clerical staff consequent upon enlistment, the accounts of the company will be issued a week or two later than was the case last year. The directors have reason to believe that the trading results of the year will be regarded as satisfactory.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Extra of 12½ per cent. on the common, payable Dec. 15. The usual quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the preferred and of 2½ per cent. on the common will be paid on Jan. 1, 1916.

Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the ordinary of 7½ per cent., tax free, placing £15,000 to general reserve, £1,000 to income-tax, with £24,746 forward. In the three preceding years no dividend was paid on the ordinary.

Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary on account of year 1915, against 5 per cent.

Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.—Balance of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, making 13 per cent., less tax, for year ended Sept. 30, against 12 per cent., tax free.

Griffiths Lewis Steam Navigation.—Final of £4 per £50 share, free of tax, making 20 per cent. for year.

Illinois Traction.—Regular at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the common for quarter ended Oct. 31, payable Nov. 15.

Indian and General Investment Trust.—Interim for six months ended Oct. 31 on the deferred at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable Dec. 14, same as a year ago.

Jhanzie Tea.—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, for year ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 7, same as a year ago.

Lanadron Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable Nov. 25, against 5 per cent.

Ledbury Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable Nov. 25, against 5 per cent.

Luipaard's Vlei Estate.—gd. per share, less tax. This is the first dividend since July, 1909.

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway.—1s. 3d. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 20. Accounts for half-year ended Sept. 30 show net profit of £139,071; after writing off depreciation £20,123; mine prospecting £14,656; and Federal and State income-taxes £18,400. For the corresponding half of 1914 the net profit was £29,317; no dividend was paid.

Oriental Consolidated Mining.—50 cents per share. Warrants will be despatched from New York on Nov. 22.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation.—On the deferred of 5 per cent. for six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 5 per cent., both tax free, making 15 per cent. on the deferred for the year, same as a year ago, but less tax.

Scottish Investment Trust.—Final of 3 per cent. on the deferred, making 5 per cent., less tax, for the year, against 6 per cent.

Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Sialang Rubber.—Interim of 6 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Jan. 31, 1916, payable Nov. 30, against 4 per cent.

Sons of Gwalia.—Interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 21, against 6d.

Venesta.—Final on the ordinary of 3 per cent., less tax, making 8 per cent. for year ended June 30, payable Nov. 30, against 5 per cent.

Wm. Cory and Son.—Interim on the ordinary and employees shares of 4 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31, 1916, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

## Answers to Correspondents.

Winton.—(1) These are not likely to advance, the property having probably seen its best days, although by no means exhausted. (2) Market opinion regarding this concern is that it bids fair to be one of the best in the field, and that being so, we think your proposed exchange advisable.

Vic.—Unless you see a chance of investing the money to better advantage elsewhere, it would be unwise to sell now, although there is not much prospect of dividends—at any rate, for the next two years. Ultimately, however, these shares ought to be valuable, and there will be ups and downs; therefore, hold on.

A Small Player.—Surely you know it is usually a losing game to sell on a falling market. (1) This should be bought, not sold, but the buying figure has not yet been touched. Wait till next month. (2) Average here, too. The stock is not worth selling.

Onyx.—Some of it, not all. Prices seem to us likely to go higher, perhaps considerably higher.

Answered (Wire).—Very fair investment. Price 9½.

J. C. H.—There is no hurry to sell, we think. The company is doing quite well and should progress.

W. A. W.—There is no recent news so far as we can discover. The bonds certainly look cheap if they can be got at

about the last quotation. Some agreement must be come to, but just now all such problems are not tackled very strenuously.

D. W. M.—We do not know the concern, and unless you can send us some particulars, cannot express any opinion. Should advise you to have nothing to do with it until you have convinced yourself it is good.

B. W. J.—We have made further inquiries regarding the company, and while it has good prospects, we do not think you need be in a hurry to average your holding.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and November 6, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 6, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 7, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	37,450,000	27,597,000	20,573,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	34,395,000	22,275,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	19,482,000	14,831,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	3,746,000	4,685,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	20,060,000	10,012,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	51,000	61,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	18,507,000	17,150,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	290,000	300,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,002,000	767,960	792,767
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	3,021,752	3,324,768
Revenue .....	267,232,000	128,250,712	94,265,535
Total, including Balance .....		211,701,664	104,700,054
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion.....		1,190,000	1,870,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount) .....		78,329,000	50,100,000
For War Loan 1915-1928 .....		35,793,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1945 .....		585,850,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,150,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		251,350,000	72,981,000
Total .....		1,166,505,242	230,801,054
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (includ- ing supplementa- ry grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 6, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 7, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	16,559,966	14,008,602
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	6,139,688	1,068,201
Road Improvement Fund .....	1,431,000	694,395	817,695
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	5,137,901	5,108,146
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,697,000	1,193,592	1,097,077
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	789,492,729	173,114,894
Expenditure .....	1,054,676,000	819,218,271	195,214,615
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,675,000	2,145,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,950,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .....		160,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 .....		—	—
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		100,000	60,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12 .....		—	—
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £131,308,000, in 1915-16) .....		131,308,000	15,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Nov. 6. £	1914. Nov. 7. £	
Bank of England .....	24,650,987	15,081,760	
Bank of Ireland .....	568,976	617,059	
Total .....		25,219,963	15,698,819
Total .....		1,166,505,242	230,801,054

NOTE.—The Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure are based upon the original Budget Estimate.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on November 6, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	£245,500,000
Total .. .. .	£255,500,000

\* Includes £179,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, November 8, 1915.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BURMA CORPORATION.

The annual general meeting of the Burma Corporation, Ltd., adjourned from December 22 last, was held on Monday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. R. Tilden Smith presiding, in the absence of Mr. Herbert C. Hoover (chairman of the company), who is in America in connection with his work as chairman of the Commission for the relief of the distressed population in Belgium.

The Secretary (Mr. D. Anderson, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman stated that the company had an enormous ore body already disclosed, containing, upon a conservative basis, at least 2,000,000 tons, for their future plans for treating which they would require a very large amount of capital. They had about £100,000 in hand. Next year they expected to pay all expenses and have left some additional capital. In any case, from one source or another, with such a phenomenally rich concern as theirs certainly was, all the capital that might be requisite should be easily obtained. He did not propose to fix any period at which the shareholders might look for dividends; that question must be governed by some of the various factors involved by the magnitude of the proposition and by the influence of this gigantic war. The corporation now owned 99.8 per cent. of the shares and over 77 per cent. of the debentures of the Burma Mines, Ltd. The property in which the corporation had therefore become interested, and owned by the Burma Mines, Ltd., was known as the Bawdwin Mines, situated in that part of Burma known as the Northern Shan States, 169 miles from Mandalay. Both companies were British, and the composition of the boards was five British and two subjects of the United States of America. A study of the reports would show that from a small beginning the undertaking bade fair to become one of the largest single lead-zinc-silver producers in the world, capable of turning out 75,000 tons of lead, 65,000 tons of zinc, and 7,000,000 ozs. of silver annually. Over £2,000,000 had been spent in the equipment and development of the mines, £1,000,000 of which had been derived from the smelting operations. The whole of the money realised from the metals extracted in the past had been used for the improvement and opening out of the mines, and the shareholders had consequently not derived any benefit from the operations to date. The quantities of metal referred to would, it was hoped, enter the trade channels of the United Kingdom as it had hitherto done, for the company was not seriously committed as to its future by any contracts for the sale of its products. Before the outbreak of war it was necessary to make some shipments to Germany, there being no suitable zinc smelting works in the British Empire, and these shipments had not only been smelted, but the products were sold within the German Empire. On the basis of technical advice given to him and of his own commercial investigation, he had come to the conclusion that to enter successfully into the field of zinc smelting it was essential to start with an established works, which had bought its experience under surrounding conditions, and this was available in this country. A proposal had been made to the British Government which, he hoped, would lead to the establishment of such a works or organisation as would deal with the principal zinc products of the Empire. He was doubtful whether this Government would offer any encouragement, but he had no doubt that the Australian Commonwealth Premier would. The production of the quantity of ore and metal mentioned would necessitate the expenditure of £1,500,000 per annum in wages and salaries, and these metals would represent an increase to the national wealth of approximately £3,500,000 per annum, a large portion of which would be distributed among the miners, surface workers, staff, railways, steamship lines, metal workers, metal markets, and to shareholders in the company, all British. In conclusion, he said: The relations between the Government officials and the company are in the main uniformly satisfactory. Unfortunately, however, there is one exception, and it is an important one. I refer to this with extreme reluctance, and I do not for a moment wish to suggest that the superintendent of the Northern Shan States is prompted in his attitude by anything but the highest motives. He does not, however, appear to grasp the broad bearings of an enterprise of this nature in regard to the development of the economic condition of the States, but he appears to regard it as nothing more than a money-making concern. This undertaking does not differ from any other enterprise on business lines existing in the Empire. Admittedly, every industrial enterprise has for its basis the making of profit, but the British Empire has been founded upon that basis; but in its train benefits are brought by the industry and expenditure of capital to the locality where the operations are carried on, and it is submitted that this should be borne in mind by all officials who are carrying on the administration of the country where these industrial undertakings are established, and for the benefit of the district every support should be given to enable the undertaking to develop on prosperous lines. In fact, when it comes to the matter of utilising the important resources of the district, the attitude of an official should not be what can you afford to pay? but what can I afford to sell it for? and the answer should be obtained by comparing the position of the State before and after the improvement of the particular resource. An instance of the unnecessarily heavy charges is found in the question of the use of water power. An official who has had charge of this question is endeavouring to obtain from us the uttermost farthing without reference to the consideration due to us for the advantages we have brought to the district. We have felt this attitude deeply, and as a consequence were compelled to turn our attention to the uses of oil engines for the

generation of electric power, and were ultimately compelled to go to Switzerland for the purchase of a Sulzer Diesel oil engine, which is now in course of erection. We are quite desirous of assisting in the development of the district and its administration charges, but we consider that we are doing more than is legally required of us in improving the condition of employees and the population of the country in which we are carrying on our operations. Our desire must be to establish closer relations with the Government, and to convince them of the importance of our operations and the benefits that will accrue to the district in particular and to the Empire in general.

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

## AUCKLAND ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

## TRAFFIC RECEIPTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE WAR.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Auckland Electric Tramways Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at the Electrical Federation Offices, Kingsway, W.C., Mr. C. G. Tegetmeier (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. C. H. Williams) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said this was the first time since the company started electrical running in 1902 that they had not been able to point to an increase in the company's revenue over that of the preceding year; but the war had affected their business in Auckland, as in one way or another it had affected commerce and industry in all parts of the Empire. A comparison with the preceding year might be somewhat deceptive, because in that year they had the extra traffic brought about by the Auckland Exhibition to increase their receipts, and, on the other hand, the discontinuance of running for 18 days during the strike to reduce them. It was probable, however, that the effect of those two causes upon their gross receipts was to counterbalance each other. The accounts covered a period of 11 months of war time, and, closely following upon the outbreak of war, there was a noticeable general decline in the volume of traffic. The tendency in this direction became more pronounced as the year went on, and was still continuing. The more conservative policy adopted by the local authorities with regard to public works, the restriction of building operations throughout the district, the falling off in the attendances at the various places of amusement, and the almost entire absence of interest in football and other athletic sports had all been contributing causes. This company, in common with most of the large employers of labour, endeavoured to refrain as much as possible from dismissing its men and adding to unemployment, and consequently in the latter months of the year they had maintained a larger staff than was absolutely necessary for the working of the undertaking. Another cause for the decline in traffic was to be found in the number of New Zealanders who, in a spirit of loyalty and patriotism, had left their ordinary pursuits and sacrificed their positions and personal comfort to share in the defence of the Empire.

## TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

In view of the adverse conditions it could not be expected that the receipts of the company would show the expansion which under normal circumstances they would have been able to look forward to. The total traffic receipts amounted to £267,793, which was a decrease of £3,908 compared with the previous year. The whole of this decrease, however, was in respect of their motor omnibuses, the receipts from the tramways being a few hundred pounds more than in the preceding year, although there was a slight decrease in the number of passengers carried. The motor omnibuses were acquired specifically for the purpose of facilitating the exhibition traffic, and on the close of the exhibition their running was almost entirely discontinued. During the past year, owing to the financial conditions brought about by the war, and the desirability of conserving their resources, they had restricted reconstruction expenditure to work that was immediately necessary, and they were still pursuing this policy, but a time came when it was false economy to postpone reconstruction, and it was essential that their renewals account should be adequate to meet the expenditure when the need for it arose. Out of last year's revenue they were allocating £22,500 to the renewals and depreciation account, which was closely approximate to the amount they had taken out of the account for the year's expenditure. An exceptional item of expenditure was the donation of £1,000 to the Auckland Patriotic Fund in connection with the war, which, he was sure, the shareholders would endorse. The net result shown by the revenue account was that, including the amount brought forward of £5,876, and after allocating £22,500 to renewals and depreciation and £10,000 to reserve, the balance available for distribution was £59,280, or £1,221 less than in the preceding year. The dividend on the preference shares was unaltered at £9,000, and the directors proposed to pay the same dividend at 1s. 7d. per share for the year on the ordinary shares, but they proposed to pay it less English income-tax instead of free of income-tax, as they had done for the past three years. It was, unfortunately, the case that the company had to pay English income-tax upon the whole of its profits, notwithstanding the fact that its profits were earned exclusively in New Zealand and were heavily taxed there. This was one of the many anomalies in connection with income-tax law that pressed very hardly upon companies such as theirs, and which in its ultimate effect must be detrimental to



the interests of the State. It was so far satisfactory to note that the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated recently in the House of Commons that on the very first opportunity after the war the Government would devote themselves to making a reform of our income-tax law. There was no reason to doubt that when the war was over and the end we were fighting for was attained, the progressive prosperity of the company's business would be resumed.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Burton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

### AERATED BREAD.

The sixty-second ordinary general meeting of the Aerated Bread Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. George Edwards, J.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

Mr. C. E. Davies (general manager and secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that the report and accounts were far less favourable than the board were led to hope at the beginning of the war that they would have been. At the last annual meeting, when they had had three months' experience of war time, they found that their business had not been seriously affected, but since then, although their trade had increased, there had been an almost continuous advance in the cost of food and of all the articles in which they dealt. That had caused the margin of profit to be materially reduced, and had it not been for the advantages the company possessed, and to various economies made, together with some increased charges to their customers, the profit would have receded to the vanishing point. During the year they served more customers and took more money than in any previous year of the company's existence. The increased price of food had been enormous. On five of their staple articles—sugar, flour, meat, tea, and butter—the average increase had been over 36 per cent. It would seem only fair that some of the extra cost should be borne by the consumer. They had increased their scale of charges on several articles, but it would be impossible to add as much as 36 per cent. all round with any chance of retaining the business. Only recently some people were writing to the newspapers complaining that the cup of tea had been raised from 2d. to 2½d., for which, they said, they could see no justification, as the increased duty of 4d. per lb. was only a fraction of a penny per cup; but the 4d. duty was a further increase beyond the 3d. duty previously imposed on tea. Moreover, if they took the three ingredients of which a cup of tea was usually composed in addition to the water, they now had tea 50 per cent. higher, milk 30 per cent. more, and sugar 120 per cent. more, an average of 66 2-3rds per cent. more, in addition to which fuel and the mechanical appliances for heating the water cost more, and china cups and saucers were much dearer than they were when 2d. per cup was a moderate price. Their profit had also been considerably affected by increased working expenses, rates and taxes, fuel, forage, and so on. It was proposed to pay a final dividend of 1s. 6d. a share, less income-tax, which, together with the interim dividend, would make 17½ per cent. for the year, leaving £26,597 to be carried forward. The reduction in the dividend was disappointing, but it was some satisfaction to know that whatever profit they were able to make went direct to the ordinary shareholders, as they had only one class of share and no preferential charges to meet. Since the date at which the accounts were made up, September 25, the business had continued to increase, especially in the newly opened depots, both in receipts and in the number of customers. The board were very averse to raising the price of anything sold by the company if it could possibly be avoided, their policy having always been to buy the very best and sell to the public at the lowest price. When they found that prices were rising so abnormally they were compelled to increase the charges for some of their goods, but as they had only done so in moderation instead of losing their customers the number of them had increased. When normal conditions were again resumed there was no reason why the company should not return to its former prosperity. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Deputy-Chairman (Sir Ernest Spencer, D.L., J.P.) seconded the motion, which, after some congratulatory remarks from Mrs. Samson and other shareholders, was carried, and the proposed dividend was also agreed to.

### WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO.

The 82nd ordinary general meeting of the Western Telegraph Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The Secretary, Mr. E. Steer Hudson, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: The message receipts have afforded an additional revenue of nearly £74,000 for the period under review, which included eleven eventful months of war with its resultant stoppage in the case of our company of telegraphic traffic with Belgium, Germany and Austria. The closing of these sources of revenue has, however, so far been compensated by increased earnings due to the obligatory use of plain language enforced by the several Governments under whom we work. These restrictions were latterly modified, permission having been given in the early part of this year for the use of certain well-known codes with South American countries, which has been much appreciated by the telegraphing public. Con-

gestion of lines beyond this company's system necessitated the suspension on August 5 last year of "deferred" and "week-end" telegrams. The former were reintroduced on October 1, 1914, and advantage was quickly taken of the restoration of this facility. No damage to the company's cables has been experienced in consequence of the war. The sections in North Brazilian waters were interrupted by normal circumstances for four months, and owing to the exceptional conditions then and there prevailing our cable-repairing steamer was unable to attempt their restoration until March last. Communication during the interruption was maintained with the Northern States of Brazil by the Brazilian Government landlines. The general expenses show a decrease of nearly £9,000, principally due to three causes, the first being the occupation of our own offices and staff quarters at Buenos Aires and Montevideo, thus effecting a considerable saving under the head of rent. The second was our inability, owing to the war, to obtain the usual annual supply of forms and stationery until after the close of our financial year. The third cause was the fall in the value of the Brazilian milreis, which affected all our payments in that currency. There was also the very considerable decrease of over £40,000 in the cost of the maintenance of the cables, but income-tax was higher by close on £15,000. After providing £32,747 for debenture stock interest, and £33,348 14s. 9d. for income-tax, there remains a balance of £578,273 10s. 9d.; to this is added the sum of £33,157 9s. 8d. brought forward from June 30, 1914, making a total of £611,431 0s. 5d. Three interim dividends, amounting to £93,568 10s., have been paid. £150,000 has been applied towards the reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and debenture stock issued; £150,000 transferred to the general reserve fund; £30,000 to the land and buildings depreciation fund; and £50,000 to the provision on account of investment fluctuations. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 3s. per share, making, with the interim dividends, a total dividend of 6 per cent. for the year; also the payment of a bonus of 2s. per share, both free of income-tax, which together will amount to £51,982 10s., leaving a balance of £85,880 0s. 5d. to be carried forward. This is considerably larger than usual, but our message revenue for the current year since July 1 last shows a decrease of over £25,000, and it is not yet known whether and to what extent the proposed taxation of profits will affect the company. Very great difficulty has been experienced in restraining the younger members amongst our technically trained staff from joining the fighting forces of the Empire, but they have, with a few exceptions, accepted the ruling of the Army Council that they are best serving their country, being specially trained men, with technical knowledge and experience, in remaining at their posts and carrying on the work of State and commercial telegraphic communications.

The Deputy-Chairman, Sir John Denison-Pender, K.C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### CITIES SERVICE COMPANY.

At a Special Meeting held by the Board of Directors of CITIES SERVICE COMPANY the officers were authorised to sell five million dollars' worth of preferred stock and two and one-half million dollars of common stock. A strong syndicate of American interests have purchased this stock, and the sale of this block of securities will enable the company to retire its entire floating debt and give ample working cash capital. Arrangements with purchasers provide that their stock will not be offered to the public at present, and purchasers may withdraw their stock from the syndicate only upon agreement that the preferred stock will be sold for not less than eighty-five per cent. of par and common at not less than one hundred and twenty-five per cent. of par.

Holders of preferred stock of the company of record December fifteenth will be given the right, on January first, nineteen sixteen, to receive five per cent. convertible debentures of the company for nine per cent. of their holdings as payment for the deferred dividends to that date, the holders to have a right to convert these debentures at any time into stock upon a basis of one hundred of preferred stock and twenty-five of common stock for each one hundred dollars in debentures.

Holders of common stock will have nine per cent. in debentures set aside for them, and certificates issued to holders of record December fifteenth, which will entitle them to receive debentures when all holders of preferred stock have been paid their deferred dividends. Company will resume regular monthly dividends in cash on its preferred stock February first to holders of record January fifteenth.

E. MACKAY EDGAR,

First Vice-President.

London, November 12th, 1915.

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## Passing Events.

In answer to Sir Charles Henry, Mr. McKenna stated the other day that £347,500,000 of the old debt had been converted into the new  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. stock. Of the total £204,000,000 was Consols, £7,500,000  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cents., £1,000,000  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cents., and £135,000,000 the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan. In exchange for this amount of stock, plus £6,750,000 in cash paid over by the converters of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan, about £276,500,000 of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. was issued. This means that exactly £71,000,000 of the capital of our older forms of debt has been cancelled.

Some rather sharp criticism was directed in the Commons on Wednesday evening against that clause in the Finance Bill which is designed to prevent foreign firms doing business in this country, either directly or through agents or subsidiaries, from escaping payment of income-tax. We are glad that Mr. McKenna stuck to his guns, because it is better to risk a little hardship than to allow systematic evasion of the law. Foreigners who do business in this country and make their profit in it, must be prepared to pay for their privileges. In another direction, Mr. McKenna fulfilled a pledge to the bankers, who are to be relieved from payment of income-tax upon their investments in the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan. Were they made to pay in full, some of them have subscribed so heavily that they would be liable to taxation on a sum in excess of their net profits. It is probable enough that relief of this description will have to go further, and already the Government has recognised that it is not wise to levy income-tax upon foreign investors in British Government stocks, especially now that the tax is so high. Liability to such an impost restrains foreign capitalists from putting money into our securities. The French Government acts much more wisely, and its new loan is to be exempt at home and abroad from all taxation. Probably enough this is an example which our Government will have to follow when its next loan comes to be offered, and it might be economy to treat the investor as they do in France. A 5 per cent. loan, free of all taxation during its currency, or for a fixed term of years, would certainly be subscribed much more widely than a loan subject to an

impost amounting to, it might be, 25 per cent. of the interest offered.

Wise words were spoken by Mr. Bonar Law in answering Sir Henry Dalziel on Thursday night with regard to our public expenditure. Mr. Law is indeed proving himself an admirable practical politician. Our attitude towards him at the beginning of his public career was much like what his own was towards Mr. Churchill before he made that gentleman's acquaintance as a fellow Cabinet Minister. We have no personal acquaintance with the Minister for the Colonies, and never expect to have any; but looking impartially always on his public appearances, we have come to regard him as a man—apart from tariff heresies—of sound sense and conspicuous business capacity. In his speech he welcomed rather than deprecated Sir Henry Dalziel's criticism with regard to the magnitude of the vote of credit which, said Sir Henry, should be only for £250,000,000, and proceeded to protest against wasteful expenditure. There is waste and there is also false prosperity. "A friend of mine from Glasgow," said Mr. Law, "told me that Glasgow was never so prosperous as it is to-day. That," continued the speaker, "is all prosperity on a false basis, and the moment the time came when we could not raise investment loans—and if the war lasted long, that time would surely come—the whole super-structure would disappear and we would have to get some other way of carrying on the war." That, plainly stated, is the bare truth, as has often been hinted in these columns. Therefore all the more imperative is the duty laid upon every citizen to help in bringing this war to an early conclusion, and meantime to labour for the cessation of waste.

Lord St. Davids succeeded on Tuesday evening in saying in the House of Lords most of what this journal was censored for attempting to say in its issue of June 5 last. We are glad of this, and think that he did the nation and the Army good service in laying before the public the "gossip" even which has been prevalent throughout all ranks of society and in the Army almost since the beginning of the present year. The Government put up Lord Haldane to answer his Lordship, and we regret to say that his answer does not



strike one as adequate. He dwelt upon the undoubted fact that irresponsible gossip does prevail always during war-time, and in other respects adopted the uniform attitude of the Parliamentary official mind towards what are called the Services. In other words, Lord Haldane was, one might say, obsequiously defensive of the Army staff and ready with apologetic excuses for blunders, if any, made. This is not the right, not the satisfactory, attitude to maintain in a time like the present, nor is it wise to shut the ears to the stories current amongst the masses. We did not write on mere idle gossip in June last, but on what we considered substantial evidence that went to indicate slackness in control, inadequacy of prevision, and the presence of a great mass of supernumeraries and ornamentals at the Army headquarters. "All this is mere irresponsible gossip," Lord Haldane says; but it is not so, and the Government must surely begin to recognise that when battles have been fought, not once, but again and again on lines well thought out, failure should not be the outcome. If failure does ensue, as it has again and again, then the men to blame ought to be called vigorously to account and punished. Are all the tales that soldiers bring back of the absence of supports at critical moments in the fight, of the absence of sufficient reinforcements at spots where the necessity for them should have been foreseen mere idle gossip or miscomprehension of inevitable accidents? It is not to be believed. And the Government must really begin to realise that amongst the masses of the troops there is a growing desire for a stronger lead. They are brave and eager—perhaps too eager sometimes, so that they rush into danger beyond what wise leadership would permit—but "we are not always led as we should be" is the most common assertion, and the bitterness aroused by the slaughters the enemy have again and again been able to effect amongst our men might become something of a social danger when the war is over. We, at least, therefore, are glad that Lord St. Davids had the courage to speak out, and hope that Mr. Asquith and his colleagues in the War Council will see fit to assume a more determined attitude, and demands strict accountability from those now at the head of our hosts. Lives are precious to us, and the survival of our race as one of the leaders among civilised people is more than the lives and reputations of a hundred generals.

It is stated that the new French loan is to be nominally a 5 per cent. one, but it is to be issued at 88 per cent., or 12 per cent. discount, so that the yield to the subscriber will be about 5½ per cent.—to be exact £5 13s. 6d. per cent., or if repayment at par takes place at the end of the 15 years' term, £6 5s. od. per cent. Its position, otherwise, will be considerably better than that of our 4½ per cent. loan, because the coupons are to be immune from all taxation. They will have all the privileges attaching to the old 3 per cents. as well as this exemption. Reimbursement or conversion is not to be admissible until the end of 15 years; that is to say, after January 1, 1931, holders can be repaid either *en bloc* or in series according to Article 11 of the law of July 9, 1902. Holders of the 3 per cent. Rentes who subscribe to the new loan are to have power to furnish one-third of the amount subscribed for in 3 per cent. stock handed in for cancelment, and apparently the capital value at which the old stock will be accepted is 22 francs for each franc of revenue, or 66 francs in all. This arrangement copies to some extent our own treatment of Consols, and the offer is altogether so attractive that we are not surprised to hear of crowds, especially of the humble classes, pressing forward to subscribe, particularly now that they can utilise their savings bank deposits with more freedom. No limit is put on the sum that may be paid over to the Treasury. How much will France require to carry on the war and the civil Government? M. Ribot, the venerable Minister of Finance, told an interviewer not long ago that the total expenses of all kinds estimated for the period between August 1, 1914, and January 1, 1916, would be about 30½ milliards

of francs, or, say, £1,220,000,000. This is a considerably smaller outlay than ours promises to be, but still an enormous drain even upon a rich country. France, to be sure, does not require to subsidise colonies, and has not contributed to maintain and furnish forth small Allies as we have done. Still, the war alone is expected to cost merely within the present year upwards of £600,000,000; in fact, the total expenditure for this year is put at £876,250,000, and that aggregate includes no less than £73,105,000 for debt charges. Also the outlay for maintenance of the families of those citizens now fighting so gloriously for their country is put at £87,000,000 for the entire war period closed with the current year. We do not yet know how much of the prodigious Budget requirements thus indicated will be met from taxation, but we may be quite certain that the sum required to be borrowed in one form or another will not fall much, if at all, short of £1,000,000,000. This is the terrible load to be wantonly placed upon the backs of the French in consequence of German ruffianism and greed. And yet we still have people here who talk of making peace with these abandoned brigands.

What the total expenditure of Russia on the war is estimated at we cannot quite grasp from the somewhat confused summary in English of the Budget for 1916. Apparently the total revenue for 1916, ordinary and extraordinary, is estimated at £325,100,000, but what the expenditure is we cannot say. All we can make out is that the suppression of the State drink monopoly is reckoned to cost the Treasury £25,000,000 next year. Like ourselves, however, the Russian Government is determined to make taxation bear part of the war costs, which costs seem to be estimated at about £800,000,000 up to the end of next year. A new graduated income-tax is accordingly to be imposed, and along with it a readjustment of the death duties. Also the taxes on professions and on land will be reorganised, and in Turkestan the land tax is to be considerably increased. Duties on mortgages are to be changed, doubtless with a view to increased yield, and a temporary military tax will be levied on those liable for service who have been exempted. Indirect taxation is to be imposed upon electric power, various kinds of dry goods, molasses, and powder. Excise duties will be increased on superior qualities of tobacco, on fruit, and alcohol distilled from grapes. The tax on railway transport is to be reduced by a change in the railway tariff to include the retention of the provisional tax on railway tickets and on receipts for passenger luggage. These are the main changes mentioned, and they will doubtless prove a considerable source of additional revenue, if not immediately, then when the war is well over.

We hope there is to be an end of soft language to King Constantine. For some time past our papers have been discussing whether in the event of their defeat and escape over the frontier into Greece, the Serbian or a portion of the Allied troops would be disarmed and interned there. It is intolerable to look at the possible attitude of Greece from this point of view. What is Greece? It is a State created by Europe embracing peoples, not all Greeks, liberated piecemeal from the withering overlordship of the incompetent Turk. The Greek nation as a free community is, therefore, the creation of France, of Britain, and Russia, more than of any other Power or group of Powers whatsoever. At the head of this people Western Europe and Russia have placed an alien king, who is no more Greek than he is Irish or Hindu. At present this King, Constantine the Dane, is setting the Greek nation at defiance, acting against its interests and leading it towards a new enslavement. He is, in fact, a traitor to the country at the head of whose political organisation he has been placed by Europe. What, therefore, is the attitude the Powers of the *Entente* should adopt towards him? He ought to be told plainly by them that his treachery will not be tolerated a day longer, and ordered to disband his army if it is not going to fight alongside the Serbians as it was pledged by treaty to do, ordered also to dismiss the German officers from



his service, and, if he will not join Serbia in fighting to liberate the Balkans, to maintain an *unarmed* neutrality in the interests not only of the Greek nation, but of those who placed him where he is. There has been far too much mealy-mouthedness over this man's attitude. From the first he has shown himself to be completely a tool of the Kaiser, and that cannot any longer be allowed. Greece has no money with which to maintain an army on a war footing, not a drachma. It is a bankrupt country, and last week its floating debt was said to be upwards of £14,500,000. That would raise Greece's total indebtedness to something like £40,000,000, and upon the great bulk of the older debts there has had to be a composition with the creditors. Greece, in fact, is in the hands of the bailiffs, who receive and distribute to the creditors a certain proportion of the public income as part satisfaction of their claims. It is, therefore, a piece of disgusting insolence on the part of Constantine to behave as if he were his own master and free to order the Greeks to do his bidding, no matter though obedience should involve their everlasting dishonour and mean their political extinction. This interloper is hurrying the kingdom towards the loss of all chance to become a compact and yet enlarged State in South-Eastern Europe, if not also in the North-West part of Asia Minor. Lord Kitchener was said to have been given "new proposals" to make to this man. The only message he should take to Constantine is "obey or disappear." No addition to the number of our enemies could possibly arise through this peremptoriness, for even the mad Kaiser cannot afford to go on maintaining the Greek Army. So the Allied fleets must be prepared to close every outlet for Greece in order to bring her traitorous figurehead to reason, if the orders given are unheeded. And the man, sternly handled, must obey. The Kaiser cannot help his brother-in-law, no matter how he may bluster and rage, or how far his troops may penetrate into the passes of the Balkans. After an initial success there they will most likely be destroyed.

For some time past negotiations have been proceeding for the arrangement of a banking credit in the United States to supplement the Anglo-French loan for the purpose of relieving the exchange situation, and it is understood that preliminary arrangements were completed at a meeting of the bankers interested, which was held on Tuesday. Part of the plan is that a Government guarantee will be given to the bankers, and apparently the scheme will be put in operation as soon as the Government's assent has been obtained. The original intention appears to have been to arrange the credit by means of six months' bills, but it has since been decided that, to begin with, the arrangement will be that eight of the London clearing banks will raise a credit of £10,000,000 in New York, secured by a deposit of securities with the Bank of England. Further credits are contemplated which will be secured by a gold pool, and will take the form of six months' bills.

Owing to the persistent weakness of the New York exchange, a weakness which we suspect is partly manipulated by the German-Jewish bankers in America hostile to the Allies, or more or less strongly pro-German, a newspaper discussion has arisen over a proposal that the public here should lodge their American investments with the Government and take in exchange its certificates or deposit receipts, which would be marketable when holders wanted to sell. Having got possession of the American securities, it is further suggested that the Government should in its turn deposit them in New York as security for further advances to be obtained there. We cannot see where common sense or practicability is to be found in this proposal. There is but one way by which the weakness of the American exchange can now be effectively cured, and that is by reducing our purchases of commodities in the States, and our guides in commercial finance would be acting much more to the purpose if they set their wits to discover new quarters to which we might transfer our

custom, such as Japan, for instance, and China. Supposing, however, these cannot be found, admitting also that our own resources are drawn upon to their utmost limit, which we in nowise believe, and that some expedient must be resorted to to enable us to continue buying from the United States of North America, this proposed deposit of securities plan is of no practical value and might involve our Treasury in nasty losses. Also it would entail a prodigious amount of clerical work upon the department or agency, say the National Debt office, taking the work in hand. Every separate security would have to be represented by a separate certificate, and even if no guarantee were given that the depositor would be protected from loss, the question of margins would arise in dealing with the lenders on the deposited stock in the United States. Interest and dividend warrants would have to be issued here also, because by depositing his stocks a holder in no way surrenders his right to all the income they yield. Would the Government have to stand the racket of the fluctuating exchange? The business of a huge international banking firm would have to be taken up by the Government, with all the risks and worries thereof, and added to its other cares. Surely we are past the season of the big gooseberry.

Some important changes in the American copper-producing industry are believed to be imminent as the result of the enormous demand for the metal for munitions-making and the high price which is now being realised for the metal. The Anaconda Co., whose shares have touched the unusually high price of 19½, is credited with the intention of securing the Inspiration Copper Property. The Kennecott Copper Co. will take over the Braden Copper Co. and also purchase the Guggenheim Exploration Co.'s holdings in the Utah Copper Co., comprising about 400,000 shares. It is understood that the Guggenheim Exploration Co. will then be dissolved and that the



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various assets of the company will be distributed among the stockholders. How enormously the Utah Co.'s scale of operations has expanded recently may be judged from the fact that the production of copper, which in the first quarter amounted to 26,416,000 lbs., rose to 44,767,000 lbs. in the third quarter of the current year, while the nett profits jumped from \$2,167,416 to \$4,414,563. Dividends paid have increased from \$1,218,367 to \$1,624,490, and the nett surplus from \$949,048 to \$2,790,073. The price realised for copper has risen from 14.93 cents. per lb. to 16.25 cents. Thus, while it is perfectly true that the copper companies are doing very well, the circumstances are so abnormal that present earnings cannot be maintained. Consequently share values based on present profits are inflated, and we would strongly advise investors not to buy copper shares now, but rather to sell them. The amalgamation schemes are being carried out to enable large interests only to dispose of their properties at a high valuation.

Only last week we were animadverting on the dismal position of the Hotel Cecil and other expensive hotels in these distressful times, and we suggested that they would have to follow the lead of Lyons by becoming "popular" if they wished to avoid extinction. Now we have the report of the Strand Hotel, Ltd., the proprietors of the Strand Palace and Regent Palace Hotels, to emphasise our remarks. Here there is no bewailing about bad trade, but, on the contrary, the gross profit at £99,750 shows an increase of £30,240 for the year to September 30 last. Exact comparison with the previous 12 months cannot be made, as the Regent Palace Hotel was opened on May 26, and four months of its business is therefore included in the returns, but the fact that a perfectly new hotel should immediately spring into such favour lends additional point to our contention that the older establishments will have to alter their policy. In the case of the Strand Hotel company the nett profit is £56,743, an increase of £15,755, and as £1,975 more was brought forward, the amount available is £17,730 higher at £66,468. The dividend of 9 per cent. for the year on the preferred ordinary shares is repeated while dividends on new capital absorb £9,900, and the distribution on the £5,000 deferred shares is increased by £3,150 to £14,850. Debenture interest required £2,370 more, and after again setting aside £7,000 for depreciation and placing £3,000 to reserve, there remains £11,553, an increase of £1,830, to be carried forward. During the year £75,000 in 7 per cent. preference shares and £150,000 in 4½ per cent. debenture stock were issued, raising the total share and loan capital to £755,000, and the hotels (including the expenditure on the uncompleted Baker Street Hotel) stand in the books at £798,865, an increase of nearly £300,000 in the 12 months. Except for a reduction of £48,000 in cash and an increase of £19,300 in creditors, the other changes in the balance-sheet are trifling. The figures afford a wonderful illustration of what can be done by catering for the public on popular lines, and the enterprising management deserve all the success they have achieved.

War needs evidently caused an exceptional demand for the products of the Castner-Kellner Alkali Co. in the year ended September 30, with the result that the nett profits improved by no less than £86,655 to £260,805. To this was added £18,403 brought in giving a total of £279,208, or £88,572 more, to be dealt with. The shareholders, however, get a very small proportion of the increase, as the dividend is only raised by 5 per cent., but the distribution is the handsome one of 20 per cent., and may be said to be easily the best return the company has made. It is true that for 1912-13 22½ per cent. was paid, but since then the capital has been increased by the distribution of about £100,000 of premiums obtained on new shares

and £150,000 of the reserve in the shape of bonus shares. Of the surplus remaining £10,000, or half last year's amount, is transferred to general reserve, but the appropriation to the depreciation reserve is increased by £17,500 to £50,000, and £42,749 more at £61,152 is carried forward. With these additions the depreciation fund will stand at £437,500 and the reserve at £79,364, and they are genuine reserves, as they are to a great extent represented by investments of £69,364, specially earmarked, and other investments of £236,577, these items showing increases of £20,000 and £46,102 respectively. Property account has risen by £50,745 to £1,186,788, debtors owe £88,528, or £21,555 more, and stocks are £12,561 larger at £64,972, against an increase of £45,917 to £128,889 in sundry creditors, while cash is £7,396 up at £77,917.

A fine profitable year was enjoyed by Loders and Nucoline, Ltd. Its report and accounts are made up to August 31, and show, at £48,189, a profit £33,037 greater than that of the preceding 12 months. Adding £1,079 brought forward, there is £33,020 more at £49,269 divisible. Out of this the ordinary shareholders get a dividend larger by 7½ per cent., which means 20 per cent. for the entire year, of which 12½ per cent. was paid in two instalments as interims, leaving 7½ per cent. to be paid now. Also £1,763, or £1,156 more, is kept back by the board to be divided at discretion as bonus amongst the staff and employees. Then £20,000, as compared with £1,000, is transferred to the reserve, and the balance of £5,879 remaining to be carried forward will still be £4,800 larger. In the balance-sheet the reserve accounts, including depreciation, duty, and sinking fund reserves, show an increase of £56,532, and amount to £89,506. During the past year 3,208 preference and 7,057 ordinary shares were applied for and allotted, the premiums obtained being transferred to capital reserve. A year ago the depreciation and duty provision and sinking fund reserves were stated separately at £3,536. This time the figures are omitted. The factory, plant, tools, &c., increased in book value by £35,810 last year to £123,735, and the report tells us that the extensive additions to the company's premises and plant completed within the year have been a source of a large part of the increase in revenue. Further additions are now in progress. Cash is £12,518 up at £24,877, and stocks £56,831 higher at £101,825. There is also an increase of £4,212 in the bills receivable, sundry debtors, &c., making the total £40,595, against which sundry creditors and bills payable are now £24,413 more at £64,160, these being changes incident to a healthily expanding business.

Scarcely so good a display is made by the directors of the Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Co., Ltd., for its year closed September 30 last, as for the preceding year. Profit, however, is down only £3,232 at £97,138, and £870 more at £35,438 was brought forward, so that the available aggregate of £132,577 is only £2,362 lower. Against this, interest on debenture stock took £4,016 less at £11,984, so that although the dividend of 6 per cent. is again paid on both the preferred and deferred ordinary shares for the year, and the same amount of £40,000 is placed to reserve for depreciation, the balance remaining to carry forward is £1,654 larger at £37,092. Regret is expressed at the death of the chairman, Sir John S. Barwick, Bart., in August last. His place as chairman has been taken by Lord Furness, the second peer of that name. Since the beginning of the war 1,540 workmen have left the service of the company to join the colours, and it is only as the result of many alterations and much rearrangement that the accounts are not less satisfactory than the balance-sheet indicates. Since last year Mr. J. H. B. Forster has been placed on the board and appointed managing director. In the balance-sheet we find that the collieries and properties have been written down by £45,053 nett to £776,151. Cash is up



£30,024 to £43,908, and debts due to the company £39,740 larger at £102,310. Stocks, however, are down £14,658 to £88,012. Debts due by the company have only risen £4,594 to £64,192, so everything looks comfortable enough.

A report and accounts like that of Dennis Bros. (1913), Ltd., are quite exhilarating to study. Profits rose £55,736 to £117,220, and £1,633 more at £4,129 was brought forward, consequently the £121,349 divisible is £57,369 better, and the directors are able to place £25,000 to the reserve for fluctuation in stock values, as compared with £12,000 written off underwriting and £7,851 off preliminary expenses a year ago. The general reserve also gets £30,000 more at £40,000, so that £65,000 in all of the profits are laid aside before any distribution is attempted. This is, as the directors explain, in view of the exceptional conditions now prevailing and the necessity of providing for excess profits duty, further reserve against goodwill, and other contingencies. From the clear balance of £56,349 the shareholders again get their dividend made up to 10 per cent. for the year by a final payment of 1s. 3d. per share. They are also to receive a bonus of 1s. per share, which is something new, and after all has been provided for, less tax, £7,220 more at £11,349 will remain to be carried forward. The balance-sheet contains few facts that require emphasis, but it may be noted that £20,000 has been invested in the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and, at the same time, the cash shows an increase of £46,613 at £118,109. All this in spite of the fact that stock-in-hand and work in progress are £35,525 up at £108,789. These increases are to a small extent offset by a decline of £6,936 in sundry debtors at £44,017 nett, but the only changes the increases in the assets have involved on the liabilities side is the above-mentioned £25,000 of reserve for fluctuation in stock values and an increase of £15,978 in the amount due to sundry creditors.

No report of the Wall Paper Manufacturers, Ltd., came to hand for the year closed August 31, 1914; we therefore can do nothing more than recite the figures contained in the report just issued for the past year to the same date. Profit was £82,985. Adding £114,698 brought forward and deducting the debenture stock interest and income-tax, there is £147,875 left, out of which the 5 per cent. preference dividend is paid, leaving £98,070 to be carried forward, or £16,538 less than was brought in. The report states that arrangements have been entered into for amalgamation as from September 1 last with various firms and companies carrying on similar businesses outside this combine. Full particulars will be given later. As to the accounts, capital expenditure during the year was £18,489, but £51,326 was written off as depreciation, leaving the nett value of the land, buildings, plant, machinery, and goodwill at £3,602,155. Stock-in-trade is entered at £638,312, which seems a big figure, and debtors owe nett £325,812. Bills receivable £66,486 and cash £127,054, or together £193,540, point to a comfortable position, and the creditors of the company on current business are owed only £76,545, while there is a reserve fund of £500,000.

To have made in its year ended August 31 last a profit only £689 less than in that of the previous year is surely a creditable feat on the part of the directors and managers of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd. Its gross profits were £188,930, or just that small amount down. Expenses aggregating £86,632 were also £397 less, so that the free revenue or nett profit of £102,299 was only £292 smaller than that of the preceding year. To such a fine product a balance of £77,000 brought forward, or £25,000 more than that of a year ago, has to be added, making the available total £179,299, or £24,708 more, but no addition is made to the dividend, which is made up to 15 per cent. for the entire year by a final distribution at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, all less income-tax. Instead of paying away more of the profits, the board takes the

opportunity to write off £26,744 from the value of the investments, to give the staff a bonus of £5,000, and to put aside £20,000 for war contingencies. Thus £51,744 is wisely utilised, and that still leaves £50,000, or only £27,000 less than was brought in, to be carried forward. It is mentioned in the report that Mr. Thomas Osborne, a member of the board, has died, and that Mr. John Howard Gwyther has retired. Apparently both seats are not to be filled up, the only new member of the board mentioned being Mr. Marshall F. Reid, C.I.E., who has been elected by the directors to fill one of the vacancies. Movements in the balance-sheet show an increase of £2,099,438 in the liabilities on deposit, current, contingency, and other accounts, raising that entry to £5,145,304. Acceptances are £178,812 down at £527,556, and there is also a decrease of £59,249 in bills payable, making the total £109,427. Cash, including £29,100 earmarked for Government account, is up £462,831 at £1,279,658, and sundry investments show an increase of £311,931 at £642,589, also bills receivable, including £1,400,000 of Treasury bills, are up £1,375,604 to £2,352,147, but advances, &c., show a decrease of £244,408 at £2,303,526, so that apart from the investment in Government stock, the business of the bank has apparently contracted a little. That was to be expected in present circumstances; the wonder, indeed, is that the contraction has not gone further or affected more markedly the profits of the year.

In its half-year ended September 30 last the Trust and Loan Co. of Canada made £2,087 less than in the corresponding six months. Its profits, that is, were £60,372, and after crediting the reserve fund with half-profits in excess of the 6 per cent. per annum paid on the company's capital as required by the charter, the available balance, including £2,317 more at £3,952 brought forward, is £1,273 up at £43,138. Out of this the directors have written off the balance of the cost of issuing debenture stock—viz., £5,003—placed £800 to the special reserve account, raising it to £125,000, and provided £8,830, or £6,832 more, for income-tax. The balance of £28,505 then left to carry forward will be £985 down. The amount that it takes to write off the cost of debenture issue was £4,224 less than was utilised in that way a year ago, and the actual addition to the special reserve account was £10,000. From the balance of £28,505, the directors pay an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, as against a 9 per cent. rate a year ago, but

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then the dividend was distributed tax free, whereas this time it is subject to tax. The balance now left to carry forward will be £515 better at £3,005. It is added that the statutory reserve fund now amounts to £436,412, an increase of £16,577 on the six months. No re-valuation of the securities representing this fund has been made, and none could very well be made in present circumstances.

Although the business of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Ltd., is making steady progress, and although its finances have been put upon a sound foundation, and in spite of many adverse influences with which it has been faced, the necessity has arisen to make still one more arrangement in connection with the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture stock. As last settled the rights of the holders of that stock were suspended for three years from January 1, 1913. It follows that from January 1 next these rights would be enforceable. The company, however, is not in a position to meet the charges that would then be brought upon it, and consequently another scheme has been elaborated in virtue of which the rights of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture stockholders are not to be enforceable for a period of five years from December 31 next, except in the event of the company being wound up. And even when the five years are over, or whatever period should be settled upon, the rights will not be enforceable by the trustees, except with the sanction of a resolution of the stockholders, passed at a meeting held for the purpose, and after six months' notice given to the company of the intention of the trustees to exercise said rights. Practically we should say this amounts to a permanent suspension of the power of holders of this stock to foreclose upon the property or otherwise to assert their rights. The £500,000 of 5 per cent. prior lien debenture stock is, in fact, in possession and the £1,199,000 of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture stock must take a back seat for good. It does not follow that this position will thereby be made worse in any essential particular, for on the coming January 1 the holders of this stock are to receive, in part payment of interest accrued up to the end of this year, the nett profits of the company available for distribution up to September 30 last, after providing for all outgoings and for the service of the prior lien debenture stock, as well as after making such provisions for repairs, maintenance, depreciation, renewals, &c., as the scheme provides for. And as regards the future, the holders of this  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture stock are to receive certificates of rights covering any arrears of interest which may hereafter accumulate. These certificates will not carry any interest, but will constitute a floating charge on the undertaking subject in the case of winding up to the payment ahead of them of the unsecured debts and liabilities of the company. In other words, the certificates come after the unsecured creditors, but they are to be redeemed in an ingenious way. One-third of the nett profits available for distribution at the close of each year ended September 30 is to be set aside for this purpose, and the money applied by the directors either in buying the certificates in the market or by tender below par, or by drawings at par. The remaining two-fifths of the nett profits arrived at in the manner indicated shall be handed to the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. debenture stockholders on each January 1 in respect of interest accrued during the year ended the previous December, or an interim payment may be made if the directors see fit, certificates of rights being given for any balance the cash does not cover. In the event of this two-thirds of the profits exceeding the amount needed to pay one year's interest, the balance is to go to the fund for the redemption of the certificates, which will be issued in £5 amounts if the stockholders so desire, on condition that the additional stamp duty is paid. We hope the profits of the business as now organised and managed will enable the board to dispense with any large amount of this uncomfortable kind of floating debt.

nett income was only £25,695, which was £111,979 less than that of the previous year, consequently after meeting debenture interest and sinking funds, and paying the guaranteed dividend on leased company's shares, also after providing for fixed charges, there was a deficit of £55,127 as against a profit of £57,483 in the previous year. Happily, there was a considerable accumulation of profits brought forward, so that after writing off the loss there is £151,281 left to be carried to the new year. Since August 2 last the company has become a "controlled establishment" under the Ministry of Munitions, and its works are now almost exclusively engaged in Government contracts. A distribution is to be made to the "A" and "B" debenture stockholders in accordance with the resolutions passed on March 24 last. The accrued surrender value of the debenture stock redemption policies amounted to £106,527 at the end of June last, and the money has been handed to the trustees. Besides this, £12,566, being the increase of the surrender value accruing during the year, has been added to the balance-sheet and, since the end of the company's year, the trustees have invited tenders from all debenture stockholders, and have applied a considerable part of the funds handed to them in the purchase and cancellation of "A" and "B" debenture stock. The next balance-sheet will show the amount thus wiped out, as well as the amount added to the reserve fund. For the past year the changes in the balance-sheet are mostly insignificant, although the masses of figures are still heavy enough, patents and goodwill being actually £467 up on the year, and now stand at £1,971,266. It is unnecessary to go into the accounts further until another year has passed.

Another motor car and cycle manufacturing business which did well last year out of War Office contracts is Humber, Ltd. The output of cars and cycles was considerably reduced in the 12 months ended August 31, owing to the major part of the machinery being employed on war materials, and the reduced capacity of the works was not sufficient to cope with the demand for the company's ordinary productions. After writing off £9,304, or £2,633 more, for depreciation and meeting other charges, the nett profits showed an increase of no less than £40,634 at £64,146, and with £34,292 brought in the disposable total was £44,257 up at £98,438. A dividend of 12 per cent. is paid on the 6 per cent. preference shares on account of arrears, leaving two years still to be made up, and £10,000, as against nothing, is transferred to a building reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £14,367 larger at £48,659. Stocks have risen by £29,945 to £242,788, debtors owe £22,270 more at £73,154, and cash is £10,864 up at £83,504, while current liabilities are only £11,659 higher at £116,132. Goodwill, patents, &c., still stand in the balance-sheet at £248,901, or nearly as much as the ordinary share capital, and the reduction in freehold and leasehold properties is a mere trifle of £67 at £219,060, but plant, tools, &c., are £6,267 down on balance at £82,694. As from September 1 the factory has been placed under Government control, and very little work, except for the Government, is now possible, but the directors say that every effort will be made to conserve the goodwill of the company by supplying the needs of its ordinary customers, as far as is compatible with the public interests.

A "holding" company which seems to be in a satisfactory position is General Motors, whose headquarters are in Detroit, Michigan. Its report, covering the year closed July 31 last, discloses an increase of \$6,974,222 in the profits accruing to itself, and this was only a few dollars less than the entire profits shown by the subsidiaries which it has gathered under its control. These subsidiaries do not, we presume, render any accounts except to the General Motors Co., but apparently they are in a sound position. After meeting the interest on the 6 per cent. first lien notes outstanding issued by the Motors Co.—a debt which

Business was poor indeed for Linotype and Machinery, Ltd., in its year ended June 30 last. The



was reduced last year by about \$234,000 to little more than \$336,000—and paying the 7 per cent. dividend on the preferred shares, there was \$7,208,000 more at \$13,409,000 left as nett profit to be added to the balance of \$6,689,000 brought forward, and this time there was nothing at all to be written off, whereas a year ago \$972,419 was utilised to write off patents, agreements, and such like. However, \$113,000 was charged off from plant and equipment at the close of the year, but even so, the clear surplus profit shown at July 31 was \$13,296,000 better than the year before at \$19,985,000, and the question was what to do with this money. Up to now the common stock of the company, amounting to \$16,507,000, had never received a dividend. It would therefore seem to have been entitled to one, and the directors accordingly decided to pay 50 per cent., or \$50 per share. They say in justification that they have followed the policy of building up the cash assets and the credit of the company, and have thus accumulated and held large cash balances pending the maturity of the 6 per cent. notes, the original issue of which was \$15,000,000 and the last of which was paid off on the 6th inst. During the past year, for the first time, they add, it has not been necessary for the company to borrow money. Moreover, during the past five years the directors have written off \$12,531,000 from the book value of plants, machinery, merchandise, and other assets, and with all this the year's end found them full of money. To pay a dividend of 50 per cent. will absorb about \$8,252,000, so that there will still be more than \$11,000,000 in hand. We do not know the history of this company or what the common stock, now so handsomely rewarded, represents, but its career would appear to have been an honourable one to all concerned.

Full accounts are always presented by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, setting forth the result of its working for the successive years ended July 1. The past year might have been expected to show some diminution in the business passing through the docks and port, but there is no trace of that, or very little. Except for 1914, when the tonnage paying rates and harbour lights was the highest ever registered, last year topped all previous figures by very nearly 500,000 tons, its total being 15,001,049 tons, against 15,104,996 tons for the year ending July 1, 1914, and 14,523,717 tons for 1912-13. Rates and dues received from all sources amounted to the highest ever attained, except for 1913, when last year's total of £1,577,742 was exceeded by nearly £1,000. During the past year rates and taxes rose by £60,238 and interest charges were £13,050 higher, so that altogether the expenditure of £2,035,742 showed an increase of £98,226, and the unappropriated balance of £114,993 carried to the special account controlling the disposal of such moneys was £12,641 less than that of the previous year. Capital expenditure goes on, but was quite moderate last year, and the company's unexpended balance of authorised capital, £4,584,013, was reduced by no more than £238,805. The nett debt of the board is £25,582,276, and its gross capital expenditure has been £32,017,309, to which the sinking fund, aggregating £4,673,145, plus the nett amount at credit of sundry balances, £1,761,887, have contributed, thereby making the nett debt as above.

A most annoying blunder slipped through and appeared in our last week's issue. In dealing with the well-merited suspension of the *Globe* newspaper—to think that we should once have been unwise enough to give that paper a testimonial!—we said some words about the Harmsworth string of journals, and the fate they seemed to court. Among the list we included the *Sunday Herald*, which, as everybody should know, is not a Harmsworth paper at all, but something quite different—a loyal paper full of good reading and good pictures, a paper worthy, therefore, of the widest circulation. Probably the word "herald" got into the head because that same morning a contrast was drawn by us between the European edition

of the *New York Herald* and the Paris edition of the *Daily Mail*, not to the latter's advantage. Whatever the origin of the blunder, we sincerely regret that it should have occurred, and apologise unreservedly for any annoyance it may have caused. But most readers, we trust, will have understood that the Sunday journal we meant to signalise was that one whose owners place a photograph of Mr. Horatio Bottomley, the once fleetingly-conspicuous City financial illusionist, in the most conspicuous place upon its "hoarding" advertisements. This fact alone should render any further effort to teach the public unnecessary on our part.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

The best piece of war news this week is the visit of our War Council to Paris. It shows that our Government is at last fully alive to the intense peril in the Near East. As we say elsewhere, those who are misleading the Greek people to their ruin must be dealt with promptly and with the determination to clear that danger out of the way for good and all. Perhaps the determination to forbid the use of our ports to any Greek vessel henceforth may do something to bring this keen trading race to a realisation of its own peril. Perhaps our Government was right in allowing vessels already loaded or partly loaded to clear and go, but, at any rate, the stoppage of all further intercourse must help Lord Kitchener to press home upon that foolish individual, King Constantine the Dane, the danger he runs of losing his job.

As for Balkan war news, it is black enough in several directions to please the most savagely, or stupidly, anti-patriotic amongst our Press and M.P.'s, unteachable "peace" advocates, and such-like. Unquestionably the Serbians are in grave danger, and to save them from temporary discomfiture, if not from national submersion, strenuous efforts on the part of the Allies are required. These efforts also have doubtless been considered and determined upon during the visit of our War Council to Paris. At the same time, it may be just as well to caution our own people against believing everything that is printed about the success of the Austro-German and Bulgarian onslaught. We must remember that it is imperative upon the Kaiser and his Junkers to put forward tales calculated to beguile the multitude of their German slaves, who now seem occasionally to betray a tendency to restlessness and questioning. The commonalty good for shooting is not likely to rebel; but it may riot or, at least, grumble enough to make things uncomfortable for the ruling caste that has it by the heel. Therefore, since the war did not end in October, as the Kaiser promised, since it now bids fair to continue well on through next year, if not to the end of it, glowing accounts of victory from somewhere must be supplied, tales like the one which gravely informed the world that already two-thirds of the Serbian Army of 300,000 men, together with most of its artillery, had been placed *hors de combat* or had passed into the hands of the victorious invaders. Cause for anxiety there is, abundant cause, but not for alarm or despair, provided the Allies act with vigour and bring Italy in to give, as far as her strength and resources will permit, active support. She can do much in ways it would be imprudent on our part, as well as indiscreet, to indicate, and we doubt not will do it.

On other theatres of war superficially little of a rousing kind goes on, but one must not omit to emphasise the continued success of the Russians, who are not only holding back the assaults of the Austro-German armies in the south, on the Styr, but pressing Hindenburg back from Riga into the marshes, where it will best serve the Allied cause that his beaten troops should winter. After a winter in Courland and along the Polish and Galician frontiers the Teutonic hosts are not likely to trouble us much more.

Apparently in the West further attempts at the offensive on a large scale would seem for the present to have been given up, and, on our part, wisely given up unless our men can be better led. But this does not



mean that the war is in any way slackening. It continues every day and most nights all along the line, and daily the tale of lives sacrificed or of men—French, Belgian and British—maimed in this ghastly conflict lengthens. But we may have to be content for the present merely to hold the enemy, to pin him to his winter quarters, which will be uncomfortable enough, in spite of his ingenuity in surrounding himself with stolen comforts and luxuries. Another winter in the trenches should help to awaken in his mind to a possibility of doubt about his super-manhood. As many troops as can be spared without involving any risk to those left in the containing lines in France and Belgium will have to be removed or diverted to the East, where the last most avalanche-like and most cunningly-elaborated stroke of the Teutons has to be met and defeated. All energies must be concentrated on the Balkans until the armies of von Mackensen and Ferdinand the Fox are accounted for. We are liberating the Bulgarian people from Teutonic domination, and will probably have to liberate the Greek people as well by our intervention in Balkania.

Somewhat lugubrious was the tone of Lord Lansdowne's latest speech in the House of Lords about the war. Things are not going well in the Near East, he seemed to indicate, and at the moment they certainly do not appear to be. Sir Charles Monro is alleged to have counselled the abandonment of the Gallipoli position; Greece has become a threat, instead of a support; Bulgaria is said to have got as far west as Monastir, and exhaustion both of men and material threatens the brave Serbians, whose army is so hard pressed that it may be driven to fall back into Albania to avoid being surrounded by the Bulgars. All that portion of the war news is unpleasant enough—but the end is not yet, and the passing depression must stimulate our energies to find and apply the remedy. Troops of French, British and, we hope, Italian nationality must be gathered and pressed forward freely from the south and west into the arena of conflict and resolutely set to work to roll the tide of invasion back. It is only a *razzia* as yet, and the invaders are running enormous risks. Russia has not yet taken effective steps to do her share of the conflict. At least in appearance she has not, but when her intervention does begin, as it may soon do now that the Eastern campaign of the Germans in Galicia and Courland has been brought to a stalemate preliminary to a complete rout, the position of the troops led by Marshal von Mackensen will in all probability become at least as perilous as that of the Serbian Army to-day. Let us accept the worst with regard to that heroic little army, and conceive the Bulgarians in possession of the whole of the middle part of Serbia as far as the Montenegrin and Albanian frontiers, while Mackensen holds the northern plains, and even then there should be no real cause for alarm, only for stimulated vigour in action. The push northward of the Allied forces from Salonica ought soon to be as threatening to the triumphant Bulgars as the Russian advance from the north through Rumania or by the Danube or selected bases on the Bulgarian seaboard. Austria alone among the raiders has any war vessels worth a broadside on the Danube, and in the *Ægean* we have three powerful fleets to deal with the Austrian navy and German submarine pirates. They should be sufficient.

### Famine, War's Recompense in Germany.

Contradictory opinions continue to be disseminated with regard to the food position in Germany. This divergence is in great part the product of German ingenuity in mystification. At one time German newspapers picture for the world scenes of hunger and despair, and within a day or two, or a week, the slides, so to say, are changed, and all is made to appear prosperity and contentment. The latest assertion is that there is an abundance of food in the country to see it through the war to a peace triumphant for German arms. The best plan for the Allies is to pay little or no

regard to either of these presentments, but just to peg away in grim determination. The complete facts cannot be known, and what appears in German newspapers, although we must take cognisance of it, is very often of no value as evidence. There are, however, sundry general considerations supported by broadly based facts which do help us towards the truth. For instance, we have the fact that foreign commerce of upwards of £1,000,000,000 sterling per annum in value has been completely stopped. That is to say, there is not now 10 per cent. of that commerce going on. For a year and three months this source of income has consequently been lost to the German people. The buying power of that people has consequently been diminished to a most grave degree by this deprivation, and the consequences cannot be increase in wealth.

No doubt the workers who no longer labour in mills or machine shops engaged in the production of tissues and tools required in time of peace the world over have been given compensation in war work—to a large extent at any rate. Hundreds of thousands of men and women that before the war were engaged in the industries of peaceful trade have since it broke out been engaged in the production of instruments of destruction, and the wages they have been paid by the Government for this wealth-dissipating work will have enabled them to live, perhaps even to save a little of what they call money now and then—to be invested in German war loans. Whether the compensation has been adequate, has covered the entire field of labour or not, we have no means of knowing, but the probability is that unemployment still prevails throughout large sections of the German industrial community. And to this probability we may add the admitted certainty that the last two German harvests have been below the average, not apparently for every product of the soil, but for most cereals, and, some say, even for potatoes, although that is contradicted. To this add the other certainty that in times of peace, as we have frequently pointed out, the people of Germany require from £40,000,000 to £50,000,000 worth of foreign-grown food to eke out the native supplies. So violent and rapid has been the transition from the quiet, simple rural life to the busy, feverish industrial one, that Germany's food necessities had to this extent outgrown her capacities to produce food. Given two poor harvests and the absence of the greater part of foreign supplies of food, how is it possible to believe that the nation can be able to live in any degree of comfort during this war period? Its distress must be on the increase, and the shortage of food must be always tending to grow more acute, because of the inroads made on the supplies by the absorption of the quantities required to maintain the armies in the field. There, again, no doubt it is to some extent true that pressure upon available resources within the empire has been lessened by robberies and harryings without mercy in Belgium and in the occupied provinces of France. Also there is every ground for believing that Holland, Denmark, and Sweden have permitted large quantities of food and other commodities demanded by Germany to pass through to it. All allowances made, however, the broad conclusion remains unshaken that at the present time the people in Germany, dreaming still of a bestial world-triumph over all that is noblest in man, cannot avoid looking forward to a winter of hunger growing ever more intense. Romance as they may that must be the position.

For even were there ample food available in Germany for every purpose, a stock sufficient to last for another 12 months, till next harvest at least, conditions are becoming such as to place these supplies more and more beyond the reach of the great bulk of the population. People often express astonishment that Germany should be able to continue the insane struggle without apparent flinching. They look at the Reichsbank return and find the note circulation even now after 15 months of war under £300,000,000. The stock of coin and bullion has gone up by 73 per cent. since mid-July, 1914, and the active note circulation only about 170 per cent. This does not look like exhaustion. How is the trick performed, for trick it is? It is as cunningly



simple as the Kaiser's patronage of the Teutonic Deity. German's expenditure on the war must be colossal, is probably greater to-day than ever it has been, and well ahead of ours, because in addition to her own armies, the Empire of the Hohenzollerns has to provide for the Bulgarian Army and also for the Turkish Army, as well in all probability as for the Greek, and to supplement largely the murder necessities of the bankrupt and utterly rotten Habsburg one. Sometimes we are taunted with having predicted that Germany could not continue the war for a year without becoming altogether bankrupt. We accept that reproach without shame or flinch, and answer, Germany is utterly bankrupt and has been so for many months back, but the skill and morbidly acute ingenuity with which the bankruptcy is disguised almost compels our admiration. In speaking of the last-issued German public loan we sarcastically observed that those who had no money or credits of any kind to turn into the Government Treasury "could subscribe in sausages." It is doubtful if the next loan, now about due, could be filled even with pig help of that kind, for in spite of the *Frankfurter Zeitung's* boast about the ample stock of cattle and pigs within the Empire—giving in proof the official figures published before the war broke out—there seems to be no doubt that supplies of animals, especially of pigs, have been seriously reduced. One of the great make-believes, now said to have been got up a year ago for our deriding, was a wholesale slaughter of pigs in order to store meat for future use. For all this sort of gossip we care nothing. It may be true or may be false, and whether true or false has little bearing on the fact that the Reichsbank's figures tell of design a specious falsehood. Its note circulation is but a small portion of the paper money now draining Germany of all that remains of her wealth. Two other forms of paper money circulate within the Empire. There is the note or bond circulation of the *Darlehnskasse*, the amount of which has, so far as we know, never been made public with even an approximation to accuracy, and beyond that we have the small change paper circulations created and emitted by municipalities throughout the Empire. These municipal note issues, ostensibly secured no doubt upon town property which in many cases is important and valuable, though probably already mortgaged, have taken the place of coin in small change. In these ways the paper money now in use within the Empire goes down to the half-mark. That is to say, shillings and sixpences in metal have disappeared, their place being taken by paper, so that the total "fiduciary" circulation, as it may be called, must be prodigious. Now, what does that mean if not irretrievable insolvency? How are these notes to be redeemed? They can never be redeemed by slaughter, and the more the mass of paper grows the less able becomes the great body of the toilers to provide for its necessities. Why? Because paper money unsecured in any substantial way, paper money in excess of a country's wealth and resources, must fall lower and lower in purchasing power until soon the sixpenny note may not be worth a penny. That is to say, prices rise as measured by this depreciated paper currency, until many articles of necessity may be placed altogether beyond the reach of the bulk of those who live by their labour. The paper money of Germany is the latest Hohenzollern fraud by means of which the bankruptcy of the Empire is disguised and the nation stripped of its all.

This is all more or less brutishly disguised from the outside world, and the ignorant German people themselves are too besotted, too enwrapped in self-adulation, to be aware of the retribution defiance of economic laws is bringing upon them, but the truth is, as we have said, just the same. The war has ruined German commerce, and even if it ended now in a "draw," which it can never do, the German population would be face to face with want, not for one year or for two, but perhaps for generations. That is the meaning of our often-repeated statement that Germany is bankrupt, and her agony has but to go on for a few more months to fill the world with horror at its manifestations. For even empires cannot set all the laws of God and men at defiance without paying the price, and for the German

people who have surrendered souls and bodies to the seduction of a dangerous megalomaniac the price is already beginning to be heavy. Patience, therefore, and press on to the goal, Allies, every one.

### How to "Capture" German Trade.

Much discussion goes on in the papers and in society on the theme, "How to capture German trade after the war is over." We can get up comparatively little interest in this discussion, because it seems to us of little practical value. Few of the letters and articles printed appear to have grasped the nature of Germany's success as a trader. In large part it was not an honest success, and those who would like in brief space to comprehend how and why it was not might do worse than consult before dashing into print a little book by Professor Maurice Millioud, of the University of Lausanne, entitled "*La Caste Dominante Allemande*." They will there find two German trade methods described, both illustrative of German thoroughness, scruple-free, both manifesting the ruthless passion to dominate and the perfection of rascality with which that passion has been gratified. These two methods were—first, what we call "peaceful penetration" and, secondly, "dumping." The most easily assimilable sketch of what peaceful penetration means will be found in a little book, "*The German Mole*," written by M. Jules Cleas, editor of the well-known newspaper, the *Métropole*, of Antwerp, at present issued as a page of our reviving morning *Standard*. From that little work we learn how systematically the Germans were supplanting the Belgians in all departments of industry, in banking, in the brokerage and shipping trade of Antwerp, in art, and even in literature and journalism. They were rapidly getting the people of Belgium under their thumb, and up to the eve of the invasion crime thought they had succeeded. It is a repulsive but most illuminating story. As to "dumping," many of our readers will doubtless remember the fury with which "Tariff Reform" was advocated here during the final years of the late Joseph Chamberlain's active political career, and how the German awful example was utilised. Happily the country was saved from folly by its good sense, and probably also by its inertia, for by abstaining from putting any "countervailing" or penal duties upon imports from Germany we really defeated the Teuton aggressor. Dumping, in fact, consisted of a system by which it was sought to capture a foreign market at no matter what cost, and oust native producers, first by under-selling, and then, when that brought insolvency upon the victim, by buying them up or out at bankrupt prices.

Thus M. Millioud tells us that in Italy, where the same process went on as in Belgium, German metal merchants sold iron bars at 95 marks a ton, bars of the same quality being sold within Germany at 130 marks. It was the same with other kinds of iron, such as wire, springs and plates, which were sold in Italy at from 15 to 20 francs per ton below the price in Germany, the object being to beat the native Italian producer out of the field and take his place. But plainly this method of doing business was most costly to its devotees, and could only have a temporary success, and, as we often had to point out at the time of the Tariff Reform agitation here, the Germans did not long benefit by that sort of trade expansion. They lost, one may say, at a rate proportionate to the increase in the volume of the business done. Even if the men directly engaged did not ruin themselves, they impoverished the nation. The defeat became more and more emphatic as time went on, for out of their raw or half-manufactured materials "dumped" by the Germans with self design here and in other countries, finished articles could be produced in these countries, and sold back again in Germany itself often at prices below those the native producer could accept with the hope of making a profit. In other words, the foreign commerce of Germany was conducted on precisely the same lines as the irruption of the German troops into Belgium and France. It was an invasion with a view to conquest.



The home population was sacrificed in the hope of a triumph. It followed—and the same spirit is manifest here likewise—that the domestic trade had likewise to be regulated in order to prevent the failure and loss upon the foreign trade from becoming known, or its oppressive costliness from being suspected. Working men had to be made State Socialists, to be provided with old-age pensions, with sick benefits, and with other soothing decoctions. The domestic trade had also to be propped artificially by means of what are called “cartels.” In the metal trade the cartel or combination made peremptory from above became so rigorous that not only was the producing capacity of every manufacturer strictly regulated and controlled, but the distributor, the retailer, placed in bondage. Each individual merchant could only take a certain assigned quantity of the output of any factory or commodity, and he was compelled to sell it at a fixed price as well as within a defined area. If a vendor in one region went beyond the bounds fixed for him and sold any part of his stock within the region of a merchant in the next division, he was not allowed to reap the benefit of his enterprise; the profit went to his rival. Thus German commerce, whether abroad or at home, was something unique, and its triumphs really as corrosive to the national well-being, although much slower in operation, as the alleged “triumphs” of this war.

Now, how are we going to deal with a treacherous, perverted race of this kind, whose undoubted talents, whose unwearied perseverance and ingenuity enable it to carry on industries attaining to vast dimensions in defiance of all fair dealing and in mockery of every sound principle of economics? We cannot wipe it off the face of the earth, as morally it deserves to be, nor can we altogether do without some of the articles it has learned to produce, it may be more cheaply than anyone else can. Will a tariff specially framed against Germany help us? Not much, but it may be necessary for us, as we advocated in those articles reprinted in the “No Deluding Peace” brochure, to shut the Germans in and make them collect from their imports, and also, it may be, from their exports some money towards helping us to meet the costs of this war their malignity has thrust upon us. For the rest, it may have to be the boycott pure and simple until the criminals have been drilled into humanity by their sufferings. No German must be allowed to enter into trade partnership here, in France, in Russia, in Italy—anywhere amongst the Allies of civilisation, amongst free people. Their banks, which are really an interlocked combination organised for one object, conquest by aggression, must be kept outside, left sternly alone in isolation.

That is all very well, we shall be told, but no measures of these kinds would help us much in capturing German trade with neutral countries. It becomes, therefore, a question well worthy of careful examination whether what may perhaps be capable of good in the German drill-sergeant, mole, spy and supplanter methods of developing commerce could not be purified and turned to nobler uses. We have now the beginnings of closer fellowship in an international “war council.” Can we not set about organising an international council of peace? Is it not possible to get together a body of men selected from the best of every country now members of the Quadruple *Entente*, and set it to work to devise a method of assisting and completing each other in co-ordinated manufacture and distribution. The United Kingdom excels industrially in certain directions, and France in others; Italy has her specialities, and Russia possesses a vast reservoir of undeveloped wealth of all kinds. It should be the work of such an international council as we suggest to segregate manufactures and sub-divide the resources and energies of the several countries so as to make them all helpful and complementary to each other, not rivals and commercial “enemies.” In fact, from this point of view, the whole industry and commerce of the world looks capable of reconstitution on an entirely new foundation, governed by altogether new and more

elevated ideals. It should no longer be the tussle of individuals to grasp fortunes, often at the expense of their fellow-men, still less a “war of tariffs,” but the aim of each “captain of industry” should be to work for the good of all. There is no reason why even the cartel of the Germans, oppressive and wealth-limiting, if not destroying, as it is in their hands, should not be capable of utilisation in a manner that would give abundant scope for individual energy and yet so control distribution as to avoid injustice to the ultimate consumer who pays, as also to the man who produces and to the distributor. This is simply a rough sketch or outline, a hint or two to be pondered over; but surely it is worth discussion, and might be more productive of useful results than oceans of talk about “penalising” German trade, about tariffs, which are a form of war, or other empirical attempts to escape from German industrial rivalry. By standing wholly together, and unselfishly, the Powers now staking their life, their all, in a fight of liberation could remove for good and all the German menace in trade and industry.

### Italy's Trade in 1913-14.

A timely and not too belated report upon the trade of Italy for 1913-14 has made its appearance, the figures for 1914 being subject to revision. It is compiled by Mr. G. A. Mounsey, Second Secretary to his Majesty's Embassy in Rome, and reveals a decrease of £30,306,000 in the value of the imports, which is accompanied by a shrinkage of £14,164,000 in the value of the exports. That is to say, imports, including precious metals, are valued at £116,360,000 and exports at £89,513,000 for the past year. All important branches of trade suffered, but especially, on the import side, cereals. The decline here, however, was not due to the war, but apparently to the better harvest in Italy in 1913, and one may therefore regard the reduction of £9,607,000 in this category of imports as something to be pleased with instead of a source of lamentation. As was the case with Japan the silk trade was severely hit, imports of silks declining £3,229,000 and exports £3,806,000. There was also a sharp recoil in cotton, especially on the export side, which was down £2,166,000 against a decline of £1,0364,000 in the imports. Movements of precious metals, which are included in the totals we give, were of minor importance, but on the export side showed a reduction of £2,415,000, whereas on the import side there was an increase of £238,000. Until war broke out in most respects the position of the country was good, in spite of the poor crops of 1914. The wine yield was satisfactory and the industrial capacity of the kingdom expanding; but its foreign trade was adversely affected by the outbreak of war long before Italy itself joined in the fray.

It should, however, be explained that though the cereal crops in Italy were smaller in 1914—the decline in wheat alone being not only serious in quantity, 4,611,500 tons as compared with 5,835,000 tons, but below the average of the previous five years—the pinch was not felt because of the fine crop of 1913, which reduced the demand for foreign grain last year. The war, however, increased the difficulties of the country in various ways, which will doubtless become more visible in the statistics for the current year when made up. It was estimated that between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 tons of wheat was required from abroad to feed the population until this, 1915, year's crop was available, and the mere anticipation of this caused prices to rise by some 5s. per cwt. This made the Government step in and reduce the import duties from 3s. per cwt. to 1s. 2d. during the period from October 20, 1914, to March 31 last, when the duty was suspended altogether up to June 30. Nevertheless, the import of wheat, which amounted to 1,810,733 tons, valued at £15,982,000 in 1913, fell in 1914 to 1,015,877 tons, valued at £8,997,561. Imports of other cereals also fell off considerably, and that fact puzzles somewhat in view of the state of the domestic crops; but it may in part be an explanation that Italy's export trade



in cereals declined in value by about £1,100,000 last year. Nothing definite is said about the general effect of the outbreak of war upon the trade, for the very good reason that Italy did not declare war until the beginning of May in the present year, and up to the latest period alluded to in this report it seems inferable that the demands of Austria and Germany for certain commodities were helpful in sustaining Italian commerce. Her industries, none the less, suffered from loss of custom in the belligerent countries, and also from difficulty in obtaining raw materials from them. Exports of tissues, for instance, fell off severely, especially to Turkey in Europe and the Argentine Republic. In these directions the decline was about 65 per cent. There was, too, a severe decline in the imports of raw wool, and the fact that the principal supplying countries, France, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, and the United Kingdom were at war made it most difficult for Italy to secure the usual consignments. She turned to Spain, the imports from which were about double that of the previous year, but all round the trade of Italy in textiles suffered, and the consignments of woollen goods fell off about 15 per cent. Oddly enough there was an increase shown in the exports of horsehair to Germany, but that may have been before the war broke out. Since the war began Italy has experienced the greatest difficulty in getting timber from Austria-Hungary, and the imports therefrom have much decreased. On the average of years 1,250,000 tons of timber is imported, and for some time back the Italian Government has been encouraging reafforestation at home with a view to becoming independent. This work should be greatly stimulated when peace returns as a result of the war. Not much can be said in looking over these figures with regard to the great question which is coming before all the Allies, how to assist each other in developing and expanding their mutual trade and their extraneous trade when the war is over, but it is plain that we ought to have a larger market than we have hitherto possessed in Italy for all descriptions of metal goods and tools, machinery and such like, while Italy should find a bigger outlet here for her natural products, her silk, her oils and wines, and, probably, some of her manufactures likewise.

### Answers to Correspondents.

**\* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

Index.—Evidence is found in the terms formulated by the board of the railway in making the distribution. Apparently there is both capital and profit in the bonus, but Somerset House has decided to treat the whole amount as profit, subject to tax. Against this decision there is, we fear, no remedy.

M. A. S.—No, these shares would not be a reasonably safe investment at any price.

J. F. B.—The shares are not intrinsically worth their present price, but in the present mood of the market they may go higher. Still, the chance is not enough to average upon. We would rather sell than buy, but perhaps it will be best to wait a little.

Hal D.—(1) Yes, for the present, at any rate. (2) These also ought to be all right to hold, although we do not see much rise in them.

Burdock.—(1) These should certainly be held. The company has recently made a modest entry into the dividend-paying ranks, and its output is now increasing satisfactorily. (2) Hold these also. Prospects are excellent, as the "all in" cost has already been brought down to a very low figure, and, with the growing output, may be still further reduced. (3) From the returns to date it does not seem likely that the estimate for the current year will be realised, but the crop will be much larger than in 1914-15, and the company is working very cheaply. Therefore we think the shares should be worth holding.

S. J. B.—We doubt it, as the company seems a long way off the dividend-paying stage.

D. D. R.—Yes. The stock looks attractive, and the group to which it belongs appears to have turned the corner.

C. M.—The liability is a factor, but the risk seems remote. Business may prove difficult for this class of company, but the management is good. A reduction in dividend might be necessary. This seems the principal risk. If you are seeking a high yield, you must be prepared for such. If all goes well, the shares are, of course, cheap.

W. S. W.—Moscow City 5 per cent.

### Insurance News.

The unsatisfactory financial condition of the National Health Insurance scheme was discussed a few days ago by Mr. Kingsley Wood, a member of the National Insurance Advisory Committee and vice-chairman of the Faculty of Insurance, at a meeting of the Faculty at Liverpool. Mr. Wood pointed out that the insurance scheme for the present year would cost nearly 25 millions, and that the Government actuaries' original estimates of the State subsidy for the current year seemed likely to be exceeded by £1,700,000, and many urgent financial questions have arisen. At the Department of the Insurance Commission the fears of a breakdown in National Health Insurance are not shared, and it is stated that the solvency of the scheme gives no cause for anxiety, and that there is no foundation for alarmist reports. It appears the question of the administrative expenditure of the four Insurance Commissions, as in the case of other Government departments, is under scrutiny by the retrenchment committee.

Until quite recently the Swiss Government has required a foreign life insurance company to deposit a variable sum as a partial guarantee to Swiss policyholders. Early in October, however, the Federal Council decided that there should be a fixed deposit of £4,000 by every foreign life company, and an additional deposit of a sum equal to the mathematical reserves of the sums assured. It appears that at the end of 1913 foreign companies had life assurances in force in Switzerland amounting to some 28½ millions sterling, and of that sum no less than 16½ millions was assured in German companies. Foreign securities will be accepted by the authorities in respect of the amount of the reserves of policies issued up to the end of last year, while Swiss securities will have to be deposited as regards the reserves of all subsequent policies.

According to *L'Argus*, a further partial moratorium, for 30 days instead of 60 days as hitherto, has been accorded by the French Government to life, personal, accident, and employers' liability companies with regard to the payment of claims, the new decree being dated October 30, while the conditions are practically the same as those obtaining at that date. Thirty-day bonds companies, however, must pay in full the bonds which mature. The present terms are extended to policies which become claims before December 1 next, provided they were effected before August 4, 1914. All claims in respect of fire, marine, and other kinds of insurance except those above-mentioned are payable in full.

Réference was made in a paper read a few days ago by Mr. Sydney A. Smith at the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute on war risks to property to the case of a property in the City of London, let to a German firm in 1912 for 21 years, in which a request was made by the lessee during the negotiations that the lease should be determinable at three months' notice in the event of war with Germany. At the time this was regarded as so absurd a suggestion that it was not given serious consideration.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia.—A branch has been opened at Broadmeadows, Victoria.

## AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

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### American Business Notes.

While the good and benevolent President Wilson is gathering materials upon which to build his "Note" to Austria on the "Ancona" crime, it would be foolish on our part to dwell upon the eminent professor's characteristics. In some respects the crime was more dastardly even than the sinking of the "Lusitania," because it was not possible for the pirates to invent even a plausible excuse for their brutality. The "Ancona" was a purely mercantile and passenger vessel, and as she was outward bound, could neither be carrying arms, ammunition, nor recruits; therefore the deed involved a cold-blooded and wanton defiance of all that civilised humanity holds sacred. It illustrates that increasing intensity of savage rage which, as Mr. Joseph Reinach well observes in the *Morning Post*, always characterises wild animals when driven to bay. But then the Germans expected, as Lord Haldane reminds us, to finish the war in three months, so how could they be other than ready to defy heaven and hell alike in blind fury.

To enable Mr. Wilson to compose an elegant epistle for Austrian admiration, his Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, has instructed his Ambassador in Vienna to put eight questions to the Government there, does this because, just think of it, nine American lives were lost in the ship. And the other 200? Well, you see, they were not "Amurrican" citizens; such is the punctilious scrupulosity of this model Republican Government. It strictly circumscribes its sympathies. But Mr. Woodrow Wilson wants to be informed whether the submarine which torpedoed the "Ancona," flying an Austrian flag, was manned by Austrian sailors; what instructions Austrian submarine commanders have been given concerning the treatment of passenger liners, and also the justification for the attack on a passenger ship bound for the United States. To be quite sure of his ground he further would like to be informed whether a warning shot was fired, whether the submarine ceased firing when the "Ancona" came to; what time was given to the passengers and crew to get into the lifeboats; what the submarine was doing while the ship was being emptied of passengers, and whether the torpedo was fired while any passengers were on board? Surely such an interrogatory will furnish the President with ample material for another excellent moral essay, one worthy of the first prize in any college competition.

In the meantime, while the outward head of the States cogitates and composes, the ever restless Teuton mole is busy carrying on war against civilisation, above all against France and the United Kingdom, within the United States itself, and we wish the Government of the Republic as much comfort of mind as is to be obtained from the fact. It is said that 3,000 Teuton warrior suborners of crimes, or perpetrators thereof, are actively engaged in this subterranean warfare and amply supplied with funds, borrowed for the purpose in the United States from German bankers and their sympathisers. Doubtless the Administration will be strong enough to cope with this domestic affliction and we do not feel able to offer it any counsel. Evidently the Prussians consider the Republic already a conquered country, whose Government and people may be treated with contempt. We think that a pity and hope still for better things.

**BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.**—A wonderfully satisfactory report has been issued by this company for the past year closed June 30, the 89th of its existence. Gross receipts, it is true, declined \$7,348,000 to \$91,816,000, but a saving of \$10,478,000 was effected in the working expenses, bringing them down to \$63,926,000, or 69.62 per cent. of the receipts, against 75.03 per cent. Consequently the nett income from working the lines, after deducting taxes and bad debts, was \$3,058,000 better at \$24,582,000, a figure brought up to \$29,843,000 by the inclusion of \$5,261,000 of outside income from dividends, rents, interest, &c. Fixed charges, interest on funded debt, rents, hire of freight cars, &c., absorbed \$19,062,000, leaving

\$10,781,000 to meet dividends. These amounted to 4 per cent. on the preferred stock and 5 per cent. on the common stock. According to this company's book-keeping method, there is a balance of undistributed revenue brought forward from year to year, and to this is added the remaining profits of the past year after meeting fixed charges and the preferred stock 4 per cent. dividend. From the previous year the balance brought forward was \$31,804,000 nett; consequently the total amount at credit before paying the common stock dividend was \$40,173,000, and after giving the stock its 5 per cent., \$32,576,000 remained to be carried forward. Last year the company incorporated the small Moorefield and Virginia branch, 36 miles in length, in its system, which now extends to 4,535 miles of main line, or to 9,007 miles if double tracks and sidings are included.

**CHICAGO, BURLINGTON AND QUINCY.**—Apparently this railroad was able last year to pay its usual 8 per cent. dividend to the two holders of its ordinary stock, the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Companies. Its gross earnings for the year closed June 30 fell off \$2,562,000 to \$91,125,000, but expenses were reduced by \$2,783,000 to \$60,441,000, so that the nett income was actually \$221,000 better, and after allowing for an increase of about \$65,000 in the taxes, bringing the total up to \$4,082,000, as well as after deducting \$24,000 of bad debts, shown for the first time, the clear income of \$26,578,000 was \$132,000 better, or, if we add in the receipts from rents and miscellaneous sources, which were \$70,000 down, the final distributable total was \$62,000 better at \$27,802,000. Interest charges were also reduced by \$173,000, so that after meeting the 8 per cent. dividend and providing \$60,000 more at \$1,753,000 for sinking fund, but giving \$2,375,000 less at \$3,341,000 to additions and betterments, the surplus carried forward was \$2,550,000 up at \$5,081,000. The total par value of the outstanding stock is \$110,839,000, and of the funded debt \$181,690,000. The dividend took \$8,867,000, and the interest \$7,119,000. All the usual statistics are given and a general balance-sheet, but as the company is completely controlled by the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, there is no profit in attempting to analyse particulars.

### The Week in Mines.

Apart from the strength of base metal shares, due to the high prices of the various metals, the Mining markets have languished this week after their recent burst of activity. South African shares have mostly sought a lower level, but these movements have been overshadowed by the buoyancy of Copper shares, notably of Anacondas and Rio Tintos. Diamond shares were not helped by an official announcement that, as was foreshadowed last week, the diamond mines would resume production on a small scale on January 1.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Less inquiry on Cape account, together with the unsatisfactory Balkan news, were said to be responsible for the quieter and easier condition of the South African market. Gold Fields reacted to 115-32 on Lord Harris's revelation at the meeting that, contrary to the general assumption, nearly £100,000 had been written off for depreciation in the past year. It had been assumed that as no mention of the matter had been made in the report no allowance was necessary for depreciation; consequently the market was inclined to resent the misleading manner in which the report was drawn up. Central Minings relapsed sharply from 6½ to 6¾, and Rand Mines weakened to 47-32, and East Rands to 17-32. Modders have been firm at 15½, and Modder "B's" at 5½ have met with a fair amount of support. Modder Deeps have been active and strong, and the quotation is ½ up at 5½. Confirmation of a rumour that the Central Mining interests have been buying these shares and Geduld (now at 33s. after being 34s. 3d.) seems to be forthcoming in an official announcement that Mr. H. C.



Boyd, of the Central Mining, is joining the boards of these two companies, which, of course, belong to the Goerz group. City Deeps and Brakpans remain at 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ , but Knights Deeps have risen to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  buyers. Randfontein Estates have improved to 14s., but Oceanas changed hands below 2s. on the issue of the report. Diamond descriptions declined now that there "is nothing more to go for," as the market puts it; De Beers deferreds have fallen  $\frac{3}{8}$  to 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ , the preferences  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 13 $\frac{1}{8}$ , and Premier deferreds and Jagers  $\frac{1}{8}$  each to 4 $\frac{7}{8}$  and 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ . The De Beers and Jagersfontein mines will restart washing on a small scale on January 1, and the Premier will probably do the same. Among Rhodesian shares Charteredds have relapsed 1s. 6d. to 10s.; it is rumoured that the committee has been engaged in dealing with an important question arising out of dealings by the provinces recently in these shares. Gaikas have fallen rather sharply to 10s. 6d. on the report, and Tanganyikas have sagged to 19-32. Falcons, however, have been firmer at 9s. In the West African group Presteas have eased to 9s. 3d., and Abossos at  $\frac{7}{16}$  and Taquahs at 15s. 3d. are now ex-dividend.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A further substantial rise in the price of the metal, following the continued shrinkage in visible supplies, has had a very stimulating effect on Copper shares. Rio Tintos have spurted 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 57, Anacondas 2 to 19 $\frac{3}{8}$ , and Utahs 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Mount Lyells rose to 24s. on the report, but reached to 23s. 3d. Russians have been quieter and easier, with Russo-Asiatics at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ , Kyshtims at 127-32, and Tana'yks at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Tin shares have become increasingly active and firm on the rise in the metal. Ipohs have risen 5-32 to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ , Malayams, on the dividend,  $\frac{3}{16}$  to 11 $\frac{1}{16}$ , Renongs  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ , and Pahangs 6d. to 7s. 9d. Interest in Nigerians has revived, and most of the shares are higher on the week. Among Westralians Golden Horseshoes hardened to 2 $\frac{1}{16}$ , and Sons of Gwalia improved to 16s. 6d. Mexicans have been fairly well maintained with some activity in El Oros at 9s. 6d. and Santa Gertrudis at 10s. 6d. Of the Indian shares Champions have weakened to 10s., and Nundydroogs to 26s. 9d. The Alaska group was not affected by the dividends.

#### MINING NEWS.

MESSINA (TRANSVAAL) DEVELOPMENT.—The report for the year to June 30 states that 91,033 tons of ore were produced, of which 74,564 tons were milled. The gross profit rose from £63,781 to £130,526, of which £15,000 has been applied in payment of debenture interest and £25,467 in providing for income-tax and profits tax. Of the balance £50,000 has been applied in writing down the Canadian Agency (which failed last year) loan account, £8,000 in writing down the amount due from Messrs. Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co. (also in liquidation), and £23,304 in writing off shaft and railway outlay accounts. The balance of £8,754, together with £763 brought in, is carried forward. Reserves of practically proved ore are estimated at 131,700 tons of 6.6 per cent. copper.

WELGEDACHT EXPLORATION.—In the year ended June 30 coal sales amounted to 130,188 tons, which realised £33,083, or 5s. 0.98d. per ton, as against 5s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the previous year. After deducting the cost of working and handling, amounting to £29,524, or 4s. 6.42d. per ton, as against 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., a working profit is shown of £3,559, or 6.56d. per ton, as against 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. last year. Nett profit declined from £6,479 to £3,812, making, with the sum brought in, £8,016. The dividend is reduced from 1s. per share to 6d. per share, less tax, leaving £4,489 to be carried forward.

OCEANA CONSOLIDATED.—The report states that the figures applicable to the reduction of capital absorbed the balances at the credit of profit and loss and appropriation accounts on March 31 last. From that date to June 30 a profit of £6,342 accrued, and this is carried forward. No issue of debentures has been made, an arrangement having been come to with the company's bankers which obviates the necessity for such issue for the time being. In place of the creation and issue of debenture stock originally contemplated, the bankers have accepted temporarily a deed of security under which the company obtains financial facilities for the period of the war and six months afterwards. The reduction of capital has placed the valuation of its assets on such a basis as to stimulate the element of depreciation in future, so that accruing profits should be available for distribution.

GAIKA GOLD.—The nett profits for the year ended June 30 rose from £29,127 to £34,436, and £14,920 was brought in, making £49,356. Although the profit for the year would not

have permitted of a material increase in dividend, the directors felt justified in recommending dividends amounting to 15 per cent., as against 10 per cent. in 1913-14, by distributing the accrued balance of profit brought forward, the reason for retaining which no longer exists. The ore reserves have decreased by 5,200 tons to 95,570 tons, valued at 14.14 dwts. per ton.

MOUNT LYELL.—A further marked improvement is recorded in the results of this company for the half-year ended September 30. The nett profits were £139,071, as against £98,220 in the preceding six months and £29,317 for the corresponding period; the profit is arrived at after writing off £20,123 for depreciation, £14,656 for mine prospecting, and £18,400 for income-tax. A dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, less tax, will be paid on December 20, against nil last year and 1s. per share paid in June last.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER SYNDICATE.—Revenue in the year ended June 30 amounted to £36,492, or £26,541 less than in the preceding year. Shipments of ore fell off by 8,356 tons, but the average price obtained was £1 2s. 10d. more per ton. The nett profit declined by only £45 to £11,191; it is proposed to pay a dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, equal to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., as against 75 per cent., and to carry forward £6,327, as compared with £5,459.

HORDEN COLLIERIES.—The accounts for the year ended September 30 show a further considerable shrinkage in profits, the total being £86,130, as against £116,624 in 1913-14 and £156,442 in the previous year. It is proposed to place to reserve £10,000, instead of £20,000; to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year, against 8 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively in the two preceding years, and to carry forward £44,437, as against £47,682.

Mr. H. C. Boyd, of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, has been elected a director of the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd., in place of Mr. Brandon Herbert Davis, who has relinquished his seat on the board.

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	At Death	At Death or Age 55	At Death or Age 60
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30 ...	1 16 9	3 3 7	2 12 8
35 ...	2 2 9	4 3 2	3 5 11
40 ...	2 9 10	5 16 0	4 6 0

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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The sudden action of the Bank of England last Friday in raising its rate for the shorter dated Treasury bills put a stop to all business for a day or two, but by Monday the Money market had adapted itself to the new conditions. Credit remains abundant enough for all ordinary purposes, and even the fact that the market had to provide £3,500,000 for India sterling bills against £2,500,000 maturing had very little effect. There were fewer occasions on which surplus balances were offered overnight at a low figure, but day-to-day loans were readily obtainable at 4-4½ per cent., and weekly fixtures have again been arranged at 4½-4¾ per cent.

With our foreign trade being carried on under the present disadvantageous conditions, the supply of bills coming into the discount market naturally tends to become smaller and smaller. This with the ease in money naturally tends to drive discount rates down, and as brokers became more certain that there was not likely to be any immediate change in the Bank rate, they showed rather more disposition to buy. Nominally the quotation for three months' bank paper has not been allowed to drop below 5½ per cent., but sellers reported that in some cases they had been able to place parcels of very fine bills at 5¼ per cent., while 60-day paper has changed hands at 5½ per cent. Applications for Treasury bills at the Bank are understood to have been on a large scale, as although the discount market is not at present a large buyer, the bills, and especially the longer dated maturities, are

growing in favour with outside investors, and in this connection it is interesting to note that quite a number of the companies which have recently issued their reports show Treasury bills amongst their assets.

The news that arrangements for a banking credit had been completed, of which we give some details elsewhere, brought about an advance in the New York cable rate to 4.69½. There was also a sharp rally to 11.25 in the Dutch exchange, which was believed to be due to the fact that certain transactions in connection with subscriptions from the United States for the German loan have now come to an end, but the rate has since gone back to 11.20. The Paris cheque rose to 27.73, but fell back to 27.70, while Spanish and Italian rates advanced.

One of the most interesting points in this week's Bank return is the extent to which gold has come back from the country. Exports of the metal amounted to £3,663,000 on balance, but the stocks of coin and bullion were only reduced by £1,782,000, so that some £1,881,000 was returned through the banks. As the note circulation showed a shrinkage of £185,000, there was a decrease of £1,597,000 to £39,006,000 in the reserve, and the proportion to liabilities was 1.6 per cent. down at 27.5 per cent. Other Securities were increased by £4,094,000, a movement which may be connected with further loans to our Allies. Public Deposits have risen by £1,223,000 to £50,182,000, and Other Deposits are £1,261,000 higher at £91,676,000. In view of the borrowing on Ways and Means shown in the revenue figures for last week, the market was somewhat surprised to find no change in Government Securities, but was inclined to believe that this position was due to the cross-transactions, whereby the Bank is receiving deposits from the clearing and other banks for a month at 4½ per cent. and re-lending them to the Government.

According to the official statement for the week ended November 17, currency notes issued amounting to £2,950,417 in £1 and £1,143,821 10s. in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,128,038 in £1 and £905,313 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £680,887 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £82,631,276, made up of £61,254,163 in £1 notes and £21,377,113 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £610,000 were issued and £430,000 were cancelled, leaving £5,920,000 outstanding. There is also an investment reserve account of £446,969 8s. 6d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £44,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £15,439,682 16s. 7d. at the Bank of England, while £189,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £249,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

In addition to the coinage orders for silver on both home and Continental account, both India and China have bought the metal more freely. Supplies from the United States have been on the moderate scale to which we have now become accustomed, and the price advanced sharply to 25d. per oz., the highest point touched since September, 1914, but it closed weak at that figure with sellers predominating. Messrs. Pixley and Abell stated in their weekly circular that a count of the stock of silver held in London was made on the 12th inst., and the resultant figure of £750,000 was much below the general estimate.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 94,970 in bills, Rs. 2,84,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 14,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 94,970 were allotted in bills, Rs. 45,05,030 deferred transfers, and Rs. 4,00,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. receiving about 10 per cent., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4½d. in full. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 16th inst. the total sales were Rs. 8,40,86,061, realising £5,607,465, compared with Rs. 6,30,56,861 for £4,206,230 to November 17 last year.



BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 17, 1915.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 71,862,510	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	53,412,510
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£71,862,510		£71,862,510

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,895,068
Reserve .. ..	3,235,272	Other Securities .. ..	101,761,023
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	50,181,683	Notes .. ..	38,848,590
Other Deposits .. ..	91,676,189	Gold and Silver Coin ..	157,157
Seven Day and other Bills ..	15,694		
	£159,661,838		£159,661,838

Dated Nov. 18, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Nov. 18.	Nov. 10, 1915.	Nov. 17, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,224,019	3,219,928	3,235,272	15,344	—
16,286,301	48,958,426	50,131,683	1,223,257	—
147,334,725	90,415,018	91,676,189	1,261,171	—
12,882	19,059	15,694	—	3,365
18,600,753	Gov. Securities ..	18,895,068	—	—
107,103,442	Other do. ..	101,761,023	—	4,093,539
55,706,752	Total Reserve ..	40,602,879	1,597,132	—
			4,096,904	4,096,904
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
35,513,410	Note Circulation ..	33,198,795	33,013,920	154,875
72,579,142	Coin and Bullion ..	55,351,674	53,569,667	1,782,007
34 p.c.	Proportion ..	29.1 p.c.	27.5 p.c.	1.6 p.c.
5 ..	Bank Rate ..	5 ..	5 ..	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £3,663,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,090,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,090,919,000	984,535,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. 3 ..	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10 ..	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17 ..	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
Total ..	11,816,835,000	13,403,777,000	—	1,586,942,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 13.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.		
£	£		
Customs .. ..	1,443,000	National Debt Service ..	—
Excise .. ..	561,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	435,189
Estate, &c., Duties ..	330,000	Development & Road Impvt.	—
Stamps .. ..	295,000	Payments to Local Taxation	350,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Property and Income Tax ..	161,000	Charges .. ..	—
Land Values Duties ..	10,000	Supply Services .. ..	28,015,419
Post Office .. ..	550,000	Bullion Advances .. ..	150,000
Crown Lands .. ..	—	For Advance for Interest	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	5,000	on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Miscellaneous .. ..	1,82,480	Capital Expenditure	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	120,000	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	24,282,000	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds under	—	For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
the Capital Expenditure	—	under the War Loan Red-	—
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—	emption Act, 1910 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	5,000	Issues under Section I of	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	—	War Loan Act, 1915 .. ..	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—	Under Telegraph (Money)	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—	Act, 1913 .. ..	70,000
1913 .. ..	—	Under Post Office (Lon-	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
1897-1903 .. ..	—	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	—
Under Housing Act .. ..	—	Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate	—	Under Military Works Acts,	—
Loan repayments .. ..	—	1897-1903 .. ..	—
Cupard Loan—repayment on	—	Under Public Buildings Ex-	—
account of principal ..	—	penses Act, 1903 .. ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	E. Africa Protectorate Loan	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—	Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances	10,396,500	Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—	repaid .. ..	15,204,000
balances .. ..	5,885,628	Increase in Exchequer	—
	£44,225,608	balances .. ..	£44,224,608

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
	£
Wednesday—Bars .. .. 684,000	Saturday—Switzerland .. .. 50,000
"    Egypt (released) .. 100,000	"    (set aside) .. .. 50,000
Thursday—Foreign gold coin 1,500,000	Monday—U.S.A. .. .. 580,000
Friday—Foreign gold coin .. 100,000	"    Continent .. .. 200,000
	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. .. 670,000
	Thursday—Spain .. .. 400,000
	"    South America .. .. 170,000
	"    Canada .. .. 57,000
	"    U.S.A. .. .. 20,000
	"    Straits Settlements (set aside) .. 25,000
	Friday—U.S.A. .. .. 730,000
	"    Japan .. .. 100,000
	"    Switzerland .. .. 50,000
	"    (set aside) .. .. 50,000
Nett Efflux .. .. 668,000	
£3,052,000	£3,052,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended November 13, amounted to £24,285,000, or a daily average of about £4,050,000. Bills to the amount of £15,204,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £9,081,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£	12 months	1916.	2 17 1/8.
10,000,000		Feb. 27.	
*254,581,000			
264,581,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 622,532,000	£ 616,360,000	£ 607,934,000	£ 426,634,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	104,874,000	105,230,000	104,822,000	—
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,866,000	32,464,000	32,768,000	88,560,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	9,710,000	9,524,000	9,218,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	640,074,000	633,080,000	623,962,000	385,070,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	28,894,000	28,838,000	28,510,000	—
Circulation .. ..	6,978,000	7,086,000	7,138,000	21,346,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	37,760,000	38,300,000	38,740,000	1,482,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 122,566,000	£ 122,018,000	£ 120,562,000	£ 112,080,000
Specie .. ..	10,476,000	10,456,000	10,408,000	8,300,000
Deposits .. ..	127,876,000	127,528,000	125,798,000	110,660,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,882,000	1,854,000	1,854,000	2,680,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 29, 1915.	Oct. 22, 1915.	Oct. 15, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 43,644,800	£ 45,401,000	£ 45,391,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	244,400	242,400	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	12,392,000	10,934,000	11,724,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	7,411,600	6,925,200	3,940,600
Total reserves .. ..	63,692,800	63,502,600	61,307,200
10-day bills and loans ..	1,387,800	1,452,600	1,338,800
30-day bills and loans ..	2,119,000	2,239,600	2,587,800
60-day bills and loans ..	3,193,800	2,818,800	2,940,600
90-day bills and loans ..	1,692,400	1,795,600	1,623,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	420,400	357,800	301,400
Total .. ..	8,813,400	8,664,400	8,791,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	5,002,800	2,096,000	2,076,000
Municipal Warrants .. ..	2,101,000	5,076,400	5,316,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,914,600	3,136,000	3,047,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	1,706,600	2,468,400	2,932,000
All other assets .. ..	729,000	632,400	604,600
Total assets .. ..	85,990,200	85,476,000	83,174,400
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,967,600	10,966,800	10,955,000
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	68,710,800	68,088,800	65,753,200
Note circulation—nett.	2,783,600	2,961,800	2,958,200
All other liabilities .. ..	528,200	558,600	508,000
Total liabilities .. ..	85,990,200	85,576,000	83,174,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	77.3%	79.3%	82.3%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	87.5%	88.9%	88.8%

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 18, 1915.	Nov. 11, 1915.	Nov. 4, 1915.	Oct. 28, 1915.
Gold in hand .. ..	£ 192,284,680	£ 191,281,200	£ 190,185,200	£ 189,193,160
Silver in hand .. ..	14,489,240	14,458,650	14,405,040	14,529,840
Bills discounted .. ..	11,292,120	10,929,480	12,980,680	11,210,800
Advances .. ..	22,714,920	22,757,200	22,651,560	22,718,840
Note circulation .. ..	568,431,520	567,526,640	563,141,960	554,702,160
Public deposits .. ..	2,250,640	2,367,160	2,080,960	1,538,040
Private deposits .. ..	104,676,260	100,998,920	100,335,320	101,834,520
Foreign Bills .. ..	52,480	53,000	66,040	51,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 363 per cent., against 363 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £292,000,000; increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £36,552,160, decrease £341,740, and at the branches to £38,710,080, decrease £476,480.



## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 5, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 7,137,800	£ 8,417,700	£ 7,921,300	£ 9,388,400
Cash in reserve ..	160,366,600	159,825,800	159,563,500	154,832,300
Gold in reserve abroad ..	3,536,200	3,559,900	3,718,300	21,551,100
Circulation note issue ..	512,500,000	509,500,000	507,000,000	287,500,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,672,000	21,998,800	20,765,900	21,463,600

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 21, 1914
Gold .. ..	£ 33,967,278	£ 33,344,545	£ 33,318,685	£ 14,357,014
Silver .. ..	247,735	206,497	210,127	387,992
Bills discounted, &c. ..	14,133,925	15,002,426	14,974,299	26,503,802
Note circulation ..	47,166,319	47,398,821	47,487,472	39,589,248
Deposits .. ..	1,840,372	1,255,304	1,124,036	1,427,407

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 14, 1914
Gold .. ..	£ 32,566,189	£ 32,036,107	£ 31,812,410	£ 22,417,265
Silver .. ..	29,547,399	29,354,796	29,561,817	27,826,881
Foreign Bills ..	4,287,954	4,095,054	4,168,807	6,559,074
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,742,781	27,316,005	27,105,742	32,298,385
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,307,125	28,570,560	28,105,822	28,853,449
Notes in Circulation ..	83,663,600	83,729,789	82,962,833	79,468,841
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	26,578,300	25,668,092	25,945,105	24,490,429
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,263,645	1,465,070	2,171,565	1,672,508
Government Securities ..	1,270,520	1,262,419	1,275,332	4,244,020

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 23, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 12,141,528	£ 12,153,930	£ 12,220,282	£ 10,485,088
Bills .. ..	5,652,544	6,054,983	5,932,144	7,785,564
Note circulation ..	17,553,212	17,724,474	16,805,395	16,782,892
Current and deposit accounts ..	2,361,956	2,790,837	3,492,054	2,988,308

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 3, 1915.	Oct. 3, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 6,298,000	£ 6,298,000	£ 6,300,000	£ 5,781,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,687,000	6,590,000	6,614,000	2,802,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,951,000	3,005,000	3,015,000	1,475,000
Discounts and Loans ..	5,051,000	5,235,000	4,897,000	9,093,000
Notes in circulation ..	16,888,000	17,151,000	16,136,000	15,653,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,093,000	4,168,000	4,752,000	3,368,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 7, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Oct. 22, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 3,797,000	£ 3,760,000	£ 3,656,000	£ 2,265,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,687,000	3,738,000	3,732,000	1,742,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,109,000	4,198,000	4,014,000	6,693,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,463,000	8,603,000	8,254,000	7,204,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,392,000	1,368,000	1,369,000	1,298,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 16, 1915.		Nov. 18, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. ..	Three months' bills ..	11.27	11.34*	11.37	11.44*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	11.09	11.14	11.19	11.24
Italy .. ..	Three months' bills ..	30.63	30.77*	30.77	30.9*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.24	30.32	30.38	30.46
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	33½	34½	33½	34
Do. do. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.6	28.25	28.12	28.30*
Paris .. ..	Three months' bills ..	27.66	27.72	27.72	27.78
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	143½	144½	143½	144½
Petrograd .. ..	Cable transfers ..	17.20	17.60	17.80	17.60
Scandinavia ..	Three months' bills ..	17.55	18.10*	17.55	18.10*
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	46	46½*	45½	46½*
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills ..	24.95	25.05	25.05	25.15
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.40	25.50*	25.45	25.55*
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.15
Do. .. ..	Cable transfers ..	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.15

\* Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris .....	chq's	27.90	27.70	Antwerp .....	short	—	—
Bussels .....	chq's.	—	—	Italy .....	short	30.20	30.42½
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.06½	11.20	Constantinople ..	3 mths.	—	—
Batlin .....	chq's.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chq's	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna .....	sight	—	—	Calcutta .....	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	142½	146	Bombay .....	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
New York ..	sight	4.67½	4.71½	Hong Kong .....	T.T.	1/10½d.	1/10½d.
Lisbon .....	sight	33½d.	33½d.	Shanghai .....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
Madrid .....	sight	24.95	25.05	Singapore .....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama .....	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5	5
Six months ..	5	5
Nine months ..	5	5
Twelve months ..	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	52-51	52
Three months ..	52-50	52
Four months ..	52-50	52-52
Six months ..	52-50	52-52
Three months fine inland bills ..	52-6	52-6
Four months ..	52-6	52-6
Six months ..	52-6	52-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3½	3½
7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	42-44	42-44
for call loans ..	4-42	4-42

## The Week's Stock Markets.

In a sense New York continues to call the tune on our Stock Exchange so far as any speculative movements are concerned, but the market has not been quite so firm this week as last, and it is unnecessary to recall the movements. A quiet investment business with a little savour of the gamble in it continues in Rubber shares, some amount of selling has gone on in American Railroad securities, causing prices to halt or fall back, and the Home Railway market has been anything but lively. On the whole, things are just as they should be, and all we can do is to repeat once again the advice to sell American Railroad shares whenever quotations show a profit. The usual tendency is to wait until prices dip, as they have been doing towards the end of the week, but when the dip occurs it is best to hold off. Mr. McKenna's announcement, quoted amongst our "Passing Events," regarding the amount of 3½ per cents. converted into the new 4½ per cent. War Loan had a depressing effect on the price, but Consols and Annuities were unaffected. Is it time yet to buy any of the Home Railway ordinary stocks? We cannot venture to give a definite opinion, but are inclined to think that the time has not yet come. We are completely in the dark, however, as regards the position of our railways, and the wisest course is to do nothing until some light or leading is given from somewhere.

Except in Rubber shares, and to a less extent, in American bonds, business in Stock markets has been quieter this week, and prices have in most cases tended to go back owing to realisations. Dealings in War Loan were fairly numerous, but selling predominated, and the price has relapsed to 96½, while the old War Loan has dropped to 90½ on the disclosure that only a comparatively small proportion had been converted. Colonial Government securities were hardly mentioned, but the new South Australian loan met with a little support, and touched 1½ premium. Among Foreign Government Securities, Japanese issues continue the most prominent, the 4½ per cent. loans being firmer on the announcement that £250,000 each of the first and second series had been purchased for cancellation. One or two Chinese issues were also better. Argentine 6 per cent. Treasury bonds were quoted x.d. in the beginning of the week, and at 99½ show a gain of ¼, while Brazilian Funding improved to 76, but San Paulo 5 per cent. (1913) dropped to 60½, and Peruvian Corporation ordinary were easier on the cessation of the inquiry from Holland.

In the Home Railway market movements were few and irregular, with an easier tendency towards the close, but on balance Hull and Barnsley was 1½ up on the week, while North-Eastern and Lancs. and Yorks put on ¼ and ½ respectively. South-Western deferred rose at one time to 24½, but finished at 24½, and Brighton deferred and South-Eastern deferred both lost ½. There was again some demand for Underground 6 per cent. income bonds, which lifted the price to 75½, but it fell back later to 75. Canadian Pacific shares were inclined to be easier in the beginning of the week, but soon rallied, and improved steadily to 198½, while the 6 per cent. notes were firm at 110¾. Grand Trunk stocks were heavy most of the week, and although there was a slight rally on the good traffic return the improvements were not held. In the American Railroad market the tone was easier, but a demand sprang up in Wall Street for Denver and Erie. The rise, however, was checked by the recovery in the exchange, and with few exceptions the changes in price are adverse. Argentine Railways moved in the opposite direction, being firm in the beginning of the week and dull later. Leopoldina also relapsed, but San Paulo improved to 183, and United of Havana met with some support,



and touched 74. Mexican Railway issues came in for some attention on a report that Carranza had handed over certain lines to the civil authorities.

A steady demand has been experienced for Bank shares and most of the London group show more or less substantial gains. National Provincial £12 paid headed the list with an improvement of 1, and the £10½ paid put on ½, while Capital and Counties, London and Provincial, London County and Westminster and London Joint Stock rose ¾, and Lloyds, Parr's and

Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week	Min. Pros.	Last Week	This Week
66½ Consols.....	65	65	— N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.	97½	97½
— War Loan 3½.....	90½	90½	— " 4½ 1922-7.	96½	96½
69½ India 3½.....	69½	69½	95 New Zealand 4½.....	95	95
80½ " 3½.....	80½	80½	— Queensland 4½.....	92	92
92 Canada 4½ 1910-60	92	92	— " 4½ new	97½	97½
— " 4½ 1920-5	96½	96½	— Union of S. Africa	97½	97½
92 N.S.W. 4½.....	95	95	— " 4½ 1920-5	97½	97½
— " 4½ 1920-5	95	95	— Victoria 4½ 1920-5	97½	97½
66 Belgian 3½.....	66½	66½	— French Rentes.....	65½	65½
— Brazil 1913.....	63	63	82½ Japan 4½ (1st).....	92½	92½
— New Funding.....	75½	76	83 " (2nd).....	92½	92
— Chinese 1896.....	94½	95½	— Russia 4½.....	73	73
— " 1913.....	82	82	— " 4½.....	74½	74½
— Egypt Unified 4½.....	85½	85	— " 5½.....	92	92
Brighton defd.....	57	50½	London and S.-W. dfd.....	24½	24½
Caledonian defd.....	94	8½	Do. new pf.....	100	100
Chatham ord.....	82	82	Metropolitan.....	25½	24½
Gt. Central pf.....	14½	14	Do. 5½ New pf.....	95½	95½
— dfd.....	74	74	Met. District.....	15½	15½
Gt. Eastern.....	37½	30½	Midland dfd.....	58	58
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39½	39½	Nth. British dfd.....	10½	10½
Gt. Western.....	92½	92½	Nth.-Eastern.....	100½	107½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	69	68½	Nth.-Western.....	101	101
— " 1913.....	69	68½	Stn.-Eastern dfd.....	26	25½
Canadian Pacific.....	108½	108½	Chesapeake.....	66½	67½
Do. 6% Notes.....	111	110½	Erie.....	45½	47½
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	95	93½	Milwaukee.....	101½	101½
Grand Trunk ord.....	12½	11½	N. Y. Central.....	110½	109
Do. 3rd pf.....	29	28½	Southern.....	25½	25½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes.....	98½	98½	Southern Pacific.....	110½	108½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. ".....	98½	99	Union Pacific.....	146½	147
Atchison.....	116	114½	U. S. Steel.....	93½	92½
Baltimore.....	100½	100½	Cent. Argentine ord.....	88½	85
Antofagasta dfd.....	122	122	Do. 5% Notes.....	104	99½
Do. 6% Notes.....	103	103	Do. 6% ".....	101½	101½
Brazil Common.....	94	94	Leopoldina.....	42	39
B. A. & Pacific.....	48½	48	Mexican ord.....	20½	19½
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	54	84½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	181	183
B. A. Western.....	87	87	United of Havana.....	78½	73½
Bank of Australasia.....	107½	108	London City & Midland.....	72	72
Barclay & Co. "A".....	87½	87½	London County & West.....	14½	15½
Do. "B".....	112	112	London Joint Stock.....	192	208
Capital & Counties.....	192	208	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	222	222
Chartered of India.....	53½	54	Do. (£12 pd)	202	272
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	74½	74½	Parr's.....	292	292
Lloyds.....	218	222	Standard of S.A.....	102	102
London & Provincial.....	14½	14½	Union & Smiths.....	22½	22½
London & S.W.....	108	108	Forestal Land.....	41/9	44/
Apollinaris ord.....	2	1½	Furness, Withy.....	37/	32/
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34/	34/	Hudson's Bay.....	62	61½
Associated Cement.....	37½	37	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½
Birmingham Small Arms	38½	38½	Do. dfd. "A".....	35/6	35/
Borax dfd.....	23/6	24/	Kynochs.....	28/6	28/6
Bovril.....	19/3	20/	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20/6	21/
Brazil Traction.....	57½	58½	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	64/	64/	Marconi.....	1½	1½
Brown (John), & Co.....	27/	27/	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	23/9	24/
Brunner, Mond.....	38½	38½	Mond Nickel ord.....	3½	3½
Cammell-Laird.....	41½	41½	National Steam Car.....	10/	10/
Castner-Kellner.....	60/6	62/	Pears, A. & F.....	1½	1½
Coats.....	5	5	P. & O. dfd.....	280	290
Cunard.....	61/	61/	Royal Mail.....	91½	91
Dennis Bros.....	29/9	30/	South Durham Steel.....	29/	28/
Dorman, Long.....	24/	24/6	Underground Inc. Bds.....	7½	75
Eastmans.....	6/9	6/9	Vickers.....	32/9	32/9
English Sewing Cotton.....	32/6	34/3	Mexican Eagle pf.....	1½	1½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	24/9	24/9	North Caucasian.....	25/	29/
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	6/9	5/9	Roumanian Cons.....	12/3	12/6
Baku (ros.).....	2/7½	2/6	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	47	46½
Burmah.....	3½	4½	Shell.....	4½	4½
Lobitos.....	28/	28/	Spies (10/-).....	13/	13/
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3/3	3/3	Ural Caspian.....	1½	1½
Maikop Pipeline.....	4/9	4/9	Linggi.....	16/12	18/6
Mexican Eagle.....	1½	1½	London Asiatic.....	6/	7/
Anglo-Malay.....	9/6	10/7½	Malacca.....	4½	4½
Batu Caves.....	11½	12	Malayalam.....	22/	22/6
Bukit Mertajam.....	2/10½	2/10½	R. M. M. ....	4/4½	4/9
Bukit Sembawang.....	2/7½	2/9	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.)	10/3	11/6
Damansara.....	3	3½	United Serdang.....	9/6	10/4½
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Vallambrosa.....	13/9	16/
Highlands.....	2½	2½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.)	11½	11½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	15/	16/3	East Rand.....	1½	1½
Abbottiakoon (1c/-).....	7/6	7/6	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15/	15/6
Brakpan.....	3½	3½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	44/6	44/6	Modder "B".....	5½	5½
Cam & Motor.....	13/6	13/9	Do. Deep.....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12).....	68	68	New M. dder (£4).....	15½	15½
Chartered.....	11/	10/	Rand Mines (5/-).....	4½	4½
City Deep.....	3½	3½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	54½	57½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½	2½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½			
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½			

Union of London and Smiths were ¾ and ¾ up. National Discount and Union Discount were also harder. Bank of Australasia, Canadian Bank of Commerce, and Chartered of India improved, and the South American banks were again higher. In the Shipping section the most prominent incident was the jump in International Mercantile and Marine issues on a renewal of the discussion as to the possibility of the reorganisation scheme being withdrawn, but a sharp reaction followed in sympathy with other American things. P. and O. deferred touched 292, and Cunard were firm, but Royal Mail fell to 91, closing, however, steady at that figure. Brazilian Traction improved to 58½, but fell back a little on the decline in the Rio exchange. Amongst Motor shares, Sunbeams, Straker-Squire, and Darraqs were a share harder. Hudson's Bay shares were inclined

to be easier, but recovered to 6½, and were firm at that figure on the belief that the company is doing well with its furs. Forestal Land shares still attract attention, and a little buying of British North Borneo put the price up to 22s. 6d. Canadian Car and Foundry issues have fluctuated widely, and finish with a gain of 2 in the common, and a loss of 4 in the preferred.

The fluctuations in Dominion Steel and Steel of Canada left prices unchanged, but Lake Superior Corporation were lower. Shawinigan Water and Power improved on the increase in the quarterly dividend from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent. per annum. Castner-Killner shares were bought on the good report, but Borax Consolidated deferred gave way, and Associated Cement preference were also lower. Linotype "A" and "B" elements both fell 3 on the report. Otis Steel shares fell sharply on realisations, and touched 34, but recovered sharply to 42 on the statement that negotiations were proceeding in America which, if successful, would raise the value of the shares to over 100. Dorman, Long were harder on the dividend, and there was again a little buying of Thornycrofts at 24s. Lyons were not affected by the reduction of the interim dividend from 2s. 6d. to 2s., and Aerated Bread were the turn harder.

Oil shares have been quiet and irregular. Royal Dutch rose to 47½, but then relapsed to 46½ on the refusal of the Dutch Government to grant the combine the Djambi concession, and "Shell" were a trifle easier in sympathy. Eagle Transport preference again improved on a little inquiry, and Mexican Eagle preference shares and debentures were harder, and there was also some demand for Burmah and Lobitos. The outstanding incident, however, was a jump in Venezuelan Concessions to 1½ on the confirmation of the report of an arrangement with the Shell Co. for the development of the property. Rubber shares opened good on the firmness of the market for the commodity, but the improvement brought out a little profit-taking, and prices eased off. The decline, however, did not go far, as there were plenty of buyers, and on the further advance in the value of rubber to 3s. a rapid recovery set in. Anglo-Sumatra and Castlefield were both helped by their reports, and good business was also done in Kamuning, Merlimau, Bukit Sembawang, Klian-Kellas, and United Temiang. Linggis fluctuated pretty widely, and after touching 20s. 3d., dropped to 18s., while Anglo-Malay, Sialang, Vallambrosa, United Serdang, Anglo-Java, and Johore Rubber Lands, in all of which a good business was done, failed to maintain top prices.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—Fair general trading ensued in this market during the week, all descriptions, apart from cubes, being well sought after, and no material alteration occurred in prices. American granulated, spot, sold at 32s. 6d., Dutch granulated, lying in Boston and Goole, 32s. 6d., and white Java, both in London and outports, at 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d. Of grocery crystallised, West India, Trinidad sold 3rs.; Antigua, 30s. 6d. to 30s. 9d.; Demerara, 30s. 9d., and Jamaica, 31s. 3d., with low mid grey at 29s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—There was a moderate clearance in spot goods during the week, and all desirable home-trade qualities realised steady prices. Export descriptions, however, moved off rather quietly. In the term market business was kept down, but rates have improved on the week.

**COCA.**—In good demand, and rates in auctions for nearly all kinds were from 1s. to 2s. over private values—or, in other words, 2s. to 4s. above those current at the public sales a fortnight ago. Caraquez sold, 89s. to 90s.; Trinidad, 95s.; Jamaica, 88s. to 93s.; and Bahia, 85s. to 86s. 6d.

**SPICE.**—Most articles are firm though rather quiet, sellers' hands being stiffened by the stringency of freights in forward positions. Actual business in pepper was confined to a narrow compass.

**RICE.**—Active trading ensued on the spot, as sellers in forward positions mostly retired, owing to the exceptional situation governing the freight market. Quite a clearance resulted in No. 1 garden Siam, on spot, at 13s. 9d. to 14s. 4½d.; and No. 1 C. Siam broken, afloat, steamer, at 10s. 6d., c.f. and i., London. Beans steady, quiet.

**FIBRES.**—After being quiet and easier the market for hemp ruled steadier. Coarse, September-November, sold, £32 10s.; ditto, January-March, £32 5s. to £33; and brown, January-March, £30 10s. Jute firm, quiet, with few sellers in forward positions, as there is so much difficulty in securing freightage. Native firsts, October-November, sold, £25 10s.; and spot at £26 10s. for good marks.

**SHELLAC.**—Market dearer. T.N., December, sold, 73s. 6d. to 75s., and 74s. 6d.; and March, 76s., 78s., and 77s. 6d.

**RUBBER** eased at first, but became dearer. Plantation spot crêpe, sold, 2s. 9d. to 2s. 8½d. and 2s. 10½d.; ribbed smoked sheet, 2s. 9½d. to 2s. 10½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 2s. 8½d. to 2s. 8½d.

**COPRA.**—With no abatement in demand, prices continue to rise, while demand for margarine still increases, as prices for butter are kept at a more or less prohibitive level.

**TEA.**—Indian sales this week were again irregular, common and low medium grades being in slow request at a further decline of ½d. to ¾d. per lb., but medium to fine sorts were in fair request at generally steady rates. Ceylon auctions met with good competition for good medium to fine sorts, which realised full prices, but common and low medium descriptions met a slow sale at occasionally easier prices. Java offerings passed off with a quiet demand at generally easier prices.

**FRUIT.**—At public sale new crop Valencia raisins met a slow demand at 3s. to 4s. decline. Half boxes sold 62s. to 69s., quarters, 70s. to 79s.; and eighths, 76s. to 77s. Muscatels ruled steady for common to medium, but the better qualities ruled in



buyers' favour. Common to good realised 65s. to 90s., and fine to extra choice 120s. to 122s. 6d. Cretan 55s. Privately currants were in quiet demand at generally late rates. Provincials and Pyrgos 39s. to 40s., and Vostizza 46s. to 53s. Sultanias fully steady. Smyrna, common to fine, 85s. to 105s.; and Greek, 102s. 6d. to 115s. Figs quiet. Calamata, 43s. to 44s.

Wool.—Public sales were continued this week, and passed off with a good demand, especially for all desirable qualities, which realised fully steady prices.

TALLOW remained very firm. At public sale, 1,358 casks were brought forward, and all sold, prices being 4s. to 5s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 49s.; fair to good, 47s. to 48s.; dark to dull, 44s. to 45s. 6d.; hard, 46s. 9d. Beef: fine, 48s.; fair to good, 46s. 9d. to 47s. 3d.; dark to dull, 44s. 6d. to 46s. 6d.;

#### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES. WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 19, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt. duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb. Australian	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Scoured Merino	1 2 8	1 6 2
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Cr'sabr'd	1 3 2	1 2 1
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Greasy Merino	0 8 1	0 6 1
Lyle's granulated	32 3—32 9	32 3—32 9	Greasy Crossbred	0 6 1	0 7 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 2 3	1 10 1
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 1 3	0 1 6
French Cubes prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1 7 1	1 6 2
Crystallised, West India	26 3—31 6	28 3—31 6	<b>Indian rubber</b> p. lb. Plantation, Spot	0 2 9	0 3 0
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 9	0 3 0
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1/ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton. Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 7 1	0 7 1	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 8 1	0 8 1	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 8 1	0 8 1	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1	0 9 1	Steamers, best	19 6—20 0	19 6—20 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 7 1	0 7 1	Seconds	16 6—17 0	16 6—17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8 1	0 8 1	<b>Lead</b> —per ton. English Pig	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 9 1	0 9 1	Foreign soft	26 15 0	26 10 0
Orange	0 8 1	0 8 1	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£ 16 8	£ 16 8
Broken	0 10 1	0 9 1	<b>Tin</b> —per ton. English Ingots	171—172	170 1/2—171 1/2
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 0	0 7 0	Do, bars	172—173	171 1/2—172 1/2
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt. duty 1 1/2, per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard cash	£ 172 5 0	£ 172 5 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	85 0—93 0	90 0—96 0	Tin Plates, per box	20 0—20 3	20 6—20 9
Grenada	80 0—88 0	83 0—92 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton. English, Tough	£ 91—£ 92	£ 95—£ 96
West Africa	nom.	nom.	per ton	£ 91—£ 92	£ 95—£ 96
Ceylon Plantation	77 0—90 0	78 0—92 0	Best Selected	£ 91—£ 92	£ 95—£ 96
Guayaquil Arriba	90 0—92 0	94 0—98 0	Sheets	£ 107	£ 112
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt. duty 2 1/2, per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard	£ 77 10 0	£ 81 5 0
East India	56 0—94 0	56 0—94 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton. Native firsts for sh'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£ 25 12 6	£ 25 5 0
Jamaica	40 6—120 6	40 6—120 6	<b>Oils</b> —per ton. Linseed, per ton.	£ 32 1/2—£ 33 1/2	£ 33—£ 33 1/2
Costa Rica	55 0—82 0	53 0—79 0	Rape, ref. English, casks	£ 41—£ 42	£ 41—£ 42
<b>Provisions</b> —			Brown English, naked	£ 39	£ 39
Butter, per cwt. Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 34	£ 33 1/2—£ 34
Irish Creameries	150/—158/	152/—162/	Ditto, refined	£ 35—£ 41	£ 35 1/2—£ 41
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9d.	9d.
Russian finest	124/—130/	124/—132/	Water White	10d.	10d.
Normandy baskets	112/—152/	116/—154/	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Danish finest	170/—171/	176/—180/	Calcutta—per 40 lbs.	3 5 6	3 6 6
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	14 6—17 0	15 0—17 6	Nov.-Dec.	3 5 0	3 5 6
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt. Irish	98 0—105 0	98 0—105 0	<b>Iron</b> —per ton. Cleveland Cash	3 8 8	3 10 2
Continental	96 0—105 0	94 0—105 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured	5/6 to 6/2 1/2 per lb.	—
Canadian	84 0—95 0	84 0—93 0	Maryland & Ohio	per lb. bond	0 6—0 10
American	77 0—89 0	78 0—90 0	Virginia leaf	0 5 1	0 5 1 1/2
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt. Irish	130/—144/	128/—134/	Kentucky leaf	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Canadian	100 0	100/—102/	Latakia	0 4 1	0 4 1 1/2
American	57 0—96 0	51 0—98 0	Havana	1 0—6 0	1 0—6 0
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt. Edam	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
Canadian	86 0—89 0	87 0—90 0	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Gouda	nom.	nom.	<b>Timber</b> —Wood. Dantsig and	—	—
English Cheddar	90 0—100 0	90 0—100 0	Memel Fir, per load	130/—150/	130/—150/
Wiltshire	nom.	nom.	Indian Teak	280/—600/	280/—600/
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	<b>Flour</b> —per sack. Town households, official	47/	47/
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt. Garden seam	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	American, 1st patents	45/6	45/6—48/
spot	13 6—13 9	13 6	<b>Turpentine</b> —American Spot	2 4 3	2 3 10 1/2
Rangoon 2 stars	14 3	14 9—15 0	<b>Spelter</b> —G.O.B. as to position	£ 90—£ 84	£ 94—£ 83
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120. Dutch	23 0—26 0	14 0—30 0			
Russian	11 0—13 6	12 6—15 0			
Danish	22 0—24 6	24 0—26 0			
<b>Copra</b> —Malabar, London Nov.-Dec.	30 10 0	31 12 6			
Ceylon, London Nov.-Dec.	30 10 0	31 5 0			
South Sea	28 5 0	29 0 0			
F.M.S. Straits	29 0 0	30 10 0			

sweet, 48s. 6d. Market letter 2s. dearer for tallow and 9d. up for stuff. Town tallow, 42s. 6d.; melted stuff, 29s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 10 1/2d. per 8 lb.

METALS.—Copper: In sympathy with optimistic American advices, sellers in the speculative market manifested greater reserve at intervals during the early part of the week, and prices advanced last Monday, chiefly for forward positions, spot standard showing a small premium, cash delivery reaching £78 10s. and three months £78 5s. The tendency further strengthened at first on Tuesday, but realisations and freer forward offerings set in, while values of these dates settled down at £78 12s. 6d. and £78 10s. respectively. Rates advanced on Wednesday, and a good deal of "bear" covering prevailed, but

prices were rather below the best, cash closing at £79 15s. and three months £79 5s. Thursday's final rates were £79 15s. and £79 10s. respectively. Electros, £94 to £95. Tin: Market active, irregular, at a sharp advance last Monday, while influenced by buying in New York, standard cash reaching £166 15s. and three months £165 5s. A rapid relapse set in on the following day, when values of these positions fell back to £172 5s. and £171 5s., improving again during the middle of the week, while sellers exercised reserve, cash fluctuating to £174 5s. and three months to £173. Prices again reacted at Thursday's session on selling desire and less reserve of sellers, while cash closed at £173 5s. and three months £172 5s. Lead firmer. Soft foreign, £27 10s. to £26 5s., according to position. Spelter dearer. G.O.B., November, £92; December, £82. Iron stronger.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Except in a few instances, quotations were maintained since last Monday, the tendency being still influenced by small supplies, spot or near, and enhanced freights. The volume of business was of moderate dimensions. Wheat (English): Both whites and reds range at 54s. 6d. to 59s. 6d. per qr. (504 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 61s. 3d.; ditto, due in a week, 60s., both ex ship. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents held for 45s. to 47s. 6d., landed terms, according to quality. Grinding barley: Plate, 40s. 6d. ex ship, 41s. 6d. ex quay. Maize: Plate (sound), 38s. ex ship, 39s. ex quay. Oats: Plate, 32s. to 33s., landed, according to sample.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market throughout the past week has presented a stiff appearance, and all along the line buyers have had to pay full rates for anything wanted. Numerous difficulties are encountered by manufacturers and merchants, and the shortage of labour in certain quarters causes much trouble. Comparatively small fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton rates, and on the week not much alteration in price shows itself. Certain arrangements have now been made by the Board of Trade to place particular grades of cotton operatives amongst the reserve occupations, and such workpeople will only be allowed to enlist in the Army on condition that they return to their employment. Manufacturers of piece goods have met with a disappointing demand, and in very few instances have buyers and sellers been able to get to close quarters for lots of any weight. Bids for India have been on a low basis, especially in shirtings, but some producers want work to go on with, and occasionally accept wretched rates. There is less activity in light fabrics for our Dependency than a few weeks ago. A few attempts have been made at operations for China, but our customers abroad are in no mood to purchase freely on the present basis of prices. There is not much to be said as to the business coming round for the minor outlets, but on the whole South America continues to give more support than the Near East. In home trade circles the tone is a little quieter. Some houses are making preparations for stocktaking. Considerable delay is being experienced in getting goods packed and despatched by the railway companies. American yarns for home use have been well held in price, and now and again special rates have been paid for prompt delivery in favourite marks, which are known to be scarce. Perhaps, on the whole, the total sales are rather smaller than last week. A fairly healthy demand continues to be experienced in yarns suitable for shipment to India and to the Continent. Bolton spinnings remain firm, and without being able to record any big buying a moderate turnover has transpired.

The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened an agency at 6, Wall Street, New York.

Nett earnings of the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., including those of the Rand Mines Power Supply, for quarter ended September 30, £184,798.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., have made arrangements to open an agency every Friday at Bordon Camp, Hampshire, in order to provide banking facilities for the officers and men of the South African Contingent, the major part of which is at present in camp at Bordon.

#### IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4 1/2 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1910 FOR £11,000,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st December, 1915, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

15th November, 1915.

#### INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, LIMITED, FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £2,000,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st December, 1915, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

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For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

15th November, 1915.



## RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	October. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Ahoeyne Clyde..	289,064	37,546	+ 7,381	4	132,507	+ 7,548
Allagar ..	260,000	25,000	+ 4,500	10	218,000	—
Alliance ..	—	19,785	+ 4,851	10	116,981	+ 15,090
Anglo-Java ..	800,000	59,900	+ 56,910	10	556,040	+ 512,730
Anglo-Johore ..	240,000	22,548	+ 10,235	7	138,267	—
Anglo-Malay ..	1,430,000	151,505	+ 41,231	10	227,287	+ 100,442
Anglo-Sumatra ..	830,000	66,622	+ 6,866	5	328,627	+ 44,077
Asahan ..	—	20,468	+ 11,196	3	52,265	+ 28,030
Assoc. Ceylon..	210,000	18,130	+ 4,162	4	62,084	+ 14,466
Ayer Kuning ..	362,000	48,000	+ 25,536	10	327,525	+ 153,186
Bagan Seria ..	235,000	27,250	—	01	213,333	—
Bagoe Kidoel ..	110,000	13,000	+ 10,915	7	73,594	+ 43,167
Bakap ..	340,000	26,738	+ 2,834	4	113,189	+ 18,826
Bambrakelly ..	210,000	21,430	+ 4,860	7	134,035	+ 41,208
Batang ..	246,000	28,200	+ 8,955	6	131,670	+ 20,240
Batak Rabit ..	275,000	21,400	—	4	77,924	—
Batang Malaka ..	205,000	20,588	+ 6,988	10	167,316	—
Batu Caves ..	570,000	55,094	+ 1,294	10	501,300	+ 54,909
Matang ..	125,000	11,623	—	4	46,050	—
Rata ..	325,000	33,000	+ 11,762	—	114,040	+ 36,870
Tiga ..	550,000	62,000	+ 16,524	10	540,315	+ 149,672
Bekoh ..	318,500	25,526	+ 6,545	4	97,661	—
Bentora ..	—	13,995	+ 4,588	10	132,205	+ 49,602
Beranang ..	220,000	17,544	—	4	64,353	+ 27,171
Bidor ..	331,000	33,000	+ 11,556	4	210,000	+ 64,526
Bikam ..	300,000	26,110	+ 7,010	7	223,227	+ 25,742
Bradwall ..	267,200	40,119	+ 22,121	10	235,456	+ 65,660
Braunston ..	300,000	30,500	+ 8,275	10	30,500	+ 8,275
British Borneo Para..	—	21,500	+ 2,330	1	117,000	+ 12,747
British Malay ..	30,000	9,000	—	6	21,300	—
Brooklands ..	370,000	31,673	—	3	115,622	+ 67,400
Broome ..	262,000	21,520	+ 8,055	4	79,877	+ 29,892
Bujong ..	121,600	14,400	+ 3,366	—	—	—
Bukit Cioh ..	235,000	23,500	—	10	215,500	+ 45,500
Ijok ..	240,000	27,000	+ 7,000	10	188,000	+ 39,500
Kajang ..	675,000	63,160	+ 5,824	4	243,160	+ 63,428
Lintang ..	310,000	25,000	—	4	95,330	+ 11,149
Mertajam ..	552,000	52,801	+ 22,373	7	321,012	+ 113,969
Panjong ..	343,000	42,000	+ 17,500	10	304,760	+ 108,656
Rajah ..	705,000	71,661	—	7	412,739	+ 52,090
Selangor ..	80,000	9,040	—	7	49,912	+ 12,306
Sembawang ..	775,000	50,000	+ 18,500	10	426,800	—
Carey United ..	254,000	19,317	+ 2,683	1	19,317	+ 2,683
Castlefield ..	473,000	42,550	+ 6,138	4	166,083	+ 28,418
Cent. Travancore ..	—	29,330	+ 9,830	10	131,785	+ 36,285
Ceylon Para ..	—	89,122	+ 19,440	10	530,672	+ 90,103
Chembong Malay ..	300,000	36,380	—	10	270,000	+ 122,368
Ceylon T. & R. ..	—	22,000	+ 4,355	9	177,676	+ 17,841
Cheras ..	90,000	10,200	+ 6,200	10	71,100	+ 44,200
Chersonese ..	620,100	66,341	+ 14,672	10	529,141	+ 100,850
Cheviot ..	220,000	26,050	+ 8,950	10	205,650	+ 42,584
Chimpul ..	150,000	14,597	—	7	77,166	—
Chota ..	149,250	116,340	+ 7,980	10	124,820	+ 33,726
Cicely ..	340,000	32,110	+ 6,623	7	186,794	+ 13,662
Cluny ..	180,000	16,310	+ 2,383	10	146,462	+ 23,460
Consolidated Malay..	—	18,938	+ 5,393	10	134,450	+ 33,466
Dalkeith ..	358,000	33,000	+ 10,550	10	238,303	+ 85,973
Damansara ..	620,000	62,000	+ 19,163	10	509,854	+ 38,947
Dangan ..	178,000	17,702	—	4	60,866	—
Dannistoun ..	455,000	51,684	+ 18,682	10	406,249	+ 135,107
Donigalla ..	—	16,522	+ 6,413	10	109,860	+ 32,278
Dorankanda ..	660,000	73,500	+ 18,297	10	569,488	+ 105,922
Duff Develop ..	254,100	44,000	+ 18,000	10	328,000	+ 113,050
Dijasina ..	—	10,000	+ 3,650	4	39,544	+ 13,996
Dusun Durian ..	411,000	37,316	+ 10,750	10	304,024	+ 83,306
E. India & Ceylon ..	—	15,670	+ 3,878	11	139,915	+ 44,469
Edinburgh ..	280,000	30,000	+ 7,872	10	242,500	+ 40,101
Elphel ..	140,000	12,374	+ 11,115	10	91,870	—
Emerald ..	178,300	22,500	—	9	155,400	—
Eow Seng ..	140,000	12,840	+ 1,273	10	122,835	+ 39,937
Escot ..	116,000	16,000	+ 8,900	1	16,000	+ 8,900
Fed. Malay St. ..	1,400,000	136,000	+ 18,739	5	618,532	+ 90,672
Fed. (Selangor)..	315,000	31,253	+ 6,432	7	184,703	+ 45,326
Galaba ..	—	11,228	+ 3,555	10	76,210	+ 24,968
Galang Besar ..	400,000	35,180	+ 6,680	4	129,080	+ 8,260
Gan Kee ..	104,000	11,430	+ 4,330	4	43,996	+ 17,746
Garing ..	117,000	13,250	+ 3,520	1	13,250	+ 3,520
Gedong ..	93,000	13,744	+ 4,940	12	114,796	—
General Ceylon ..	740,000	76,520	+ 18,752	10	566,721	+ 110,059
Glenshiel ..	300,000	21,200	+ 5,090	10	175,700	+ 5,816
Golconda ..	445,000	43,772	+ 5,109	10	344,967	+ 35,068
Golden Hope ..	178,000	17,962	+ 25	10	162,031	+ 27,564
Grand Central ..	3,000,000	405,687	+ 121,810	10	2,676,027	+ 679,380
Gula Kalumpung ..	1,015,000	107,437	+ 28,155	10	833,467	+ 159,040
Harpenden ..	450,000	37,500	—	203	331,385	+ 33,115
Heawood ..	133,600	13,900	—	10	175,700	+ 18,007
Henrietta ..	300,000	28,000	—	10	411,100	+ 105,500
Hewagam ..	—	66,500	+ 17,800	10	411,100	+ 105,500
Hidden Streams ..	150,000	18,500	+ 5,287	10	134,500	+ 10,819
Higoda ..	100,000	13,900	+ 1,832	10	64,461	+ 13,131
Highlands ..	1,240,000	116,105	+ 15,476	10	958,827	+ 35,186
Inch-Kenneth ..	300,000	22,450	+ 850	5	108,500	+ 2,800
Insulinde ..	112,000	11,900	+ 1,832	4	48,150	+ 9,152
Jasin ..	—	13,054	—	10	101,142	—
Java Para ..	120,000	12,190	+ 6,941	10	147,173	+ 90,114
Jeram ..	194,000	21,541	—	7	125,807	—
Johore Para ..	—	12,700	—	10	127,364	+ 1,2051
Rubber Lands ..	400,000	49,298	+ 28,700	10	323,532	+ 137,195
Jong Landor ..	480,000	43,435	+ 15,133	4	161,652	+ 15,333
Jugra Estate ..	300,000	29,805	+ 5,570	7	178,260	+ 12,051
Jugra Land ..	739,590	87,979	+ 39,460	6	370,312	+ 143,098
Kajang ..	96,000	10,150	—	10	70,450	+ 27,350
Kali Glagah ..	—	7,200	+ 7,200	7	59,331	+ 30,004
Kampung Kuantan ..	320,000	30,000	—	10	262,000	+ 24,669
Kamuning ..	690,000	67,680	+ 16,770	4	259,530	+ 84,830
Kapar Para ..	640,000	54,244	+ 2,981	10	424,319	+ 94,230
Kawie Java ..	300,000	22,200	+ 22,000	7	183,992	+ 126,243
Karak ..	130,000	14,752	+ 6,056	10	111,912	+ 43,033
Kepitigalla ..	513,000	52,883	—	7	297,893	+ 60,626
Kepong ..	270,000	23,500	+ 1,500	10	218,000	+ 32,750
Kerale ..	135,000	19,227	+ 8,555	7	99,392	+ 48,857
Khota Tampan ..	157,000	15,700	—	9	110,600	—
Killinghall ..	74,525	7,452	+ 9,435	4	74,322	+ 37,089
Kinta Kellas ..	315,000	31,100	+ 14,100	7	169,800	+ 64,400
Klabang ..	175,000	16,391	+ 4,171	10	137,919	+ 25,120
Klanang ..	440,000	53,496	+ 10,496	10	366,143	+ 81,546
Kombok ..	302,000	43,440	+ 17,930	10	275,249	+ 83,680
Kuala Klang ..	120,000	16,793	+ 2,499	1	16,793	+ 2,499
Kubu ..	120,000	11,019	+ 3,819	4	38,950	+ 12,456
Lumpur ..	1,575,000	124,425	+ 18,326	4	495,375	+ 74,873
Nal ..	115,000	11,870	—	10	97,664	+ 44,640
Selangor ..	580,000	57,002	+ 5,012	10	455,807	+ 15,986
Kutau ..	280,000	27,400	—	10	228,998	—
Labu ..	475,000	58,500	+ 19,750	10	415,190	+ 82,160
Lanadron ..	1,400,000	117,574	+ 262	10	1,050,665	+ 44,961
Langat River ..	—	21,220	+ 2,797	10	168,573	+ 44,380
Langen, Java ..	—	55,000	+ 23,300	2	90,000	+ 37,500
Langkat Sumatra ..	360,000	41,953	—	10	324,000	+ 62,276
Ledbury ..	516,000	53,119	+ 12,491	10	439,222	+ 80,521
Lendu ..	160,000	16,307	+ 6,418	7	89,694	+ 31,525
Linggi ..	1,500,000	126,160	+ 35,600	10	1,195,115	+ 128,500
Lochnagar ..	80,000	13,401	+ 6,075	10	74,641	+ 12,879
London Asiatic ..	1,240,000	116,554	+ 8,924	10	1,014,955	+ 112,970
Lumut ..	650,000	74,805	+ 25,869	1	74,805	+ 25,869
Majedie ..	100,000	9,641	+ 2,197	4	37,707	+ 11,609
Mahawale ..	—	30,198	+ 8,500	10	194,353	+ 73,805
Malacca ..	3,700,000	309,300	+ 23,800	10	2,832,600	+ 229,512
Malayalam ..	—	114,154	+ 33,008	10	504,090	+ 128,181
Malaysia ..	275,000	27,706	+ 9,818	10	209,346	—
Mergui Crown ..	—	35,500	+ 10,827	7	187,500	+ 5,266
Merluinau ..	1,150,000	105,269	+ 15,754	10	892,013	+ 255,281
Moopy Valley ..	12,600,000	36,593	+ 18,493	10	107,684	+ 39,472
Mount Austin ..	920,000	87,000	+ 29,157	7	585,439	+ 183,046
Nagolle ..	—	49,444	+ 11,928	10	322,345	+ 40,900
Nartorough ..	—	14,100	—	4	47,640	—
New Columbia ..	300,000	26,836	—	10	233,192	—
New Crocodile River..	445,000	36,972	+ 8,437	10	283,789	+ 57,007
Nordanal ..	600,000	46,000	—	722	500,849	+ 27,066
North Hummock ..	445,000	43,626	+ 10,537	4	162,143	+ 53,700
Oriental ..	450,000	60,000	+ 26,842	10	478,993	+ 208,154
Padang Java ..	165,900	18,955	+ 5,857	7	107,781	+ 26,475
Panawatte ..	—	58,181	+ 11,545	10	373,871	+ 60,936
Pataing ..	540,000	50,460	+ 3,076	10	460,681	+ 17,441
Pantiya ..	165,000	15,555	+ 2,931	10	126,574	+ 28,462
Peoh ..	—	53,423	—	1	53,423	—
Pamabe ..	—	25,200	+ 7,466	10	167,431	+ 42,900
Perak ..	460,000	45,503	+ 9,428	7	278,720	+ 42,541
Perladulla ..	—	53,160	+ 2,374	10	416,072	+ 75,307
Permas ..	—	24,660	+ 9,500</			



### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Since the outbreak of the war and the consequent restriction on Stock Exchange dealings, there has been nothing quite similar to the sudden outburst of activity in the Rubber market which has been experienced during the past week or two. It is always somewhat difficult to account satisfactorily for these waves of speculation, which appear to have really more of a family resemblance to epidemics, and we are not sure that it is possible to get at the true psychology of the recent movement. Certain facts, however, are obvious. Not long ago the price of standard rubber was 2s. 3d., and it gradually recovered to 2s. 5½d. It remained in that neighbourhood for some time, and then worked steadily up to 3s. per lb. This advance is mainly due to shipping difficulties and the rise in freights, insurance, &c., rather than to increased consumption, or to any shortage in supplies except of a purely temporary character. The production of plantation rubber is, indeed, rapidly increasing, and at the same time working costs in the majority of cases are being steadily reduced. Plantation companies are therefore in an extremely favourable position to make additional profits, and although the tax collector proposes to annex half the difference, there would still be a substantial margin for raising dividends which are already sufficiently handsome from the older, moderately-capitalised estates. The price of rubber will, of course, continue to fluctuate, but there is no reason to anticipate a serious break so long as the war, with its enormous wastage, lasts, and as the material is constantly being put to new uses, the industry may be regarded as established on a sound basis for some considerable time to come. Add to these considerations the facts that the share market had stagnated ever since business could only be done on a cash basis, that many people are on the outlook for high-yielding investments to mix with gilt-edged securities, and that the floating supply of stock is comparatively small owing to the elimination of speculative accounts, and it is easy to see why prices should have advanced, even if the sudden rush of buyers is not fully explained. Already there has been a reaction on profit-taking and on sales by holders glad to take advantage of the improvement, but it is quite probable that the boomlet may last some time longer. All the same, the position calls for care and prudence on the part of investors. War prices will not last indefinitely, and rubber will not, any more than other commodities, be exempt from the operation of economic laws. In some respects, indeed, the industry is especially vulnerable, as it has been demonstrated that there are huge areas in the Middle East suitable for rubber cultivation, and the promise of a gross profit of 100 to 200 per cent. is exceedingly tempting. Investors therefore should only buy at a price which leaves an ample margin for the reduction in profits which is inevitable sooner or later. The talk of "even 4s. per lb." as a "not unreasonable" price for standard rubber is sheer lunacy.

The policy adopted by the Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate of thinning out the overcrowded areas and of temporarily resting some of the older trees, last year has been fully justified by the results obtained in the 12 months ended June 30. A crop of 420,000 lbs. had been expected, and the actual output amounted to 416,234 lbs., or 157,457 lbs. more than for the previous year. An average price of 2s. 1.47d. was obtained, and although no mention is made of the cost per lb., the figure was evidently a very satisfactory one, as nett profits showed an increase of £10,207 at £26,651. With £5,332 brought forward, the available total is £31,983, and, in addition to raising the dividend from 20 per cent. to 45, the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £5,000, leaving the balance carried forward £2,121 up at £7,453. During the year a further 105 acres were planted, bringing the total under rubber up to 2,158 acres, and the cost was increased by £5,060 to £62,003, while £2,241 was spent on water supply and drainage, making a total of £2,956. On the other hand, £2,276 was received on capital account, raising the total to £13,020, and in addition the share premium

account was increased by £3,414 to £15,008. Rubber in hand is valued at £14,180, or £6,655 more, debtors have risen by £3,102 to £8,319, and cash is £1,973 up at £9,895, while current liabilities have been reduced by £2,860 to £6,410. For the current year the crop is estimated at 473,000 lbs., and of this 166,083 lbs. were obtained in the four months ended October 31.

A very satisfactory report is issued by the Anglo-Sumatra Rubber Co. for the year ended May 31. The crop was 220,432 lbs. larger at 753,975 lbs., this figure being no less than 154,000 lbs. above the estimate, and the "all-in" cost, exclusive of war risk, was reduced by a further 3½d. to 11½d. The average gross price was 5.065d. lower at 2s. 2d., but the nett profits, including £7,646 brought forward, were £19,202 up at £50,848. Out of this the dividend is raised from 30 per cent. to 40, £4,000 is transferred to reserve, as against nothing a year ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £7,492 to £15,973. As this company charges to revenue the upkeep of the whole planted area, whether productive or unproductive, as well as all administration charges, property account shows practically no change. Stocks of rubber are £15,483 up at £24,567, and cash has risen by £11,486 to £121,039, while debtors have been reduced by £4,788 to £268, and current liabilities have only risen by £538 to £6,725. The estimate for the current year is 830,000 lbs.

While the crop of tea from the Ceylon Land and Produce Co.'s own estate for the year ended June 30 showed a small increase of 26,997 lbs. at 1,158,903 lbs., the quantities made from bought leaf and for others were 148,089 lbs. and 19,256 lbs. respectively, so that the aggregate output was 140,348 lbs. smaller at 1,593,481 lbs. The nett price obtained, however, exceeded that of the previous year by 1.41d. at 8.87d., and was the highest obtained since 1890-1. Rubber yielded 29,893 lbs. more at 219,679 lbs., but an increase of 0.27d. in the gross rubber yielded 29,893 lbs. more at 219,679 lbs., but an increase of 0.27d. in the gross price was offset by a like advance in freight and selling charges, and the nett price again came out at 2s. 0.74d. Nett profits, including £6,561 brought in, were £8,579 up at £32,210, and in addition to restoring the 10 per cent. knocked off the dividend on the ordinary shares last year, a bonus of 5 per cent. is paid, making a total distribution of 30 per cent., as against 15 per cent. Reserve then gets £3,000, or half last year's amount, raising the total to £69,000, and £13,010, or £5,248 more, is carried forward. Property account is £3,696 higher at £194,192, produce in hand is £7,387 up at £24,824, and debtors owe £1,700 more at £12,470, while creditors, including the debenture debt of £17,710 and deposits of £7,287, are £2,163 up at £7,586. The crops for the current year are estimated at 1,140,000 lbs. tea, 2,100 cwts. cocoa, and 265,000 lbs. rubber.

**MONERAKELLE RUBBER.**—An increase of 26,615 lbs. to 142,584 lbs. in the crop for the year ended June 30 was accompanied by a reduction of 2½d. to 1s. 1½d. in the f.o.b. cost, while the nett price was only ½d. down at 2s. 1d. Including £2,723 brought forward, the nett profits were £2,572 better at £8,941, out of which £2,500, or £1,000 more, is transferred to reserve for development, and the dividend is increased from 7 per cent. to 10 per cent., leaving £2,998 to be carried forward. During the year a further £4,641 was received on capital account, making the total paid up £34,341, and current liabilities were reduced by £4,530 to £3,379. Expenditure on development was moderate at £916, making the total cost £38,966, produce was valued at £4,822, or £1,724 more, and the company has invested £1,963 in Treasury Bills, while its cash balances are £711 down at £2,028.

**BANDAR SUMATRA RUBBER.**—In the year ended July 31 an increase of 46,292 lbs. to 205,406 lbs. in the output of rubber was accompanied by a small drop of 1.55d. to 2s. 2.20d. in the gross price, while the coffee crop was 320 cwts. smaller at 1,650 cwts., but realised 3s. 8d. more at 42s. 9d. The costs, it is stated, show a satisfactory decrease as compared with last year, and after charging 75 per cent. of management expenses to revenue, as against 50 per cent. last time, together with the whole of the administration expenses and coolie recruiting charges, the nett profits were £1,883 up at £10,252. Of this £2,000, or double last year's amount, is written off for depreciation, and after repeating the appropriation of £2,000 to general reserve, a dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, or 1½ per



cent. more, is paid, leaving £566 to be carried forward, as against £1,382 brought in. During the year a further £7,805 was received on capital account, making the total paid up £94,237. Property account was increased by £3,983 to £76,382, but buildings and machinery were written down by £2,000 to £4,927. Produce in hand is £1,797 up at £8,428, investments have been increased by £2,795 to £6,820, exclusive of a new item of £7,854 in Treasury bills, and cash is £3,164 down at £3,405. Crops for the current year are estimated at 246,000 lbs. rubber and 1,080 coffee, and the outputs for the first quarter amounted to 66,798 lbs. rubber and 225 cwts. coffee.

**BERANANG (SELANGOR) RUBBER.**—Although the crop for the year ended June 30 was 85,139 lbs. larger at 137,977 lbs., the all-in cost was 0.42d. heavier at 1s. 7.95d., partly because of higher freight and insurance charges and partly because the cost of weeding was greater than had been expected. The price, however, was 1.60d. better at 2s. 3.13d., and profits showed an increase of £2,752 at £4,616. After providing for administration charges and debenture interest and deducting the debit of £978 brought forward, a balance of £1,865 was left, out of which £850 is written off for depreciation and £959 off preliminary expenses, leaving £56 to be carried forward. A further big increase to 220,000 lbs. is expected for the current year, and the all-in cost is estimated at 1s. 1.94d.

**LANKA PLANTATIONS CO.**—The tea crop for the 12 months ended June 30 was 50,725 lbs. smaller at 1,241,481 lbs., but the company benefited by the substantial rise in values, and the nett average price showed an increase of 1.16d. at 1.30d. An increase of 20,556 lbs. to 53,680 lbs. in the rubber crop was accompanied by a rise of about ½d. to rather over 2s. nett, while the cocoa crop was 108 cwts. up at 690 cwts. Receipts from all sources rose by £8,794 to £55,877, and the nett profit, including £2,848 more at £3,428 brought forward, was £10,673 better at £18,887. Out of this a dividend of 7½ per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, as against nothing last year and 5 per cent. for 1912-13, and £2,500 is again transferred to reserve, leaving £5,455, or £2,032 more, to be carried forward. Stocks of produce are £11,230 larger at £22,647, and debtors owe £578 more at £5,295, but cash has been reduced by £6,493 to £3,119, while £9,741 less at £17,969 is due to sundry creditors and on bills payable.

**CEYLON AND INDIAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.**—In the year ended June 30 this company did exceedingly well with both tea and rubber, but its profits from cardamoms and plumbago fell off. Altogether, however, the nett profit showed an improvement of £5,627 at £14,837, and as £517 more at £7,396 was brought forward, the total available was £6,144 up at £22,233. After providing rather more for depreciation and transferring £2,000, or double last year's appropriation, to reserve, the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 13 per cent. to 20 per cent., leaving £7,902 to be carried forward.

**CENTRAL PROVINCE CEYLON TEA.**—The tea crop from this company's own estates in the year ended June 30 only showed a small increase of 10,797 lbs. at 966,801 lbs., but the total sales, including bought leaf, amounted to 1,323,468 lbs., and realised 1.145d. more at 8.38d. An increase of 276½ cwts. to 986¾ cwts. in the cocoa crop was accompanied by a rise of 2s. 8d. to 62s. 1d. in the price, while rubber yielded 30,387 lbs. more at 85,809 lbs., and the nett price rose by ¼d. to 1s. 11½d. Nett profits from all sources were £8,362 up at £18,863, of which £6,000, or £5,700 more, is set aside for income-tax and excess profits tax reserve. After writing off small amounts for depreciation, war subscriptions, &c., the balance, including £2,904 brought in, was £2,513 better at £14,416, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 12 per cent. to 17, tax free, leaving £2,916 to be carried forward. Produce in hand is valued at £18,596, or £8,837 more, debtors have risen by £1,813 to £5,694, against an increase of £6,347 to £16,833 in sundry creditors and bills payable, while £2,388 has been invested in War Loan, and cash is £6,685 up at £11,568.

**BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.**—Output for September, 1,080 cwts. coffee, and the outputs for the first quarter amounted to 66,798 lbs. rubber and 225 cwts. coffee.

## MINING RETURNS.

**Alaska Treadwell.**—Crushed 82,600 tons, production \$155,000; net profit, \$34,500.

**Antelope (Rhodesia).**—4,240 tons, value £8,668; profit, \$1,621; decreased profits due to lower grade and renewal to plant.

**Bell Reef.**—3,638 tons, value £5,867; in addition concentrates treated realised £308.

**Eldorado Banket.**—4,043 tons, value £11,226; profit, £6,194; reserve, 2,301 ozs.

**Falcon.**—19,086 tons, producing 309 tons blister copper, containing 3,067 ozs. gold, value £12,881; total value, £28,498.

**Gaika.**—3,180 tons, value £7,464; profit, £3,342; and in addition slag treated realised £1,110.

**Giant of Rhodesia.**—9,500 tons, £4,546; profit, £762.

**Golden Kopje.**—10,253 tons; yielding, £10,290. Short run due to breakdown mill engine and owing to scarcity of water. Unless rains fall within a week may only be able to run half time this month.

**Great Fingall.**—3,700 tons, £6,250. Official Note.—Mill shut down pending opening up and development of No. 19 level.

**Orova Links.**—Tonnage treated, 12,200; estimated value, £10,877; royalty, £64; mine expenditure, £10,952; capital expenditure, £65.

**Shamva.**—47,050 tons; value, £37,030; profit, £16,013.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

**A. B. Fleming and Co.**—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

**Alabama Great Southern Railroad.**—2½ per cent., payable Dec. 29, same as last year.

**Alaska Mexican.**—10c. per share, payable Nov. 29, against 20c. a year ago and 20c. in May last.

**Alaska Treadwell.**—50c. per share, payable Nov. 29. This compares with \$1 last year and 75c. in Aug. last.

**Alaska United.**—30c. per share, payable Nov. 29, against 20c. a year ago and 40c. in Aug. last.

**Alliance Assurance.**—Interim at the rate of 5s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 5, same as a year ago.

**Assam Company.**—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, payable Jan. 1, against 5 per cent.

**Bidor Rubber.**—Interim of 15 per cent. for current year ending March 31, 1916, payable Dec. 8, against 5 per cent.

**Borax Consolidated.**—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax at 2s. 4d., on the deferred in respect of year ended Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

**Cas-els Cyanide.**—Final of 2s. per share, making 2s. 9d., less tax, for the year. Last year the total distribution was 4s. per share, tax free, but the issue capital of the company has since been doubled.

**Cicely Rubber.**—Interim of 40 per cent. on the ordinary and 42½ per cent. on the preference, payable Dec. 7, against 20 per cent. and 22½ per cent. respectively a year ago.

**Commercial Bank of Scotland.**—Final of 8 per cent., less tax, making 16 per cent. for the year, against 18 per cent. last year.

**Credito Italiano.**—A statement of the position as at Sept. 30 shows:—Cash, £2,524,583; bills, £11,344,468; current accounts, £3,092,004; deposits, &c., £19,506,920. The balance carried forward from 1914 was £5,467, and the profit up to Sept. 30, 1915, was £150,907.

**East Java Rubber.**—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax, on account of 1915, payable Dec. 10. The distribution for 1914 was 5 per cent., no interim dividend being paid.

**Eastern Assam Company.**—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax, payable Dec. 11, against 2½ per cent.

**Fine Cotton Spinners.**—Interim of 3 per cent. actual on the ordinary, same as for many years past.

**Great Boulder Proprietary.**—Interim of 9d. per share, less tax, on account of current year, same as last year.

**Hewagum Rubber.**—Interim of 2½ per cent., payable Nov. 30. For 1914 the distribution was 4 per cent., no interim payment being made.

**Hyderabad (Deccan).**—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 31, against 9d., tax free.

**Ilford (Limited).**—5 per cent. on the ordinary for year ended Oct. 31, against 4 per cent.

**Insulinde (Sumatra) Rubber and Tobacco.**—10 per cent., less tax, for year ended June. This is the company's first dividend.

**J. and P. Coats.**—Quarterly of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, payable Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

**J. Lyons and Co.**—Interim at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for half-year ended Sept. 30, against 25 per cent. last year.

**Jokai (Assam) Tea.**—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable Dec. 20, against 2½ per cent.

**La Guaira and Caracas Railway.**—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, payable Nov. 22, against 3 per cent.

**Landscape Rubber.**—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, against 4 per cent. last year.

**London Nitrate (Liverpool).**—Final of 8d. per share, making 2s. per share for the year, writing £7,500 off works and properties in addition to usual depreciation, setting aside £3,000 for reserve for depreciation of investments, with £8,369 forward.

**Malacca Rubber.**—Interim of 10 per cent. for year ending Dec. 31 (2s. per share), free of tax, payable Dec. 15; last year no interim dividend was paid.

**Malayan Tin Dredging.**—1s. per share, less tax, payable 30th inst.

**Marston, Thompson, and Evershed.**—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

**National Bank of Scotland.**—For the year ended Oct. 31, at the rate of 16 per cent., less tax, against 15 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent., less tax.

**New Heriot Gold Mining.**—35 per cent. (7s. per share), payable Nov. 30; the preceding dividend was 40 per cent., and that of a year ago 35 per cent.

**New Pegamoid.**—At the rate of 10 per cent. for year ended Sept. 30, placing £1,000 to reserve, with £2,763 forward.

**Nitrate Railways.**—The directors have decided to resume the amortisation of the 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, and the next drawing will take place on Dec. 1. They have also decided to pay on Dec. 6 an interim of 2 per cent. (4s. per share), less tax, on the ordinary (unconverted) and the preferred converted. A year ago the dividend was 2½ per cent.

**Ruston, Proctor, and Co.**—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary.

**St. John del Rey Mining.**—Interim payable Dec. 10 of 1s. per share on the preference, free of tax, and 9d. per share on the ordinary, less tax, same as last year.

**Telbedde Ceylon Estates.**—Interim of 7 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, against 4 per cent.

**Russian Petroleum.**—Production week ending 13th inst., 71,493 poods. Price of crude, 44½ copecks per pood.

Owing to the depletion of their staffs, the Clearing Banks have decided as from December 1 next to close at 3 o'clock instead of 4 o'clock, except on Saturdays, when they will remain open until 1 o'clock as hitherto.



## Letters to the Editor.

MR. FREDERIC WILLIAM WILE.

SIR,—My attention is just drawn to an article referring to myself in your issue of November 6 (page 488). I should refrain from intruding with any comment except that use of your publication has been made by the *New Witness* for November 11.

You are quite right in assuming that I am not responsible for the headlines over an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, but you are unfortunately mistaken in believing that I even furnished the material beneath the headlines to that paper. I have never written a line for that journal. The insertion of "By Messenger to New York" at the head of the quoted article, with its insinuation that I am in the habit of spiriting news out of England, is something worse than absurd. My "messengers" to the United States, of which I am a native and a citizen, are the Anglo-American mails.

As your article is good enough to suggest, I have been the object of favourable mention in your columns, and I regret the more to think that, without knowledge of the facts, you should feel constrained to describe me in terms designed to impugn my loyalty to the British cause.

With only one passage in your uncomplimentary column does it strike me as useful to deal in this place. You say that "the great work of our Navy" is "wholly outside the ken of this croaker." If it seemed worth while, I could show you numerous writings of mine which would expose the utter untruth of this taunt.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

FREDERIC WILLIAM WILE.

106, Coleherne Court, S.W.,

November 17, 1915.

[We are much relieved to learn that Mr. Wile is not the author of that screed sent to us from San Francisco, and that, though an American, he is heartily in sympathy with the Allies, and with us especially in our grim ordeal.—Ed.]

## Notes on Books.

*Le Marché Financier.* Par Arthur Raffalovich. Vingt-Troisième Volume, 1913-14. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. Prix, 15 francs.)

It is no excuse for delay in noticing this always valuable compilation to point out that it only covers the finance of 1913-14, and therefore does not say much about the finance of the war. That it should, however, deal with a period antecedent to the outbreak of a strife that may reshape the whole credit system of the world is calculated to enhance its historic value, and as the book embraces the usual careful reviews by competent hands of events in business and politics in Germany, England, Russia, France, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, the Balkan States, the United States of North America, and Japan, it will be seen that the material for comparison and contrast between before the war and after is ample. Space, unfortunately, does not permit us to enter into details, but we cannot pass by the issue of such a volume altogether in silence. It deserves to be treasured as a storehouse of facts, of statistics, and observations relating to a condition of existence war is fast obliterating from the face of the earth.

*A Guide to South America.* By W. A. Hirst. (London: Methuen and Co. 6s. nett.)

All the States of South America are dealt with in this volume, and reference is made easy by placing them in alphabetical order. Because of this order Argentina comes first, and in regard to that great country we are in a way able to test the quality of the information. Having done so, we can say: This is good; the book a book that promises to be very useful; it, indeed,

seems to be the only thing of its kind dealing with the great and still little-known continent of South America. It gives particulars regarding the financial and political circumstances of the various countries, and also embodies much information valuable to the mere tourist or man of business, so that it is a capital guide-book, framed with a view to assist those who contemplate a journey into that part of the world, whether for pleasure or on profit intent. The journey is a comparatively easy one nowadays, and ought to be made not only by wealthy people of leisure more often than it is, but by the commercial traveller, the engineer and industrial, the man of business of all kinds. We should like a stream of such tourists setting forth to visit these new lands, and find out whether or not they may be destined to inherit some parts of the prosperity war is likely to deprive us of in the Old World. There is ample room for the development of a great civilisation in South America if we can but keep the strifes and jealousies of old Europe out of it, and deliver it from permanent thrall to the cosmopolitan moneylender. Some very good sketch-maps are dotted throughout the volume, and it has a quite workable, if not a very extensive, index.

*The City: Its Finance, July, 1914, to July, 1915, and Future.* By H. C. Sonne. (London: Effingham Wilson. Price 5s. nett.)

Here we have a collection of facts and documents relating to the events surrounding the outbreak of war which will make this little book useful for reference. No attempt at criticism is made and the author is wise in that. "All censure is futile," he says in his preface, "seeing that what is done is done, and cannot be altered." He, therefore, limits himself to a faithful account of financial happenings in the City, and also discourses, among other matters, upon gold and foreign exchanges in an intelligent and capable fashion. Along with the text there are various official documents which, brought together in this manner, add to the value of the little publication. We shall keep it as being handy for reference.

*Elements of Foreign Exchange.* By Franklin Escher. (London: Effingham Wilson. Price 4s. nett.)

Here we have an American writer, Lecturer on Foreign Exchange in the New York University, attempting to set forth the mechanism of exchange in simple language, and avoiding technicalities, and doing it with no small success. The explanations are never recondite, but nearly always lucid, and very few branches of a most complicated and subtle department of business are left out of sight in the plain explanations given. The explanations of arbitrage in exchange may not go far enough for some, but as far as they go they show an understanding of its intricacies which should be helpful to the student. All we can do is to commend the book to those who want instruction upon this most important branch of the higher regions of international business intercourse.

*British War Finance, 1914-15.* By W. R. Lawson. (London: Constable and Co. Price 6s. nett.)

When we picked this volume up it was with a feeling of wonder how Mr. Lawson, old hand in journalism and exceedingly facile wielder of the pen as he is, could manage to put together 350 closely printed pages on this subject. Nothing is yet determinate, nothing concluded or conclusive about British war finance. We are altogether at sea or in a transition state, knowing not what is to follow the emergency measures that were adopted last August and modified since, or that the pressure of war costs may force us to modify yet again. The wonder, however, soon ended when we had read some little way into the volume, and, as usual, it has to be acknowledged that Mr. Lawson has succeeded in putting together a quite interesting book, a book with much of which we are no wise in accord, but yet one stuffed with suggestions and facts worth preserving. It is when the writer thrusts forward his party politics and pet prejudices that he deprives himself of sympathy and weakens the force even of strong criticisms. And he has the journalist's habit of assuming mere reporter's



"facts" to an extent which frequently makes his criticism miss the mark. We are so busy, or, at least, the daily journalist is so busy, that he has to assume, to take for granted, "an awful lot," not only as to the talents of the men he praises, but about the defects of the men he runs down; and very often a mere idle tale for which there can be no foundation may be utilised as a basis for criticism meant to be severe and damaging. In this book, for example, a good deal is said about the self-glorification of New York over the new prospect opened to it as a consequence of the war of capturing London's position as "the banking centre of the world," and perhaps the ambition is open to a certain amount of amused or other comment, but that will not help us much if New York is really on the way to take our place. It is not that yet, however, and much will depend upon ourselves when the war is over whether we are to be supplanted or not. The risk is great enough, though, to deserve graver treatment.

At the beginning of the sixteenth chapter, or first of Part IV., entitled "The Treasury Régime," Mr. Lawson says, "It is to be hoped that one day, and not too distant a day, an authoritative account will be published of the long series of confidential negotiations which took place between the Treasury and the banks during the first week of the war crisis." This "authoritative" account, in the author's opinion, is necessary on no less than five different grounds, but after perusing them we confess our inability to be as great as before to appreciate the necessity. The matter to be discussed was extremely simple in reality, and did not arise through any necessity of scheming and playing with the British public, but from the circumstance that the war costs were likely to derange all foreign exchanges—as a consequence of the outbreak of war an immense gap in the international exchange had at once been created by the stoppage of all business at the London offices of the German banks—and that it was first of all imperative not only to prevent any break or hitch in credit, but any prolonged strain upon banking resources. The problem the Treasury and the banks had to solve was really how to find an emergency currency without making money dear or incurring a danger of gold hoarding. The Bank of England could not find any such currency without suspending the Bank Act of 1844. That suspension would have meant excessively high rates of interest to the community, with probably general insolvency to follow, and the earnest efforts of the committee and the Government were directed to avoid all danger of that kind. They found a successful solution in the moratoria and in the Treasury notes, which now circulate on a par with gold, and if not issued to an extent beyond what the internal trade of the country requires, will continue to do so to the end. It may be that the decrees and emergency measures taken have involved a considerable breakage of idols in the City, and, possibly enough, the new methods dealing with financial emergencies that have been seized upon may be open to criticism by-and-by; but as far as we can see no vital harm has been done at any point, and even if there were danger of permanent injury to some banking usages or of permanent alteration in our business habits, the time has not yet come for criticism of any value. This criticism does not mean that Mr. Lawson has failed to put together a very interesting book. On the contrary, the book is strong meat, well cooked, full of good and shrewd things that readers may dissent from often, but cannot pass lightly by.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Production week Nov. 11, 217,100 poods (or 3,502 tons).

MEXICO TRAMWAYS LIGHT AND POWER.—It is announced that at the request of the holders of large amounts of the bonds of the various companies constituting the Mexico Tramways Light and Power group the following have consented to act as a committee to co-operate with the trustees, the receivers and the boards of directors in taking such measures from time to time as will best safeguard the interests of the security-holders:—Mr. E. R. Peacock (chairman), Messrs. Stanley Boulter, H. F. Chamen, Robert Fleming, H. Malcolm Hubbard, and A. F. P. Roger. Any communications should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Porter, secretary to the committee, at 34, Bishopsgate, E.C.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

During the year ended June 30 the Buenos Ayres and Pacific under its working agreement paid £369,125, or sufficient to meet the interest on the debenture stocks and the interim dividend on the preferred stock. The working company having paid 5 per cent. on its first preference stock and £2 16s. 6d. per cent. on its second preference stock, has now handed over a further sum of £113,156, which enables the directors to make up the dividend on the preferred stock to 5 per cent., and to pay £2 16s. 6d. per cent. on the ordinary stock, as against 5 per cent. a year ago. Although the line is worked by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, separate accounts are still kept, and these show that there was a decrease of £244,187 in the gross receipts at £920,551, due to the disturbance of credit caused by the war following upon the depression already existing in Argentina. Of this decrease £107,354 was in passenger traffic, the number carried having fallen off by 1,167,474, or 36.50 per cent., while goods and live-stock traffic yielded £122,901 less, the principal declines being in posts, firewood, timber, hay, and flour and bran. Capital expenditure amounted to £49,049, of which £24,266 was on new branches, but credit was taken for £121,089, and with sundry small adjustments the debit balance was reduced by £71,547 to £1,372,906, making a corresponding decrease to £1,424,404 in the amount due to the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Co.

### MILLOM AND ASKAM HEMATITE IRON CO., LTD.

During the year ended September 30, the directors say, raw materials and labour, and latterly pig-iron values, increased in price, until all have long since become excessive, but the net profit approaches that usually realised in a year of good trade. As a matter of fact, the accounts show that the profit increased by no less than £42,953 to £85,893, and after providing for debenture interest the net balance, including £7,097, or £5,060 less brought in, was £37,893 up at £85,490. Of this an extra £10,000 at £25,000 is written off for depreciation and £25,000, as against nothing a year ago, is transferred to reserve, after which the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, and £9,990, or £2,893 more, is carried forward. Additions to property account, less depreciation, amounted to £10,895, making a total of £270,769, and another £12,500 has been paid up on the shares held in the Whitehaven Colliery Co., raising the book value to £31,250. Investments have been increased by £33,562 to £126,704, including £50,000 4½ per cent. War Loan, debtors owe £85,516 more at £141,219, and cash is £3,369 up at £10,200, but stocks have been reduced by £109,013 to £29,085, while £9,686 more at £59,987 is due

"I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

## AN URGENT APPEAL FOR THE RELIEF OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

BY THE  
ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION.

THE ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION urgently appeals for funds in order to continue the purchase and despatch of a weekly supply of necessities and comforts to relieve the sufferings of 500 British Prisoners in Germany.

THE ASSOCIATION is anxious to SEND A SPECIAL PARCEL AT CHRISTMAS, to which the men will be looking forward, and as it has now become necessary to provide a fresh supply of clothing its resources are taxed to the uttermost.

Dear Sir,—I received your parcel on the 22nd of this month. Its contents were just absolutely ideal. The articles are the very things needed out here, and I want you to thank my friends, whoever they may be, for their kindness to me. I am still in good health, and hope to be for the remainder of the time I am here.

I remain Yours truly, W.R.J.P.

The parcels, value 7/6, include everything that is known to be necessary for the welfare and comfort of the prisoners, and any sum, large or small, will be gratefully received by

The Rev. H. B. CHAPMAN,  
Royal Savoy Association,  
7, Savoy Hill, London, W.C.



to creditors. The company has been a "controlled establishment" since November 8 under the Munitions Act (which has not been made applicable to iron ore and coal mines or working plants, whence raw materials are got), and practically four-fifths of any profit which may be realised over the average of the standard years will pass to the Government. It is impossible to forecast to what extent, if any, future profits may be claimed by the Exchequer as excess war profits under the Finance Bill, but the directors say that so far as they can see at present, no such payment seems likely to fall due in respect of the year just closed.

#### WEST HARTLEPOOL STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

The gloomy forecasts of the directors a year ago with regard to the outlook were happily not realised, owing to the decided improvement in freight markets which set in during the latter part of the 12 months ended March 31. Trading profits showed a recovery of £34,951 at £121,840, to which was added £8,793 or £2,525 more brought forward. Classification expenses and repairs not recoverable from underwriters took £8,817 less at £13,027, but the depreciation allowance was increased by £31,350 to £79,821, and £3,000 was set aside for income-tax. Out of the balance the preference dividend for one year to June 30, 1908, was paid, leaving the balance carried forward £791 larger at £9,584. Business must have been very brisk and profitable since the beginning of the current year, as the directors state that four further dividends of 5½ per cent. each have been paid on the preference shares since the close of the financial year, which would leave three years still to be made up. The company owns a fleet of 16 vessels with a tonnage of 89,950 tons; the book value of this and other assets stands at £475,312, or a decrease of £67,270 compared with a year ago. Steamers' current accounts are £15,679 lower at £12,208, but debtors have risen by £13,330 to £52,086, and cash is £44,761 up at £54,863, while current liabilities have been reduced by £16,549 to £48,586.

#### AMAZON TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

A further shrinkage of £24,818 to £57,933 is shown in the gross revenue for the year ended June 30, but there was a substantial reduction in the cost of cable maintenance, and, with savings in expenses at stations and at the Rio agency, the working expenses were £17,522 down at £34,938. After providing for debenture interest, the nett balance, including £5,840 brought in, is only £5,947, so that the shareholders, who last year had their dividend cut down from 4½ per cent. to 3, now have to go without a return. The debtore debt has been reduced by £9,600 to £272,900, but current liabilities are £1,093 higher at £18,068. The amount due by the Brazilian Government is £9,895 down at £17,037, cable and other stores are valued at £11,584, or £2,405 less, and investments are £9,313 down at £15,636, while debtors owe £10,589 more at £40,882, and cash and bills receivable have risen by £5,170 to £21,916.

#### AMELIA NITRATE CO., LTD.

More fortunate than its competitors, this company managed to keep two out of its three oficinas in full work throughout the whole of its financial year to June 30. At the same time it seems to have been able to dispose of its output fairly well, with the result that the gross trading profits were only £4,781 smaller at £57,796. Administration charges and interest required a few hundreds more, but the balance brought forward was £12,681 up at £13,211, making the total available £46,152 or £7,181 more. Of this £31,520 is set aside for debenture redemption, as against £20,649 last year, and £1,445 less at £666 is written off debenture issues expenses, after which a dividend of 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, compared with nothing last time and 9 per cent. in 1912-13, leaving £12,784 less at £426 to be carried forward. Mainly through the redemption of debentures the cost of the property was reduced by £12,594 to £381,339, while new works in oficinas are £7,989 down at £8,279. Stocks are valued at £145,827 or £6,566 more, and cash and bills receivable show an increase of £3,367 at £32,958, but debtors are £12,950 lower at £53,571. On the other hand, £32,255 less at £124,615 is due to sundry creditors, and the outstanding debenture debt is £10,700 down at £209,300, while the debenture redemption account is £20,497 up at £41,251.

#### SANTA CATALINA NITRATE CO., LTD.

This company's oficina was closed in September, 1914, and remained closed until September last, and in these circumstances business naturally dwindled to very small proportions. Profit on sales of nitrate and iodine, less loss in exchange, for the year ended June 30, only amounted to £2,836, or a decrease of £13,528, and after providing for London office charges, writing off £2,299, or £1,999 more, for depreciation of investments and £1,378 for stoppage of works expenses, there was a debit balance of £2,516. Deducting £1,341 brought forward, the nett deficiency carried to the new account is £1,175. Property account has been reduced by £2,621 to £48,748, stocks of nitrate are £2,387 down at £27,098, but stocks of iodine amount to £1,812, or £761 more, and caliche is valued at £448. Current liabilities are reduced by £6,608 to £7,604, but the company has had to obtain a loan of £4,050 on the security of its stocks of nitrate. During the time the oficina was closed a detailed examination of the ground was made, and showed an estimated total contents of 4,700,000 quintals of manufactured nitrate.

#### SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

The bad season in Australia and the increased cost of bringing the wool clip to market, owing to the rise in freights

and insurance, are reflected in a drop of £48,072 to £176,521 in the profits for the year ended June 30. At the same time colonial land and income-taxes took £15,662 more at £36,860, and after providing for administration charges the nett balance was £64,255 down at £129,286, the decrease following an improvement of £63,677 in the previous 12 months. Adding £36,704 or £26,834 more brought in, the amount to be dealt with was £37,421 smaller at £165,990, and the directors not only reduce the dividend on the ordinary stock from 10 per cent. to 8, but transfer £40,000 less to reserve at £30,000, raising that fund to £200,000, and carry forward £45,825 or £1,121 more. Pastoral property owned is £7,114 down at £720,940, but freeholds have risen by £11,248 to £612,349, and investments in Canada have been increased by £10,255 to £23,679, while £40,160 has been invested in Argentina. Balances due to the company on open account come to £60,515 or £22,541 more, and cash balances are £22,876 higher at £154,389, against which current liabilities show very little change at £104,723. Conditions in Queensland show very little improvement as yet, drought being still prevalent, and involving considerable loss of sheep and cattle on some of the company's estates, but in New South Wales the outlook seems rather more favourable.

#### LONDON AND COLONIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.

The revenue from interest, dividends, &c., for the year ended September 30 was practically the same as for the preceding 12 months at £12,394, but the company was more fortunate in that it had nothing to write off for loss on sales of securities, compared with £3,494. Nett profits, after providing for administration charges, were consequently £3,801 better at £10,099, and as £1,299 more at £2,129 was brought in the disposable surplus showed an increase of £5,100 at £12,228. A year ago £5,000 was written off investments out of revenue, together with £3,387 received on shares forfeited, and this time the directors transfer £4,500 to a reserve fund and write off £386 for expenses of converting the capital into preferred and deferred stock. Out of the balance remaining they pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preferred stock, leaving £1,971, or £158 less, to be carried forward. No reliable valuation can be made of the investments, but a full list is given, the book value of which, taken at or below cost, shows a reduction of £13,863 at £252,833, while, on the other hand, the liability on loans is £21,000 down at £11,000.

#### VENESTA, LTD.

In their report for the year ended June 30 the directors say that the business has altered considerably in character, and although the output of certain products has greatly diminished, the supply of other classes of goods brought about by the necessities of the war has been undertaken. The Silvertown and Millwall factories were fully and profitably employed, but the Russian company was only able to carry on at a loss owing to a greatly restricted output, a shortage of workmen, and difficulties of export. Owing, however, to the outlay of capital in the three preceding years becoming remunerative, the nett profits for the 12 months showed an increase of £10,479 at £69,900, and as a very much larger balance was brought in, the total to be dealt with was £31,675 up at £96,959. Of this, £50,000 is transferred to a suspense account to meet losses on foreign exchange, debts, and stocks, and for exceptional depreciation of Continental investments, which cannot at present be ascertained, as against £10,787 put to special reserve and £1,194 for preliminary expenses a year ago. The dividend on the ordinary shares is then increased from 5 per cent. to 8, leaving £13,881, or £13,177 less, to be carried forward. Investments have been increased by £34,842 to £315,042, and loans to similar concerns by £23,406 to £103,663. Stocks are £158,221 down at £240,500, and goods on consignment £28,211 down at £17,582, but debtors owe £37,362 more at £102,548, and cash has risen by £26,442 to £46,115, while £30,032 has been advanced against forward contracts. Against these there are decreases of £66,660 to £45,978 in bills payable, £12,715 to £30,600 in agents' advances on stocks, and £18,946 to £50,457 in cash creditors, and an increase of £26,199 to £116,199 in bankers' advances.

#### SOUTHERN BRAZIL ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

This company holds a controlling interest in several tramway and light and power undertakings in Brazil, together with a half-interest in Byington and Co., electrical engineers and contractors. The financial crisis in Brazil hindered the development of the business, and the revenue, when converted into sterling, also suffered from the decline in the exchange from 16d. to 13d. per milreis. As the result of these conditions the total income for the year ended June 30 was only £34,399, whereas the profits for 1913, according to the prospectus of the debenture issue made last year, amounted to £73,733. After providing for all charges in London and Brazil and for the debenture interest a nett balance of £2,127 was left, which the directors propose to carry forward. The outlay on the Brazilian assets stands in the balance-sheet at £1,064,868, and in addition debts for £55,398 were taken over from the vendors, against which the issued share capital is £359,195, the debenture debt is £572,646, and £290,812 in shares is due to the vendors. The company also owes £20,054 for a mortgage on the Piracicaba property and £21,807 to sundry creditors, while, on the other hand, debtors owe £54,065, cash comes to £31,552, and £200,000 has been lent on security. Preliminary expenses and discount on debentures figure amongst the assets for £36,400. During the past two months affairs in Brazil have taken a more favourable turn, especially in the State of San Paulo, where most of



the company's interests are, and the directors hope that with a return to normal conditions results will show a marked improvement.

## BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

**COMPONENTS, LTD.**—Since the outbreak of war this company has devoted its energies mainly to the manufacture of munitions and evidently found the work fairly remunerative, as its profits for the year ended August 31 rose by £10,161 to £25,325. After making provision for depreciation, bad debts, &c., and paying debenture interest, the nett balance, including £914 more at £3,063 brought in, was £9,027 higher at £12,090, a figure which would justify the payment of a dividend on the preference shares. Last year, however, the directors postponed the payment of debts over £10 until after the termination of the war, issuing debenture stock to the creditors, and until this has been wholly or partly redeemed no distribution will be recommended. Liabilities on the first and second debentures have been reduced by £2,500 to £62,500 and £4,506 to £20,494 respectively, and sundry creditors are £29,662 down at £23,776, but third debentures for £37,304 have been issued. On the other hand, debtors owe £8,240 less at £46,200, while stocks are £10,154 larger at £75,582 and cash is £4,603 up at £4,749.

**DEMERARA RAILWAY CO.**—Owing to the extension of the West Coast line to Parika and the working arrangement with the Government steamers, there was a large increase in the traffic of this section in the half-year ended June 30, but expenses were swollen by the necessity of providing for a new locomotive boiler, and the nett result was a debit of £665, compared with a credit of £40 a year ago. On the Berbice line also there was a loss of £2,492, but the main line yielded a nett revenue of £7,753, or only £145 less, and the nett income, after providing for debenture interest, was only £801 down at £3,144. To this were added £1,732, or £943 more, withdrawn from renewal fund, £1,203 brought forward, and the Government guarantee of £6,250, giving a total of £12,330, or £191 less, to be dealt with. The directors are able to repeat the dividend on the preferred ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, and to carry forward £1,491.

**IRISH TIMES, LTD.**—After providing £3,465, or £1,528 more for income-tax, the nett profits for the year ended September 30 showed a shrinkage of £5,766 at £23,202, and with a rather smaller balance brought forward gave £29,501, or £6,139 less, available. No dividend is paid on the ordinary shares, compared with 7 per cent. in the previous year, as the directors say that they do not consider it advisable to make any distribution in the present unsettled conditions. Out of the balance £1,000 is again transferred to general reserve, and a like amount, or £250 less than a year ago, is set aside for depreciation on investments, and after paying the dividends on the first and second preference shares, £6,199 is carried forward.

**JAMES NIMMO AND CO., LTD.**—For the year ended September 30 the gross profit was £17,664 up at £102,246, and after meeting interest and general charges and allowing £25,000, or £2,500 more, for depreciation, the available surplus, including £8,664 more at £20,585 brought forward, was £20,372 higher at £61,582. Out of this £2,500 more at £12,500 is added to the reserve and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised to 10 per cent., as against 6 per cent. last year, leaving the balance carried forward £12,572 up at £33,457. Property account has been reduced £9,517 to £326,972, while the debenture debt is £2,210 lower at £112,700. Cash is £16,263 down at £19,593, but loans and investments have risen by £39,805 to £112,154, while sundry debtors owe £18,128 more at £76,052, against a rise of £3,991 to £55,990 in sundry liabilities. Acting upon the suggestion of the Department of Explosives Supplies of the Ministry of Munitions of War, the directors say that they are proceeding with the erection of a benzol and toluol plant at Auchengeich Colliery. Since the commencement of the war 750 of the company's employees have joined the colours.

**LLOYD'S PACKING WAREHOUSES, LTD.**—After writing off £7,220, or £3,213 less, for cost of repairs and £12,733, or £1,079 less, for depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended September 30 showed a decrease of £9,033 at £6,988. Adding £13,980 brought in, the disposable total was £8,766 smaller at £20,968, and not only is the dividend on the ordinary shares cut down from 6 per cent. to 5, but the balance carried forward is reduced by £824 to £8,156. Liabilities on current account have risen by £10,887 to £49,766, and on bank loans by £7,069 to £85,881, against which stocks are £2,721 up at £37,543, and debtors owe £15,112 more at £60,205.

**NORTH-WESTERN OF URUGUAY RAILWAY CO., LTD.**—Owing to the financial depression, business was almost at a standstill for some months of the year ended June 30, and gross receipts showed a decrease of £13,235, or 20.77 per cent., at £50,486. On the outbreak of war, however, steps were taken to reduce expenditure, with the result that working expenses were £8,463 smaller at £42,659, making the decrease in the nett revenue £1,772 at £7,826. A much larger balance of £6,878 was brought forward, and the available total, including the guarantee, was £1,662 up at £30,208. After providing for debenture interest, £2,000 is transferred to rolling stock renewals fund and £5,026 to general reserve, compared with £1,398 written off debenture issue expenses a year ago, and a balance of £2,762, or £4,116 less, is carried forward. Capital account is overspent by £4,789, and the directors say that in ordinary times this would have been adjusted by sales of second debenture stock, but as the Treasury has refused an application for permission to make a further issue, it is necessary for the present to husband the cash resources. The link-

ing up of the company's line with that of the Brazil Great Southern was opened to traffic on July 1.

**RHYMNEY IRON CO., LTD.**—In the half-year ended September 25 the output of coal fell off by 70,243 tons to 490,894 tons, owing to the reduction in the labour available through the number of the company's men who have enlisted. During the same period only half the coke ovens were in operation, the completion of the rebuilding of the remaining ovens having been delayed by the inability of the contractors to obtain delivery of materials. The total make of coke was consequently reduced by 10,578 tons to 11,844 tons. It is pointed out by the directors that, as the result of the award of Earl St. Aldwyn, the independent Chairman of the Conciliation Board, on September 11, wages are now 30.83 per cent. above the new (1915) standard rates, and 96½ per cent. above the 1879 standard. No accounts are submitted at the present time, and the directors say that it is not possible, under present conditions, to forecast with any approach to accuracy what will be the ultimate financial outcome of the year's working, but they are of opinion that the half-year's results justify the distribution of an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the £400,000 preference capital.

**RICHARD HILL AND CO. (1899), LTD.**—The accounts just presented cover a period of 15 months to September 30, and show a profit of £30,255, as against £10,233 for the preceding year. After writing off £2,089 for depreciation and providing £7,252 for income-tax and excess profits duty, the nett balance, including £794 brought in, was £20,576, out of which a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year is paid on the ordinary shares and £5,326 is carried forward. Property and goodwill account has been reduced by £1,772 to £140,672, and stocks are £7,499 down at £34,319, but debtors owe £9,911 more at £25,067, and cash has risen by £16,979 to £24,324, while current liabilities are only £448 up at £10,444. The directors say that the order-books are well filled at remunerative prices, but the operations of the company during the period covered by the report were greatly restricted by the shortage of labour and the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of material.

**SHORTS IRON CO., LTD.**—No information is afforded by the directors of this company of their real earnings, but, after making provision for depreciation, reserve and the interim dividend on the preference shares, the profits for the 12 months ended September 30 amounted to £26,227. This was an increase of £16,056 on the previous year, and with £28,172 brought forward, gave a total of £54,399, or £16,470 more, for disposal. The dividend on the ordinary shares, which was last year reduced from 6s. to 2s. per share, is now raised to 5s., and £35,363, or £7,192 more, is carried forward. Property account, less depreciation, is £7,533 up at £247,376. Stocks are £770 larger at £59,711, debtors owe £60,107, or £9,683 more, and investments, cash, and temporary loans are £13,815 up at £76,630, while, on the other hand, current liabilities are £6,769 higher at £49,057.

**SWIFT CYCLE CO., LTD.**—Although the accounts just issued cover a full year to July 31, as against a period of only ten months in the previous report, the profits show a decrease of £4,946 at £37,793. The balance brought in, however, was £13,944 larger at £20,042, so that, after meeting administration and other charges, the directors are able to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 7 per cent., and still leave £24,712, or £4,670 more, to be carried forward. Stocks show very little change at £103,870, and a reduction of £15,797 to £44,370 in sundry debtors is offset by an increase of £17,492 to £40,463 in cash and bills, while £7,676 less at £45,007 is due to creditors. The company is now engaged upon munition work as a controlled undertaking.

**URUGUAY NORTHERN RAILWAY CO., LTD.**—Like all South American railways, this company suffered from the prevailing depression, and its gross earnings for the year ended June 30 showed a decrease of £7,682 at £18,955. Expenses were reduced by £3,530 to £17,510, leaving a nett profit, exclusive of the guarantees, of £1,444, or £4,152 less. The perpetual debenture stockholders are entitled to two-thirds of this surplus, amounting to £963, and this, added to interest at 3½ per cent. per annum, makes the total interest payable £3 14s. 3d. per cent., as against £4 6s. 7d. last year. Including guarantee moneys and £7,335, or £3,355 more, brought in, the nett surplus, after providing for debenture interest and income-tax, was £1,324 up at £8,659, but the directors do not consider it expedient to pay a dividend on the preferred stock in the present conditions, and therefore carry the whole amount forward. Arrears of dividend on the preferred stock now amount to £370,423.

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## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## ANSELL'S BREWERY.

## A STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual meeting of Ansell's Brewery was held on Thursday at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, Alderman Edward Ansell presiding.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The nett profit for the 12 months ended September 30, 1915, after making full provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, is £87,054 19s. 5d., which, with the addition of £70,919 15s. brought forward from last year, produces £157,974 14s. 5d. Out of this amount the sum of £26,062 10s. has been paid for interest on debentures at 4½ per cent., and interim dividends on preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. and 8 per cent. per annum respectively, and the directors, after providing interest on debentures accruing to September 30, 1915, managing directors' salaries, and directors' fees, now recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares (making 10 per cent. for the year) for the half-year ended September 30, 1915, leaving a balance of £103,049 14s. 5d., of which it is proposed to place £25,000 to reserve, bringing this account up to £325,000, and to carry forward £78,049 14s. 5d. to next year's account.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the annual report, referred to the retirement from the directorate of Mr. Peter Waltho, to whom he was sure the shareholders wished a speedy restoration to health. Dealing with the balance-sheet, Alderman Ansell said although the nett profit for the past year was not quite up to the record established in 1914, the results shown were perfectly satisfactory, the financial position of the company being even stronger than a year ago. The profit, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and depreciation, was £87,054, and, with the addition of the balance from the previous year, made £157,974. In 1914 the profit was £91,546, to which had to be added £59,149 carried forward, making a total of £150,695. In each year the dividend was the same, but they carried forward this year £78,049, against £70,920. Thus, despite a slight decline in profits, the balance at the disposal of the directors and the sum carried forward showed substantial increases. This was the twelfth year in succession that the ordinary shareholders had received a dividend of 10 per cent., while the present addition of £25,000 brought their reserve up to £325,000. With the amount carried forward, they thus had a total reserve of £403,000—twice the amount of the ordinary share capital held by the original vendors. Since the formation of the company an amount equal to 50 per cent. of the original capital had been added to the capital fund of the undertaking from profits. There was no goodwill or mortgage item, and the directors had used the reserves mainly in buying properties and converting leaseholds into freeholds, and generally consolidating the assets of the company. He did not think for a moment the shareholders need be alarmed or apprehensive as to the future. He was satisfied that short of confiscation—which he did not think was likely to come—the company occupied to-day a very strong financial position. He referred with some pride to the record of the company as regarded recruiting. He thought it reflected very great credit upon their employees. No less than 60 per cent. of their total staff had either joined his Majesty's forces or entered munition works, and from the outset the firm adopted a scale of payment which ensured that the households of the married men received not less than prior to the men's enlistment. Similar allowances had been made to the dependents of single men. Of course, their situations would remain open for them, and they hoped the great majority would return to them. He regretted that up to the present time five of their men had lost their lives. The Chairman then referred to the new Midland order. He said it was too early to criticise in any way, but he would like to call their attention to a statement made in Birmingham a few days ago at a meeting held in connection with the United Kingdom Alliance. One of the speakers said "he believed there was a secret scheme afoot whereby the intention of the Central Control Board was to be defeated if possible, unless they were very careful." He (Alderman Ansell) was satisfied that the loyalty of the trade in the past should be a sufficient guarantee of its willingness to give loyal adhesion to the new order, which would come into force on Monday next. They were all anxious to do their very best to bring the war to a speedy and successful termination. It did undoubtedly entail many sacrifices, but sacrifices they would all be prepared to make cheerfully and willingly. He thought so far the trade had behaved very patriotically, and was satisfied that as far as the continuance of the discharge of their duties was concerned they would not be found wanting.

Mr. J. A. Fairhurst seconded, and the report was adopted.

Mr. Joseph Ansell also referred to a statement made at the United Kingdom Alliance meeting, and said that on all occasions, and particularly during the last few months, the members of the licensed trade association in Birmingham had placed their services practically in the hands of the Licensing Committee, and had offered to do anything that lay in their power to facilitate their requirements in relation to the sale of intoxicants. If people would look at the cases which were brought to the assizes, the quarter sessions, and the police-courts, they

must know that crime and drunkenness—and it was generally said drunkenness led to crime—were considerably decreasing. Whereas before the extension of the city the magistrates used to sit day by day at the police-courts until three or four in the afternoon, now, notwithstanding the larger area and the increased population, the business of the courts was generally finished in time for the justices to get away for lunch.

Mr. Fairhurst was re-elected a director, and the auditors were reappointed. The proceedings then terminated.

## DALGETY AND CO.

The 31st annual meeting of Dalgety and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the offices, 45, Bishopsgate, E.C., the Hon. Edmund W. Parker (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. E. Davison) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Last year, when I had the honour of addressing you, this country had been at war for some three and a-half months, and, most unfortunately, that state of affairs still continues. This, of course, is very detrimental to business; nevertheless, I think shareholders may congratulate themselves that we are able to lay before them such a satisfactory balance-sheet, having regard to the fact that, in addition to the pernicious effect of the war, Australia has suffered from a severe drought during the period under review. Luckily, in the early part of this year the drought broke up in most parts, the only State that is still suffering from want of sufficient rain being Queensland and some districts of New South Wales and South Australia; but, as it is, the losses of stock have been exceedingly serious, amounting to anything from 15 millions to 20 millions of sheep throughout the Commonwealth. This must inevitably lead to a serious shortage in the coming clip. As you are aware, the prices for wool, in which we are chiefly interested, have been much more favourable than was at one time anticipated, and, on the average, the returns to growers have been most satisfactory; indeed, in the case of our New Zealand clients, they have been abnormally so, in consequence of the very high values for cross-bred wools. On the other hand, wheat, which in ordinary years had become an article of large export from Australia, was a complete failure last year, and so far from there being any export, there was a considerable quantity imported. We propose, as you will have seen, to pay, with your sanction, our usual dividend of 8 per cent. and to revert to our policy of building up our reserve and writing down our premises, as I intimated to you last year we should do, if circumstances permitted it. I think you will agree that circumstances do permit this, and I feel sure we shall secure your approval of our action. It has always been the custom of this company to pay its dividend free of income-tax, and I hope that we may be able to continue doing so, but with the very heavy increase in taxation, both here and in Australia, the burden is becoming a heavy one, and must, of course, become heavier. Last year I told you that, had it not been for the war, we had hoped to be able to give you a bonus in addition to the dividend, and I think that you will now, and perhaps for some time to come, have to consider (if we are able to continue our custom) that the payment of the dividend free of income-tax is equivalent to a bonus, having regard to the growing pressure of taxation.

You will, I know, like to hear the most recent seasonal news that we have from the other side, so I will read you our latest telegrams:—

Pastoral—In Victoria and South Australia the pastoral outlook is excellent, and in Western Australia good at present. The position in New South Wales is satisfactory to good, except in the northern, north-western, and parts of the western districts, where the situation is serious. In Queensland the season generally is very adverse, except in parts of the western and coastal districts. It is estimated that the shortage of sheep in Australia, as compared with last year, amounts to 20 millions, and that there will be a reduction of about 500,000 bales in the 1915-1916 wool clip.

Agricultural—The production of wheat in Australia from the ensuing harvest is estimated at 145 to 150 million bushels, of which about 100 million bushels will be available for export.

Dairying—Prospects in Victoria and South Australia are good, but elsewhere they are adverse. Butter exports from Australia will compare unfavourably with last year as regards quantity owing to the depletion of the Victorian dairying herds during the recent drought and to the existing dry weather in Queensland and on the coast of New South Wales.

New Zealand Seasonal Prospects—As a result of recent beneficial rains prospects for producers generally are good.

To sum up, the position of the company now is that, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, we show a net profit of £216,672 1s. 3d., to which has to be added the balance brought forward, £197,014 12s. 7d., giving a total of £413,686 13s. 10d. Out of this we have already paid:—Interest on preference shares, £25,000, and interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent., £40,000; leaving a balance of £348,686 13s. 10d. to be dealt with now, and which we propose should be appropriated as follows:—£40,000 in payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, making with the above payment 8 per cent. for the year; £50,000 to the reserve fund, thereby raising it to £600,000; £40,000 to writing down cost of premises; £10,000 to the staff benevolent fund; and £208,686 13s. 10d. carried forward. I am sure you will all be pleased to know how well the members have responded to the call of duty. Up to our latest advices from the colonies, some



250 members have joined the Army; of these, I am sorry to say, nine have been killed, while 15 are wounded or missing. From this office alone 31 men have joined, equal to about 77 per cent. of our effectives. You will quite understand from these figures what a strain has been thrown on the rest of the staff to get the work put through; but I can assure you that they have thoroughly risen to the occasion and are doing everything in their power to meet the difficulties.

Mr. A. P. Blake seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY CO

The ordinary general meeting was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. F. Sanders) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: During the year the tonnage we carried was greater, but most of it was in the nature of low-classed goods, like wheat, and it was unfortunately in the traffic which pays a higher rate than we had a decrease. Therefore, we had this phenomenon in the past year—that we carried a greater tonnage and received for it less money. The result was that our gross receipts were £342,000 less than they were in the preceding year, but the profits from the traffic were only £86,000 less, because we were successful in making very considerable economies. The economies came to £256,000, which I am sure you will agree is a great feather in the cap of our general manager. To turn to the results of the year, in a nutshell the results are that we pay our second preference holders £2 16s. 6d. per cent., and there is a fractional sum over—not enough to split up into a dividend—which is carried forward, partly for their benefit and partly for the benefit of the Argentine Great Western ordinary shareholders, who rank with them. Then, I should like to say a word or two as to the Transandine Railway. Snow fell from June to October, 1914, and at Inca there was actually 40 ft. of snow; this was finally cleared on our side in November, but, owing to blocks on the Chilean Transandine side, the first international train did not run until December 7. This year snow blocked both sides at the end of May. We cleared it several times on our side, but as the Chilean Transandine side remained closed we stopped clearance, and the line was not open to through service until September 26. You will ask me what about prospects. Well, it is always a difficult thing to forecast, but, as you know, I always do it as fairly as I can. First of all, the area under wheat is greater than it was last year, but some damage has been done by drought on the Bahia Blanca section, where, luckily, we have only a short haul. On the other hand, serious damage has been done in not a very large district on the Pacific line near Villa Mercedes. There the wheat has been seriously damaged by drought, but our general manager still estimates that the crop will be a good one. I should like you, however, to consider this: We have got a visitation of locusts. I do not apprehend serious damage from locusts to the wheat, but some little damage, I am afraid, we must anticipate. On the other hand, the maize crop, with the number of locusts in the country, will undoubtedly be liable to very material damage. Another bad point is that during the current year our expenses are bound to go up from the increased price of coal—not so much from the price of coal itself as from the heavy charge for freight to get it there, owing, as you know, to a shortage of the carrying capacity of the steamers of the world. Now to turn to the more cheerful side. When our report was issued we had a traffic increase of £293,000—a very big increase for the time—since then there has been a further increase altogether of £17,000, making together £310,000. Well, up to the time of this news about the locusts I had been very sanguine that at the end of our financial year on June 30 next we should probably not only keep that increase, but augment it. With this locust news, until we know how it turns out, I cannot pretend to be as sanguine as that, but I do hope myself that we shall, at any rate, retain a considerable part of that increase. As to our financial position, I think you may fairly put it that, taking the next two or three years together, we ought to keep our capital outlay under £200,000 per annum—more or less—and if you look at our financial resources on the other side you will gather that even if the war goes on for two or three years longer it will be very unlikely that during that time we shall have to come to you for further capital.

Mr. Edward Norman seconded the motion, which was carried.

## BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

### MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The 26th ordinary general meeting of the members of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. F. Sanders, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume that you will take the report and accounts as read. I therefore beg to move: "That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts now presented be and they are hereby received and adopted." The dividends guaranteed by the Pacific Co. under the terms

of the working agreement have been duly received. As you will have seen from the report, the present guaranteed shares under the terms of issue will be converted into 4½ per cent. guaranteed stock on April 1, 1916. Later on in our proceedings I shall propose a resolution to that effect. You will be pleased to know that the wheat and oat crops turned out well in the districts served by your railway, and that the traffic receipts were considerably above the average of the five previous years. Although as a guaranteed company we are not interested directly in the working of our property, still it is a matter for congratulation to us to know that the concern is progressing favourably. I can best illustrate the importance of Bahia Blanca by telling you that during the nine months to September last the total exports of wheat and oats of the Argentine Republic was 2,900,000 tons, and of that total 1,300,000 tons, or very nearly a half, was exported from the port of Bahia Blanca. During the past year we have been able to keep down capital expenditure, and have obtained the sanction of the Argentine Government to defer branch construction work until the return of normal times.

Mr. Edward Norman seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now beg to move the following resolution, namely: "That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to convert, on and after April 1, 1916, the 200,000 5 per cent. guaranteed shares of £10 each, numbered 1 to 200,000, into £2,000,000 4½ per cent. guaranteed stock."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Norman and carried.

Mr. J. A. Goudge moved: "That Lord St. Davids, a retiring director, be and he is hereby re-elected a director of the company."

Mr. Marcus Van Raalte seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman moved: "That Mr. J. A. Goudge, a retiring director, be and he is hereby re-elected a director of the company."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Van Raalte and carried.

On the motion of Mr. J. Hedges, seconded by Mr. W. J. Hornsby, the auditors (Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co.) were re-elected.

## SINGAPORE UNITED RUBBER.

The fourth annual general meeting of the members of Singapore United Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. E. H. Parry presiding.

Mr. W. Bellamy, representing the secretaries (British North Borneo Rubber Trust, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: On reference to the profit and loss account it will be seen that the nett proceeds of rubber sold, including rubber in transit and on hand, amounted to £41,001 6s. 3d., and with interest, sundry receipts, and transfer fees, we show a gross revenue of £41,751 9s. 6d., comparing with £39,214 for the preceding year. Revenue expenditure in Singapore amounted to £13,215 18s. 7d., and the proportion of general expenditure in Singapore and London was £3,163 3s. 4d. and £1,121 14s. 3d. respectively. This leaves us with a profit of £21,616 1s. 3d. on the year's working, which amount is carried to the balance-sheet, and to which must be added the £18,245 16s. 9d. brought forward, giving a total profit of £39,861 18s. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, was paid on June 18, and it is now recommended that a further distribution to the shareholders be made of 7½ per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. dividend for the year. One of the most satisfactory features of the report will have been duly noted, namely, the substantial reduction of our f.o.b. costs of production, which were 9.78d. per lb., against 1s. 7.23d. per lb. for 1913-14. To the former figure must be added depreciation, 1.05d. per lb., London expenditure .67d., and manager's commission .13d., and therefrom deducted sundry receipts in Singapore, .35d. We thus arrive at the figure of 11.28d. per lb. as our cost of production, which compares with 1s. 9.29d. per lb. for last year, and we are not without hope that still further progress may be made during the current year by the reduction of this cost. The output of dry rubber during the year was 402,274 lbs., as compared with 264,337 lbs. in the previous year. Of the rubber produced 377,983 lbs. had been sold at the date of the directors' report at an average gross price of 2s. 2.43d. per lb., and a nett price of 2s. 0.69d. per lb. Since that date the balance of the year's rubber has been sold at similar prices. The manager estimates the output of rubber for the current year at 525,000 lbs. For the first four months the production, we are advised, amounts to 167,200 lbs. Your directors are particularly gratified to have been able to place so satisfactory a position before you for the past year, despite the real troubles experienced by those estates situate at Singapore, especially owing to the restriction on, and for a short period the prohibition of, immigration of Chinese coolies, as well as the abnormally low rainfall. I am pleased to tell you that the Government withdrew the restrictions on the immigration of Chinese coolies some weeks ago, and we therefore hope for a gradual return to normal conditions, notwithstanding a certain increased activity in the tin-mining industry in the East. At the last meeting of shareholders the Chairman made reference to a contract we had entered into covering the weeding for the greater part of the estates. On the whole, this has worked satisfactorily, and has undoubtedly contributed to the reduction of costs of development, but we can believe that the labour troubles referred to may have adversely affected



that complete efficiency which it is the aim of the administration to secure. With the continued removal of the immigration restrictions, we may now look forward with confidence, I feel sure, to the full benefit of the arrangements made, and the hearty co-operation of all to ensure that further progress in the company's affairs to which I have referred.

Mr. John Turner seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### EDISON AND SWAN UNITED ELECTRIC.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Edison and Swan United Electric Light Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Ford (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Parker) having read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: With a view to extending the company's manufacturing facilities, the sum of £8,690 has been expended on additional buildings to cope with its increased trade, and this is included in the balance-sheet under the item freehold and leasehold property, standing at £73,036. Plant and machinery, for a similar reason, have been increased by the sum of £8,706, and you will note that the account now stands at £84,613. One of the principal items included in this additional expenditure has been in respect of our glass furnaces, and these are now equipped for an output of lamp bulbs of practically double the capacity which existed heretofore. While on the subject of lamps, I am glad to be able to tell you that we have in the past year found no difficulty whatever in disposing of the whole of our output, and could undoubtedly have sold more if our manufacturing capacity had been greater, but it is only within the last few months that the additional furnaces and plant have been available, and further moderate expenditure will be required. There has also been a considerable increase in the sale of goods produced in the engineering side of the works. The company has established the reputation of the "Ediswan" drawn-wire lamp, and unless something altogether unforeseen should happen in the future, I see no reason why the increased sales should not continue. Turning to the profit and loss account, the item of general expenses has been reduced this year by £4,825, and amounts to £17,038, while the balance of gross profit brought from trading account has been increased from £51,244 to £56,902, the nett result being that we have made a profit for the year under review of £14,146, against

695 last year, which I hope, under all the circumstances, you will consider fairly satisfactory. It is not possible for the directors to recommend the payment of a dividend. You will remember that on previous occasions I have pointed out to you it is absolutely essential, before any dividend can be paid, that we should accumulate a very substantial reserve fund, which means that, instead of dividing the profits, we shall keep them in the business, and employ them as additional working capital, and for this reason the board recommend that a start be made in this direction by transferring to reserve account the sum of £15,000, and carrying forward to next year's account the balance of £4,878 16s. 3d. One of my colleagues, Mr. Gimmingham, in the early part of this year, made a tour of inspection of the company's Australian and New Zealand branches and agencies, and visited the chief commercial centres there, and I think that in due course a considerable expansion of the company's trade in Australia should result therefrom.

Mr. E. B. Ellice-Clark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**ORIENTAL GAS CO., LTD.**—In view of the saving of expenditure on gas and the contracted market for residuals caused by the war, the directors of this Indian undertaking set themselves to effect economies in working expenses with satisfactory results. The revenue from gas for the year ended June 30 fell off by 74 per cent. and the yield of residual products was 18 per cent. lower, but thanks to the savings, the decline in revenue was more than counterbalanced by £75. Receipts from all sources amounted to £84,377, of which £24,312 was retained as nett profit, and with £2,961 brought in and £660 from dividends, &c., gave an available total of £27,933. After providing for the interest on bank loan and income-tax, the dividend is again made up to 8 per cent. by a final payment at the usual rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. Expenditure on the property amounts to £341,876, against a paid-up capital of £300,000, and reserve and depreciation funds of £56,000, of which £19,658 is invested in securities having a value of £17,113 at the minimum prices. Stocks of coal, &c., stand at £2,156, debtors owe £0.685, and cash and bills come to £5,991, while £20,600 is due to the bankers and £5,986 to sundry creditors.

## NOTICES.

### THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

#### NOTICE.

MEMBERS of the STOCK EXCHANGE are NOT ALLOWED to ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue Circulars or Business Communications to persons other than their own Principals. Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are Not Members of the Stock Exchange, or in any way under the control of the Committee. Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature. A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and November 13, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 13, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 14, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
<b>REVENUE.</b>		<b>83,450,952</b>	<b>10,434,519</b>
Customs .....	37,450,000	29,040,000	21,505,000
Excise .....	54,650,000	34,956,000	22,970,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	28,000,000	19,713,000	15,394,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,041,000	4,999,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	349,000	260,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	103,000,000	20,224,000	10,742,000
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	61,000	61,000
Post Office .....	30,400,000	19,051,000	17,450,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	290,000	300,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,002,000	772,960	792,767
Miscellaneous .....	1,700,000	3,204,232	3,144,763
<b>Revenue .....</b>	<b>267,232,000</b>	<b>131,791,192</b>	<b>97,328,535</b>
<b>Total, including Balance .....</b>		<b>215,242,144</b>	<b>107,763,054</b>
<b>OTHER RECEIPTS.</b>			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,310,000	1,920,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		102,611,000	50,100,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		585,850,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,150,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		261,746,500	75,033,000
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>1,204,844,222</b>	<b>235,966,054</b>

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 13, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 14, 1914.
<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	20,720,000	16,559,966	14,300,596
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	30,726,000	6,574,777	1,069,201
Road Improvement Fund ....	1,431,000	694,395	817,695
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts, &c. ....	9,406,000	5,487,901	5,458,146
Other Consolidated Fund			
Services .....	1,697,000	1,193,592	1,097,077
Supply Services .....	990,696,000	817,508,148	189,038,449
<b>Expenditure .....</b>	<b>1,054,676,000</b>	<b>848,018,879</b>	<b>211,780,124</b>
<b>OTHER ISSUES.</b>			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,825,000	2,245,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,300,000	2,350,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		100,000	2,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		100,000	60,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £146,512,000, in 1915-16) .....		146,512,000	15,000,000
<b>Balances in Exchequer—</b>	<b>1915.</b>	<b>1914.</b>	
Bank of England .....	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	
Bank of Ireland .....	£	£	
	18,727,359	3,076,251	
	605,976	722,059	
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>1,185,509,887</b>	<b>232,167,744</b>
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>1,204,844,222</b>	<b>235,966,054</b>

NOTE.—The Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure are based upon the original Budget Estimate.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on November 13, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. £10,000,000

Bills otherwise issued .. .. £234,581,000

Total .. .. £264,581,000

\* Includes £182,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, November 13, 1915.

**Bibi Bibat Oil.**—Production week Nov. 14, 62,933 poods, or 1,015 tons.

**The African Banking Corporation** has opened a branch at Benoni, Transvaal.

**QUEEN'S CLUB GARDENS ESTATES, LTD.**—Nett profits for the year ended September 30 fell off by £250 to £5,910, but a very much larger balance was brought forward, and the available total was £1,057 up at £14,247. Out of this a dividend of 4 per cent. is again paid, leaving £10,047 to be carried forward. Nothing in the balance-sheet requires special mention.



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## Passing Events.

What is happening in Greece remains mysterious. Last week it was stated, apparently on official authority, that a blockade of Greek ports had been instituted by our Government. No contradiction appeared until Wednesday of this week, when the Foreign Office issued an abrupt statement to the effect that there was no blockade. "No Greek ships are being seized," it said, "or held up in the ports of the United Kingdom, and no blockade of Greek ports has been instituted or is in force." The original story came from the British Legation at Athens, and was allowed to be published here without hint that it might be a misrepresentation of activities. It may have been an exaggerated story, but that something of the kind was in contemplation when the Legation spoke would seem to be undoubted, and the Athens correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on the evening of the 19th inst. that the Allied fleets were reported to have begun to institute a severe search on board all steamers flying the Greek flag in the *Ægean* and in the Mediterranean. Has there since been a change of policy which has prompted the Foreign Office to deny these reports, and does this change mean that the Allied Powers have come to an understanding with King Constantine? We should be much relieved if it were so, but altogether the mystery surrounding the position of the Greeks deepens rather than clears up. Why is the Greek army kept on a war footing? The latest story is that the one feeling dominating all Greek minds is *fear*, dread of the brutal Germans. Constantine is alleged to have declared that they would rather fall into the hands of gentlemen as enemies than into the hands of the savage Teutons, but that meantime he means to adhere to the policy of the jumping cat. The whole of the rumours require confirmation, and may hide serious arrangements made for our liberty of action. It may be this, but in our view all that is happening deepens the feeling of disquiet. The Greek people may be all right, the majority of them probably are, in sentiment, but they appear to be entirely under the thumb of King Constantine and the German officers and diplomats who surround him. M. Venezelos himself now says that his countrymen not only believe in a German victory, but that the two central empires are already vic-

torious. Therefore, this talk about *fear* sounds rather like mockery, and surely France at least is not going to be put off by phrases and extenuations. All Greek action hitherto has been shufflings, delays, and put-offs amounting to betrayal. Who but Constantine arranged the first overthrow of Venezelos just in time to prevent the Greek Army from coming, as promised, to help us in our first attack on the Dardanelles? There is but one course open to the Allies now, and that is to insist upon the disbanding of the Greek army. Who is paying for that army, let us ask again? We are not doing so, nor is France. If anybody is helping to keep it on a war footing it must be Germany, and even Germany has no money, can only promise to pay the bill when the war is over, a delusive promise. Our safety, the safety of the Allies, our success even in the earlier part of the Balkan war, depends upon the firmness with which we grasp this nettle. And the safety of the populations in the West, now agonised by the horror of a Teutonic aggression, which gives no rest to man in any part of the world, which is carrying on war in the United States and in Persia as well as in Asia Minor, which is fomenting trouble in China, giving no peace to mankind anywhere, demands not merely that the Greek army should be withdrawn from Salonika, but that it should be disbanded. No genuine parliamentary election, moreover, can be held in Greece unless the army is disbanded.

We sincerely hope that it is all right, but doubt all the same. Therefore, what is written above is allowed to stand, although it went to the printer a day before the news came that Greece had given way and promised guarantees to the civilised Allies that their troops would not be interfered with. In token of the satisfaction such assurance gave to the representatives of these Powers, the British interference with Greek shipping was stopped, and what may be called the blockade, although technically our Foreign Office did not so designate it, was abandoned. What are the guarantees that have been granted? Are they merely King Constantine's untrustworthy promises? To our thinking there is no guarantee worth writing down which is not sealed by the dispersal of the Greek army. Its removal from Salonika would be something, no doubt, but as long as it is in being we are in danger of a



dastardly betrayal should any success of a striking description fall to the barbarians. At present the Germans and their Bulgarian dupes have overrun Serbia, and Mr. Belloc is probably right in his surmise that the Serbian Army is short of ammunition, has exhausted its stock in the first resistance of the Austro-German onslaught from beyond the Danube. The position in Serbia is, therefore, at present highly critical, and although we have no doubt at all that the wind-up will be in our favour, there is during the coming months no small danger that success for the invaders may once or twice assume a spectacular aspect of triumph, similar to that produced by the overrunning of Belgium last year. In that case what guarantee have we that the Greek Army will not fall upon the backs of the Serbians and help to crush them, or try to interfere with our freedom of action in the south? None, except what lies in the power of the Allied fleets. Another point is, do the guarantees given embrace an assurance that Greek coasting traders, lawless and irresponsible shipowners often, will no longer furnish supplies to German submarines in the Ægean? Merely to ask this question indicates how emphatically unsatisfactory this so-called compact with Greece looks, and although the enlightened part of the Greek population is heartily with the Western Powers and Russia, the army is under German control and leadership, and the Court so absolutely subservient to Germany as to be thoroughly unreliable. Perhaps, however, France, Russia, and Britain could not see eye to eye in dealing with Greece, and we must not be too critical. It is better to hope that vigilance will not be abated for one moment, or any precaution neglected calculated to keep the pro-German bent of the Greek Government well within bounds. King Constantine's popularity is on the wane, gossip says, and we count nothing on that either, because the Greek peoples are not enlightened enough to adhere to a bold policy and send him packing.

Is the Government's measure to prevent the raising of rents a beginning of the far-reaching changes in the laws of property that bid fair to form one of the most important consequences of this war? It may be premature to ask, but Mr. Long's words in introducing the Bill to stop the raising of the rents of the poor and to control the rates of interest exacted on mortgages seem to presage, perhaps unconsciously, more revolutionary changes to come. "The war," he said, "had taught the community many things. It had brought the castle and the cottage and all classes closer together than they had ever been before. The feeling of the country was not only creditable to our people, but was one of which they had every right to be proud, and he believed that in the future people would look back on the feeling now manifested by all as one which did great credit to this generation. The Government brought forward this Bill in a single-minded desire to remove a real grievance and to deal with a great difficulty with as much even-handed justice as possible in the circumstances." If the spirit here indicated comes to permeate the spirit of the nation, the whole attitude of classes and individuals towards each other will be altered for the better. Even the highest civilisation mankind now enjoys is based on selfishness to a far greater degree than the civilisation of the future must be. As to the measure proposed, it is as careful as circumstances permit to minimise the restraint put upon the self-interests of a particular class. The measure is not to be of universal application, although its provision applies to all parts of the kingdom with slight variations designed to make it work smoothly. Apparently the law will apply only to urban areas. In Ireland the standard of population would be fixed at 25,000, and the annual rental of houses to which the measure could be applied would be £30 in London and £21 in the rest of the kingdom. The pre-war rent is to be called the standard rent, and all levies above that may be declared irrecoverable, but the measure does not give those who have been paying excessive rents liberty to demand back the excess exacted. Mortgages are delicate forms of property to

handle, but it is the design behind the measure to limit the power of mortgagees to charge rates of interest above what they got before the war. An exception, however, is made in the case of property which has undergone structural alterations or improved in the intervening period. In these cases the maximum of 6 per cent. is to be allowed to be charged on the total outlay. This seems liberal enough, and although there was a certain amount of grumbling, as was natural, the House was, on the whole, inclined to acquiesce in the measure as a necessity of the time. Some amendments may be embodied in it as the Bill passes through Parliament, but, on the whole, its inevitableness is likely to protect it from much modification. And the sooner it becomes law the better.

A recent number of the *Board of Trade Journal* contained a summary translation of articles which have appeared in various issues of the *Kartell-Rundschau* of Düsseldorf during the past 12 months. It is worthy of attention at the present time, not only because it illustrates the sublime unconsciousness dyed, as it were, into the Teuton mind, of the change that has come over the civilised world in its attitude towards *les Bosches*—those demons of greed, lust, and cruelty who have used the German race as their instruments to try for a world-domination, and, failing in that, seek to bring about a world's desolation. The *Kartell-Rundschau* is the organ of the German iron and steel industries, and the articles summarised were devoted to discussions as to the best method by which Germany could complete her organisation for controlling the iron industry of the world when the war is over. The men behind the Steel Works Union have evidently no idea whatever of the determination growing stronger everywhere to have nothing to do with German business men or methods when peace comes back. A man named Müller, the managing director of a German iron firm, has formulated a scheme in virtue of which all forms of iron manufacture would be brought within control of the directing spirits, for "after the war it will be necessary for Germany to face the question of developing its trade in foreign markets in the same effective way as the German military authorities are now confronting the situation abroad, and this can only be accomplished with the assistance of syndicates." But whether "it would still be expedient to sell at low prices large quantities of semi-manufactured material to the United Kingdom and Belgium, or whether it would be preferable to convert this semi-manufactured material into finished products at their own works and then export the product," is a point apparently not yet determined, but one object sought is "to improve the somewhat niggardly methods with which syndicates have hitherto managed the foreign trade." It is proposed to divide steel products into three categories—A, B, and C. Category A would comprise semi-manufactured material, railway permanent-way necessities, and section iron; category B, bar iron, wire, sheets, pipes, tubes, and railway rolling material; and category C would embrace a variety of articles, such as forgings, steel castings, cylinders, certain forms of girders, &c.

Our interest in this discussion lies mainly in the question whether there is anything in this systematic, drill-sergeant, German method of organising business that we can copy and improve on. Some articles have been appearing in the *Morning Post* in advocacy of a *sollverein*, say "toll union," between the four Allied Powers of the *Entente*—Russia, Great Britain, France, and Italy. And the idea is one well worth examination, not because it would necessarily involve the establishment of a high tariff exclusively against Germany and Austria, but because a systematic organisation of the trades and industries of the four Allied States would constitute their best method of fighting against the Germans. There ought, therefore, to be a Central committee formed at once, let us again urge, whose business it would be to examine into the productive capacities of each of these countries and to discover, if possible, how the energies of each could be directed to



the best advantage, not only for the particular country, but for all countries embraced in the new union. We see that a Central Committee of Munitions has now been instituted, whose work will consist in co-ordinating production, in reducing wasteful duplications, and otherwise ensuring the most efficient and economical supply of all that is necessary to carry on the war. Cannot a similar international body be formed with a view to the furtherance of interests of peace between all the States? Surely it is possible, and the effort ought to be made now. We have had far too much waiting on chance and providence in the war, too little effort to gauge the future, to look forward and endeavour to guess what the enemy might be after in order to be beforehand with him. Let us not betray the same easy-going non-chalance in dealing with matters of business, with the revival of industries upon whose prosperity the future of civilisation will depend.

Many people are keen for a high tariff exclusively directed against the Germans, and we notice that, as might be expected of an American, Mr. F. W. Wile, of the *Daily Mail* and *New York Times*, is almost violent in his advocacy of this course. We believe there could be no greater mistake. That Germany will continue to produce and to burrow her way into all markets open to her may be accepted as a certainty. She will not be able to do this immediately after the war; probably her industries will lie in a more or less wrecked condition for a good many years to come, and her manhood will be gone; but ultimately her coral-insect like producing power will begin to tell, and the tolls-union as proposed between the great Powers, now so hard at work beating down the aggressors, should endeavour to find effective and non-oppressive methods of meeting it. We look with favour on the simple boycott as one means of defence, so far as the entry of Germans into other countries is concerned. German products should only be admitted under severe restrictions, and Germans themselves allowed to live abroad only under civil disabilities, and on payment of an annual graduated poll-tax. As regards the marketing of German commodities, we think that no Teuton traders or steel makers, or other kind of producers should be permitted to establish agencies in any of the countries against which Germany and Austria have made war. Their goods, when required, ought to be made procurable only through the instrumentality of houses native to the country importing. In this way the boycott would be effective, and the profit on the sale of the tainted goods should become to a greater extent than ever before the property of the consignee. This theme might be developed much further, but we are content for the present to leave the hint to fructify, always bearing in mind that German industrialism must henceforth be made subservient to our interests. But we must combine and work together as one family.

A very fine speech—courageous, manly, patriotic—was delivered by Mr. John Redmond at a recruiting meeting held in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening. He went there within two hours of his return from the front in order to make an appeal to Irishmen in London to enlist in the London Irish Rifles, and, on the whole, the news he brought back was exhilarating. He not only examined into the state of our armies there, and found all cheerily well, but had seen something of the country; of Belgium's desolation, and the one complaint he made, not for the first time, with reference to the Irish regiments is that they do not get sufficient recognition in despatches. That is perfectly true, and is a grievance which will have to be remedied. In the course of his speech he took occasion to make some extremely severe remarks about Lord St. Davids and the charges made by him against the Army Staff. As we have rather taken Lord St. Davids' side, it is but fair to make room here for this part of Mr. Redmond's address, and we do so all the more readily because we never complained or thought of complaining about the inefficiency of the working staff. It would be impossible

to complain about an English body of men serving under a man like General Robertson, Chief of the Staff. What we complained of, and what Mr. Redmond's remarks would lead us to believe is now remedied, was the presence at Headquarters of a considerable body of ornamentals and supernumeraries, male and female, who should never have been allowed there at all. Of the well-groundedness of our complaint, made in June last, we have no doubt whatsoever, but probably the visits of Ministers to the front and such criticism as was allowed to leak through the interstices of the Censorship led to the removal of these people. What may be called a shipful of them came home some months ago we know, and consequently what Mr. Redmond saw enabled him consolingly to give the lie to the complaints which were only too well grounded in the middle of the year. Not that the efficiency of the working staff was interfered with; only the presence of socially fascinating and influential people carrying big titles and possessed of a powerful social leverage had considerable influence in protecting incompetent officers from the consequences of their failures. This is a delicate subject which we have no desire to rake up; nevertheless, slackness and favouritism did exist, and we are glad to learn now that they are at an end. Here is Mr. Redmond's indignant, and yet most generous, rebuttal of what was true and no longer is so:—"I think that nothing more mischievous or cowardly has ever been done in public life in this country than the speech the other day in the House of Lords of Lord St. Davids, who pictured the General Staff which is working all this great system as having a good time, as being made of shirkers, young fellows of high social position who have taken no share in the fighting, and who are living idle and vicious lives. I say without circumlocution that that is a lie. (Cheers.) I have been a witness of the work of this administrative staff. These men are at work before 9 o'clock in the morning, and they go on with their work after dinner until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. So far from leading idle lives, they are the hardest-worked men I have ever come across. So far from being shirkers, almost all the young men who are employed upon the Staff are men who have already served in this war, who have been wounded, and severely wounded. I met some of these 'shirkers leading idle and vicious lives,' and I inquired who they were. I found they were men who had been shot through both lungs nine months ago, who had recovered from their wounds, and who had gone now, instead of being sent right back to the front, to help at Headquarters for the purpose of doing this work, and working from 9 o'clock in the morning until 10 or 11 at night."

Monday's *Standard* contained a little table illustrative of the effects of a super-imposition of income-tax levies in the United Kingdom and Australia. It is a very interesting table, and we take the liberty of borrowing it here:—

	Incomes of		
	£10,000.	£20,000.	£100,000.
British Income-tax and Super-tax .....	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Commonwealth Income-tax ....	5 1	6 0	6 10
New South Wales State Income-tax .....	5 0	5 0	5 0
New South Wales Super-tax ..	1 6½	1 6½	1 6½
Total .....	0 3	0 3	0 3
	11 10½	12 9½	13 7½

The figures show that a man possessing an income of £100,000 which is taxed in the United Kingdom, in the Commonwealth of Australia, and in New South Wales, will have to surrender 13s. 7½d. in the £ as tax. Even the man of only £10,000 will have to pay 11s. 10½d. This is described as an hardship, and from many points of view it no doubt is so, but we fear the many people of smaller means who are not struck with such onerous taxation will not be stirred to any great depth of sympathy. Those who are most likely to suffer are British investors who never saw Australia, and have only lent money to the States there. Possibly some relief might be given to the least well-off among these—although we are by no means sure that they deserve it, because the financial troubles hanging over



the Commonwealth and its States are in origin to a great extent the work of the British investor, ever ready to lend money whether it was good for those who borrowed or not. "But capital will no longer go to Australia from this side under such conditions." Well, would that be an unmixed evil?

Last week Mr. Bonar Law quoted a Glasgow friend as having told him that never in the course of its history had Glasgow enjoyed such prosperity as it does now. Some reflection of that prosperity is doubtless to be found in the profit and loss statement of the Royal Bank of Scotland covering the year ended October 9. Gross profits were £34,736 up at £496,437, while the increase in expenses was only £7,312 at £202,705. It follows that the nett profit of £293,732 shows an improvement of £27,424. In ordinary circumstances the directors might have felt themselves justified in giving some of this extra profit to the shareholders. Times, however, are far from being ordinary, and consequently the shareholders really get less than they did for the previous year, when a 10 per cent. dividend was paid, plus a bonus of 1 per cent. This time there is no bonus, and the 10 per cent. dividend is paid subject to income-tax, so that in all £29,791 less is given to the shareholders. The same amount, however, of £6,500 has been written off expenditure on bank buildings and real estate, but now the board has thought it wise to devote £270,000 towards meeting depreciation on the bank's investments. Of this, £110,357, or £57,215 more than a year ago, is taken from the profits, and the balance of £159,643 is withdrawn from the rest, or reserve, bringing it down by just that amount to £800,986. A number of stocks and securities were still at the date of the report subject to the minimum prices fixed by the Government consequent upon the war, and the values of these cannot meantime be accurately ascertained. Some of these minima have this week been removed, and the light the liberation throws upon the position of large holders of these stocks is not at present too reassuring, though by no means so bad as might have been feared. All bank boards, therefore, do well to keep dividends low and utilise surplus profits to write off and down. Neglect of this wise course might bring troublesome consequences later on. The balance-sheet shows an increase of £2,195,695 in liabilities on deposits, bringing them up to £19,144,394. The note circulation is also larger by £406,510 at £1,640,239. Drafts outstanding are likewise £353,708 larger at £580,579, and acceptances and endorsements show an increase of £47,927 at £442,193, these movements all indicating greater commercial activity in some directions. As for the assets, the cash of all descriptions, including gold and silver coin, is up £841,447 to £3,119,279, and the increase in British Government securities, including War Loan, Consols, &c., is £3,757,296 at £5,361,459. Altogether the investments and cash form a total of £14,335,490, which is £4,766,579 more than that of a year ago. Only one group of investments shows a decrease, viz., Foreign Government stocks, Indian railway stocks, and Bank of Ireland stock, &c., it being down £292,515 to £1,647,417. Bills discounted, including £1,564,000 of British Treasury bills, are also down £298,431 to £2,964,757, and advances £856,216 lower at £4,664,325. There is also a severe shrinkage of £920,444 in the bank's loans on stocks and securities, bringing that asset down to £1,665,416. Other changes are all insignificant, but the total of the balance-sheet is £2,719,092 up at £24,695,787.

All scraps of information that serve us in getting a clearer idea of the economic state of Germany are welcome, and an interesting Reuter message was published in Tuesday's papers which told us that the finances of Bavaria are, vulgarly speaking, in Queer Street. It comes from Zurich, but may be none the less true for that. We hope it is true, because the

more keenly the people of Germany suffer, the sooner will come their impotence as aggressors. There is an enormous Bavarian deficit, according to this message, and the people will not submit to further taxation. The progressive income-tax failed to produce the anticipated surplus, the revenue from the special import tax is decreasing, and the earnings from the State railways have considerably declined. On the other hand, expenditure mounts all round, and to meet it the Finance Minister proposed an increase of 25 per cent. on the income-tax, which the Chamber refused to grant. Then another proposal was brought forward to levy a war tax on all persons whose unencumbered wealth amounts to more than £1,000. This would touch the pockets of some 200,000 people it is said, but is just as unacceptable as the progressive income-tax. Bavaria cannot be a particularly rich country, seeing that the number of its inhabitants possessing unencumbered property of £1,000 and upwards is only 200,000. The total population of the State, the second largest within the German Empire, is under 7,000,000, so that less than 3 per cent. of it is rich enough to have £1,000 of clear wealth.

In normal conditions the financial year of both Dorman, Long and Co. and the South Durham Steel and Iron Co. ends on September 30, but under the Munitions of War Act these undertakings have been declared "controlled establishments" as from November 8. The directors say that the change may necessitate the preparation of accounts at that date, and, owing to this and to uncertainties arising out of the Finance Act now under consideration in Parliament, the accounts for the past year could not be ready in time for the annual meetings. On the 10th inst., however, Dorman, Long and Co. announced the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1s. per share, making 13 per cent. for the year, and the directors of the South Durham Steel and Iron Co. now state that they are satisfied that the profits enable them to declare a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, in addition to the interim dividend at the same rate paid in April.

Are not the directors of the Bolivar Railway Co., Ltd., trying to get round a Treasury decision? Circumstances, partly the state of the exchange, have prevented them from being able to pay cash dividends either for the previous year or for the one ended June 30 last, for which 3 per cent. on the preference shares was earned. For the previous year 5 per cent. was earned, and as the directors claim that not only the state of the exchange blocks the way to cash payment, but that, failing the power to issue capital, the money has been used upon the branch railway to San Felipe, they are no doubt right enough in their decision to pay these dividends by an issue of debenture stock. In normal times the cash needed for the railway building would have been provided by a sale of that stock, so why not issue enough of the 6 per cent. debenture stock at par to satisfy the dividend claims? The proposal was submitted to the Treasury for approval, but it replied that it was not in the public interest that the proposed issue should take place now. The directors, however, are determined that the preference shareholders shall not suffer, and consequently they propose to issue a scrip certificate for 8 per cent., representing the amount of overdue arrear dividends due to them. This scrip is to bear 6 per cent. interest from the first of next month, and will be exchanged for 6 per cent. debenture stock when that is possible. The certificates will be for the full amount of 8 per cent. without deduction of income-tax, but fractions of £1 will be paid in cash. If no exchange shall have been effected by December 31, 1918, then the amount represented by the scrip certificates will become a debt due from the company, and payable as soon as circumstances permit. No doubt the shareholders will be quite ready to sanction this, but will the Treasury? It is a great hardship for people to lie out of dividends, but the security given to them would not be a very



marketable one, and it might be better to have patience and wait without acting in defiance of what seems to be the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. As for the accounts, the gross revenue last year fell off £25,976 to £87,497, and working expenses could only be brought down by £6,396 to £48,828. Consequently the nett revenue, after allowing for £932 less at £13 received as transfer fees, shows a reduction of £20,512 at £13,682. This was still ample to pay the debenture interest, as also to meet income-tax and interest and discount charges in other directions, while £1,500 more at £7,000 was assigned for depreciation, repairs, &c., against which, however, £1,977 less at £3,023 was utilised in estate development. As a result, the amount available for shareholders is £24,559 less at £8,837, and the 3 per cent. dividend proposed to be paid by scrip takes £8,784, so that there would be a mere £53 left to carry forward. It may be noted that the first 20 kilometres of the branch line to San Felipe was opened for public service in September last, and the rails have now been laid up to the 31st kilometre. The line will be 42 kilometres (26.4 miles) in length when finished. The expenditure upon the company's agricultural estates was £5,637 last year, while the sale of produce brought in £2,614. Locusts caused some damage amongst the crops. The whole enterprise, however, is a good one, and should by-and-by bring excellent results.

The Imperial Continental Gas Association has sold to the Municipality of Frankfort the whole of its interest in the Frankfort-on-Main Gas Co., consisting of 7,705 shares of £50 each, out of a total of 13,600 shares, with the right to nominate the majority of the board. In February last the municipality, which already held 3,157 shares, made an offer of £85 per share for the association's shares, but the proposal was not entertained at the time. Subsequent negotiations, conducted by permission from the Foreign Office, resulted in the signing of a formal contract for the sale of the shares at 198 per cent. of their nominal value, this sum including 3 per cent. for compensation to the London directors of the Frankfort Co. The purchase money is to be paid in cash "at the latest, six months after ratification of the future peace between Germany and all the Great Powers which are at the time at war with the German Empire." In the meantime interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is to be added annually to the amount payable, and the shares are to remain in the possession of the association's agents until the payment of the purchase money and the repayment of a loan from the association to the gas company. The shares stand in the association's books at £460,650, but by this transaction it will receive £99 per share, or £762,795, which includes £11,887 compensation to the directors for loss of office, together with the dividend for 1915, amounting to £38,525, and the balance of the loan now amounting to £140,000. Altogether, therefore, the sum to be paid to the association at the conclusion of peace, taking 20 marks to the £, will be £941,320, plus interest on the purchase price and on the balance of the loan.

The exceptional conditions existing during the year ended September 30 brought a substantial improvement in the affairs of Belsize Motors, Ltd. Trading profits, which a year ago fell off by £15,220, now show an improvement of £22,853 at £61,343, and after providing for depreciation and other charges, the balance, including £4,664 more at £7,351 brought forward, was £28,224 up at £58,056. Of this, £25,000 is transferred to reserve, as against nothing a year ago, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 7 per cent. to 10, bringing it back to the level of 1912-13, leaving £10,312, or £724 less, to be carried forward, subject to directors' and auditors' fees and income-tax. Property account shows very little change at £26,754, but plant and machinery account has been increased by £7,141 to £115,742, against which the reserve will now stand at £75,000. Stocks are £25,557

smaller at £197,438, and debtors owe £2,331 less at £96,850, while current liabilities have been reduced by £2,632 to £81,383, and the bank overdraft of £18,834 shown in the previous balance-sheet has now given place to a credit of £27,340.

Further details have now come to hand regarding the American representation on the international committee of bankers and financiers for handling the Anglo-American exchange question. The American representatives are:—Messrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, National City Bank (chairman); James S. Alexander, National Bank of Commerce; Charles H. Sabin, Guaranty Trust Co.; Seward Prosser, Bankers' Trust Co.; George M. Reynolds, Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago; James B. Forgan, First National Bank of Chicago; Robert V. Hebden, New York agent of Bank of Montreal; William H. Porter, of J. P. Morgan and Co.; John E. Gardin, National City Bank; and Fred I. Kent, Bankers' Trust Co. Mr. Benjamin Strong, jun., the governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Mr. William Woodward, of the Hanover National Bank, while not members, have taken part in the conferences of the committee. A sub-committee, consisting of exchange experts, including Messrs. Max Moy, Fred I. Kent, John Gardin, and William H. Porter, has been appointed to handle the details of the transactions in connection with the loans and credits that are determined by the main committee. It seems that the committee will not announce particulars of the credits; for these are to be regarded as professional banking confidences. The credits to be arranged will be of two kinds, straightforward loans, to be drawn upon at sight as desired, and credits based on acceptances. These acceptances will be in a form acceptable for discount at the Federal Reserve banks. Not all the banks and finance companies have agreed to recognise any obligation to confer with the committee. Some of them are

"I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

## AN URGENT APPEAL FOR THE RELIEF OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

BY THE  
ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION.

THE ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION urgently appeals for funds in order to continue the purchase and despatch of a weekly supply of necessities and comforts to relieve the sufferings of 500 British Prisoners in Germany.

THE ASSOCIATION is anxious to SEND A SPECIAL PARCEL AT CHRISTMAS, to which the men will be looking forward, and as it has now become necessary to provide a fresh supply of clothing its resources are taxed to the uttermost.

Dear Sir,—I received your parcel on the 22nd of this month. Its contents were just absolutely ideal. The articles are the very things needed out here, and I want you to thank my friends, whoever they may be, for their kindness to me. I am still in good health, and hope to be for the remainder of the time I am here.

I remain Yours truly, W.R.J.P.

The parcels, value 7/6, include everything that is known to be necessary for the welfare and comfort of the prisoners, and any sum, large or small, will be gratefully received by

The Rev. H. B. CHAPMAN,  
Royal Savoy Association,  
7, Savoy Hill, London, W.C.



acting alone, and one of the concerns, a large trust company, is reported to have already arranged credits amounting to \$18,000,000 for its London correspondents.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

Superficially there is little to be said about the war news of this week. Progress is made, but not of a sensational kind, and the labour of wearing down the strength of a multitudinous group of races forming the Austro-Hungarian and German Empires continues to be stupendous. That the destruction will be successfully accomplished we have never had any doubt, and every day brings nearer the collapse of the two maleficent States. Their activity, however, is in the meantime absolutely demoniac. Look at what they have been doing in the United States, at what they are doing to-day in Persia. Wherever the Teuton has got a footing he is bent on doing the utmost mischief unparalleled brutality can suggest. It is unnecessary to linger on this aspect of the moral pestilence that has broken loose on mankind, but surely the contemplation of such a disturbed world ought to give the Allies confidence in their endeavour and assurance as to their destiny.

Apart from Serbia, there is little to occupy the mind, although fighting continues every day on all the vast fronts of Russia, France, and Belgium, and in the mountains and valleys surrounding Gorizia, where the Italian campaign is being pursued with a systematic and unremitting continuity admirable to behold. The most difficult task of all has been assigned to the Italian Army, that of dislodging the Austrians from almost impregnable positions on mountains and passes. It is a very costly task in human lives, but it also will be accomplished, and presently Italian troops will be at liberty to help France, Great Britain, and Russia in stamping out the fire in the Balkans, if such help should be required. That fire is now raging all over stricken Serbia, and were the time suitable we could scold much against the short-sighted diplomacy which allowed the conflagration to get well ablaze before waking up to the danger. It is, however, perfectly useless to hark back upon past mistakes, the more so as these mistakes have sprung to a large extent from the incapacity of the Allies of the *Entente* to grasp the fact that no limit can be placed upon the faculty for treachery our opponents display. At the moment of writing Serbia is almost entirely in the hands of the Teutons and their traitor Slav Allies of Bulgaria. They have overrun the country, a comparatively easy matter, and now their difficulties will begin. The Serbian Army is still intact, and the Serbian Government has had to take refuge in Scutari, the much-disputed city which should have belonged to Montenegro but for the selfish refusal of the Austrians, but neither Government nor army is defeated. Where the army is we do not know, and do not want to know, but an examination of the map shows it to be by no means impossible that in the plains of Kossovo the triumphant invaders might find themselves entrapped, if only the Serbs had guns and ammunition. A crushing defeat to their assembled hosts would do more to put an end to the disagreeable difficulty with Greece than anything else and might cure the Kaiser's itch after separate peaces. And we must never forget that out of this third Balkan War a solution of the political dissensions and rivalries in that tormented region cannot fail to be made much more easy. No Bulgarian ambition will, at the true peace, be allowed to override the rights or even the aspirations of the Serbians, and Greek territorial ambitions will have to be whittled down to very modest dimensions. Greece, in fact, in the hands of Constantine the Dane and his German surroundings, is committing suicide, and surrendering, probably for ever, all chance of becoming a State of importance or weight in South-Eastern Europe; for crimes of the kind which Greece is committing are never forgotten or forgiven. We have said enough about the attitude of the Powers towards Greece in

another note, and need only express here the hope that the smooth language still employed by the *Entente* Powers in dealing with Greek treachery—for treachery it is—will not be adhered to should the answer demanded prove to be beguiling. The Greek Army has no business whatever to be on a war footing unless it is to be put at the disposal of France and England.

This journal has always maintained that Italy would prove a loyal partner to the Allies of the *Entente*, and the speech of Signor Orlando, Minister of Justice, at Palermo last Sunday ought to go far in dispelling the fears of those among us who doubt. Italy is not only loyally on our side, but as capable as any of us of rising to that height of unselfishness which fights for our ideal without thought of material reward. "There would be no good in our isolated victory," said the speaker, "apart and independently of the victory of the Allies, and just as there could be no isolated victory there could be no isolated peace. But such a vision of solidarity justified one in considering one's own interest as the common interest. Nor was such a consideration of utility limited by any prejudicial reason." Italy has not signed the pledge, "No separate peace," but she knows that her interests and her duty alike counsel solidarity with us. Equally emphatic and satisfactory was Signor Orlando's declaration about Serbia. We are disposed to misjudge Italy for not having at once despatched an army to fight by the side of the sorely tried Balkan State, unmindful of the arduous character of the war Italy is so valiantly waging for the security of her Alpine frontier. It is not from selfishness nor from greed of territory that Italy holds back; "neither abstention nor intervention could depend upon any other reason than the estimate of what was best adapted to attain the essential end. With this sole consideration we were inspired and will be inspired, but I should add that, whatever may be the final efficacy of this consideration, a sentimental reason, which is combined with a political reason, acts very strongly upon our minds. In the first we affirm all our admiration and all our solidarity towards the heroic Serbian people; in the second we affirm all the inestimable importance to Italy of the position of the Balkan peoples." These are words of good augury for the future peace. Italy, we are confident, will never stand in the way of the union of the Slav peoples, now ground down by the Austrians, into one large State endowed with the freedom of the Adriatic and inspired by a spirit of loyal friendship towards and co-operation with Italy, guardian she of that inland sea, and one of Slavonia's liberators.

### Thrift Wins the War.

To some extent the results of our last War Loan are disappointing. The money has been found, but not by the small investor with that alacrity or fulness that was to be expected. The effort, taken in its mass, was a remarkable one, so that the real source of disappointment lies in the absence of any effective response from the class of people within the country who are at the present time probably the best off, viz., the workers in all munition shops, in textile factories, and amongst tailors, boot makers, leather merchants, grain merchants, &c. Mr. McKenna stated on Monday that the sale of £5 War Loan certificates to the working classes had been short of expectations. The total amounted to £5,000,000, by no means so large an amount as was anticipated, or as the working classes could very well have furnished ten times over. Seemingly these classes do not care to invest their money in securities that may continually fluctuate in price. They prefer the Savings Bank with its 2½ per cent., and repayment in full assured. Another attempt, therefore, is to be made to try and interest the wealthiest, and at present most spendthrift class in all the nation, in providing the sinews of war. The new proposal is to issue bonds in multiples of £1, carrying 5 per cent. interest, these bonds to be payable on demand at their face value; they will be interest-bearing Treasury notes in short. In return for this privilege no interest would



be paid for the first half-year, and therefore the return would only be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the 5 per cent. bond for the whole of that year. But if the money was left for two years the accumulated interest would be  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. per annum, and if left for three years, it would be  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., or  $4\frac{1}{6}$  per cent. per annum, and so on. This proposal is too elaborate, we fear, for the working man, and these £1 bonds might very well lead to a dangerous inflation of the paper currency. That inflation is already threatened somewhat by the issue of Treasury notes, by the expansion of the Bank of England note circulation, as well as by that of the Scotch and Irish banks. No dangerous redundancy is in sight, but if we add to these various forms of paper money £1 bonds carrying 5 per cent. interest, and if these became popular, there might be the beginning of what could very well turn out to be a serious inflation of the paper money when the war is over. They are to be non-negotiable, the Chancellor says, but bonds to bearer cannot be easily restricted in this fashion.

It must not be forgotten that the whole industry of the country is at the present time on an artificial basis through the war, and that the only way by which we can really get the means with which to bring this war to a successful conclusion is by rigid economy and self-denial, by a willingness to help without fee or reward practised in all directions. This and other considerations relating to war finance are very well brought out in a lecture delivered at King's College, London, by Mr. Hartley Withers, on October 6 last. It is called "War and Self-Denial," and has been published as a twopenny pamphlet by Messrs. J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., with a preface by Mr. E. S. Montagu, M.P., the Secretary to the Treasury. Mr. Withers is a great advocate of thrift at all times, and his little book, "Poverty and Waste," published shortly before the war, will surely bear reading again now. In this lecture he sets himself to show how essential it is that the nation should help the Government by reducing its purchases and by devoting all the money it can save or scrape to help the Government to finance its own and its Allies' expenditure on the war. He would have the country restrict its expenditure upon foreign goods, the purchase of which increases our foreign indebtedness at an inconvenient time, and, on the other hand, increase our surplus home production so that we might have more goods to export. In this way the Government expenditure might even be brought down a little as a restriction of our import trade, and an increase in our export might have some influence in releasing ships for Government business at lower freights. At present the country suffers through the absorption of so much of our shipping serving our armies abroad, supplying it with recruits, feeding it and endowing it with ample quantities of ammunition. This advice is easier given than taken, we fear, especially the "more goods for export" part of it, but it is good advice all the same. "A fear of causing unemployment," Mr. Withers remarks, "is said to be a reason why many people are hesitating to cut down their spending, and unemployment is an evil which ought to be avoided with the utmost care. At the same time, all the evidences show that there is at present much less unemployment than there was before the war, and when we see banks, and insurance companies, and railways employing women workers, and the farmers so short of men that they are taking children from the schools, there does not seem to be much fear that anyone who is gifted with any adaptability and enterprise, and is ready to look for work, and to go where it is offered, will be out of work in these times." That is perfectly true, as far as the present hour is concerned, and it is the after-the-war times which we look forward to with dread. Then the prospect is that 3,000,000 men or more now engaged in carrying on the war will come back home seeking work and finding little, because all the feverish output of guns and ammunition will have come to an end, and all the miscellaneous demands of our huge armies have dwindled to a small fraction of what they

are now. It is because of this distant prospect that we keep hammering at the land question. Unless the "dead hand" can be taken off the soil of this country, and its untilled, or half-tilled acres get opened up to the enterprise of the labouring men allowed to own them, we see many symptoms pointing to a social revolution lying not so far ahead. But all the more reason for practising intelligent thrift now, and Mr. Withers's arguments and statements are much to the point. Everybody should read what he has said, and if by any possibility the working man can be induced to hand his savings over to the Government, instead of wasting them in riotous living, or in drink—where he can get it—a powerful stimulus will be given to the augmentation of the resources that make for victory.

### Government and the New York Exchange.

Last week we spoke slightly of the proposal that the Government should take United States securities in pledge, and issue receipts of its own, which would leave it free to borrow upon the securities themselves in America. A further examination of the proposal does not much modify the opinion then given, although, should the securities accepted, as is now proposed, belong to public bodies, like insurance companies, banks, or finance trusts, it would give less trouble. Should the Government buy outright, giving the holders its own obligation, bearing an equivalent rate of interest, or somewhat more, a large amount of capital now fixed and unavailable might be, so to say, mobilised and made available to borrow upon. To go further and accept deposits merely of securities belonging to all and sundry, leaving each individual free to call for the return of his bonds or stocks, could not help the Government at all. The receipts or certificates it issued in exchange would have to be called in—and the pawned stocks sent back from New York, perhaps—and the people who lodged their stocks and shares being free to act, the device could not render the pledged stocks available for Government purposes in any satisfactory fashion. Even on the more restricted lines, however, there appear to us to be considerable practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the project. To merely lend their stocks to be put in pawn is not a desirable arrangement for public companies, because it would leave the depositors also at liberty to call for their bonds and share certificates when they wanted to.

The only way practicable, therefore, would seem to be an out-and-out sale, and an out-and-out sale implies that the British Government assumes a stupendous risk and an indefinite liability to losses, especially at the present time, when the Yankee stock markets are in an inflated position. Could the scheme have been carried out in this restricted fashion before Wall Street began to dream of boundless wealth as a consequence of war orders, of a fairly good harvest, and of what its people regard as the disorganised or preoccupied condition of the industries of other countries, then there might have been some temptation, although never much, so far as the better class of bonds were concerned. Most Yankee railroad shares, however, are risky possessions at the best of times, as the fluctuations of recent years have abundantly demonstrated. They are emphatically risky to-day.

Even were the proposal carried out on the lines which we regard as alone practicable, it is difficult to feel confident that the necessary amounts of credit could be rendered available in the United States, because the comparative failure of our efforts to borrow there directly, ours and the French together, tends to confirm the view always insisted upon in these columns, that the United States is not really a rich country. There are individuals in plenty—although but an insignificant handful when contrasted with a population of nearly 100 millions—who can flare forth with unusual masses of wealth, but the great mass of the American people live literally from hand to mouth, are the victims of debt and a cruel fiscal system. They have no chance



of saving, because the conditions under which they exist gives them little or no scope. This must be the result of the false system upon which the country carries on its foreign trade. When we find its public teachers, Press and professorial, gloating over the fact that the bigger the foreign trade balance against the country, the greater is its wealth, we can begin to grasp how impossible it is to convince the people that they are on the wrong tack, to recognise that this trade is a source of impoverishment, just like that of Germany. They believe that to export more than is imported is a sign of wealth, and jealously erect all manner of savage and stupid barriers in order to stop imports from coming in freely. To that policy there can be but one consequence—poverty for the great mass of the people—and the United States, as a great nation, is, we are persuaded, in no position to continue advancing enormous sums of money to this country. The £100,000,000 sterling which was borrowed after no small difficulty probably represents nearly the limit of what the country could provide and leave enough banking capital to meet its own necessities. Consequently, even supposing we can mobilise £500,000,000 of American securities in the manner suggested, and use these securities as collateral for raising loans in New York, it is highly doubtful whether the operation could be persevered with to any such extent.

Had the United States Money market really been rich and endowed with extensive power to create credit without danger to the stability of internal commerce, then we should have been disposed to suggest that plain certificates of indebtedness should have been given, bearing, say, 6 per cent. interest, and repayable within 12 months or two years after the close of the war. These certificates could have been handed over, not only by the British Government, but by the French, Russian, and Italian Governments, and could have been locked away, with the help of American banking credit, until the date of payment came round. As it is, almost the entire financial pressure of the heavy purchases of war material in the United States falls upon us, or upon France and Great Britain. The financing even of the French purchases is mostly done through London, and it is no doubt owing to the fact that we have also to finance the Russian purchases, and possibly the Italian, that the exchange difficulty has become so acute. Every week, therefore, we must increase our own independence of American supplies, and as the surplus of grain available in the United States for export to Europe is not much larger this year than it was last, the Allied munition demands lie at the root of the entire difficulty. Would it not, then, be possible to devise some other and simpler method—long-dated bills, negotiable in any part of the world; scrip certificates, bearing fixed rates of interest; anything rather than an elaborate system of sale and transfer of United States securities, the result of which might be far less effective in helping us over our difficulty, which is purely temporary, than its advocates and supporters believe?

### American Business Notes.

Considerable interest is being excited in this country over the revelations about German murder and property-destroying plots in the United States. In a sense we were at first surprised that even Germans could have gone so far, but, on reflection, recognise that, as they are fighting a losing game, their unscrupulous criminality naturally tends to increase. Therefore we sympathise with the plight of the Washington Administration, and some of us recognise that it has not been so easy after all to steer the political course in neutrality as we sometimes thought. With 15 or more millions of potential traitors inside the Republic, men of influence and great financial strength many of them, the task imposed upon President Wilson has been exceptionally difficult. We only hope, now that the character and extent of the criminality have been discovered, or at least partly discovered, that a stern-

ness in retribution will be displayed. Enormous sums have seemingly been furnished by German banks, by the Hamburg-Amerika line, and probably by means of a large loan raised within the Republic before the war, and the money has been devoted to the subordination of the basest and most revolting forms of crime, with a perfect emancipation from the least suspicion of respect for our common humanity, as well as with perfect indifference to the interests of the land the dastards had come to squat and plot in. No punishment can be too severe for a race so degraded, so completely indifferent to all human considerations, and we hope the prosecution now instituted by the Government will be carried to a successful conclusion, and tend to deliver the United States from an abominable infliction.

Another matter which interests us is Mr. Vanderlip's new American International Corporation, which is to have an authorised capital of \$50,000,000, or £10,000,000. At first we were told by the news agencies that this was to be a bank, a new international bank, created principally by the officials and adherents of the New York City Bank, the bank of the Rockefellers, and that it was going to invade foreign money markets, with a view to secure for American financiers a share in the international exchange business. This does not seem to have been an altogether accurate description of the company, for Mr. Vanderlip tells us that the enterprise intends "to establish itself in the world of finance, and is being created because the usual European channels for banking and trade have been closed." And, oddly enough, it is not to be a mere money-making enterprise, according to this gentleman, but "will stand for the development of America along international lines." These are fine-sounding words, and excite no feeling of jealousy whatsoever in minds here. By all means let the United States enter the comity of nations in banking, provided it learns how to trade fairly and honestly. The new company, Mr. Vanderlip is reported to have also said, expects to finance foreign undertakings on a far larger scale than is possible, either through the City Bank alone or the New York City Co., which will both continue to work independently. In financing old or new undertakings abroad, the corporation proposes to form in some instances separate companies, and to offer American investors its own debentures, secured by bonds or stocks of foreign properties. It is apparently to be a sort of Deutsche Bank, in short, and, if there is enough money available, it may be a useful assistance in helping the Allies through the post-war difficulties. Much depends upon the capacity of the United States people to lend, and on that point we are not too sanguine, not just yet. A debtor country, still more a country which deliberately seeks to remain a debtor, cannot become a solid basis of security in international finance.

In New York, the Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells us, much curiosity is excited by the fact that the Scandinavian exchange has been maintained at parity, and the Dutch exchange actually at a premium, in spite of the enormous increase in the volume of Dutch imports from America and of Scandinavian as well. From Scandinavia, indeed, the imports rose from £2,740,000 in 1914 to £17,860,000 for the first nine months of this year. In proportion this is a much greater increase than that shown by our imports, and the point of curiosity is how these exchanges keep up. That is to say, by what methods are the debts due by Holland and Scandinavia in the States liquidated? The British, French, and Russian exchanges have all been sent down heavily, in spite of the fact that we have borrowed money in the States and also sent there large amounts of gold and securities. There seems to be but one interpretation of this anomaly—the Dutch, Danish, and Swedish imports were made on German account. But even that does not help us much further, because how have the Germans managed to pay the Dutchmen, Danes, and Swedes in a way that enabled these countries to remit to America? They apparently have not sent gold abroad, and their credits in the United States cannot have been very



extensive at the outbreak of the war. Neither could the German have been. How, then, has the thing been managed? We make the suggestion that it has been managed to a large extent by the financial skill of the German-born, Semitic and other bankers who have settled in and upon the United States much as the vulture settles on a dead carcass. Perhaps somebody in New York will pry into the subject in the light of this hint.

**SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY.**—No dividend was forthcoming upon the preferred shares of this line for the year ended June 30. Had a dividend been paid, the deficiency on the year's accounts would have been \$2,289,000. Gross receipts declined \$4,140,000, and expenses were squeezed down \$2,541,000. This left the income from working \$1,599,000 down, and after paying out interest, which was very slightly larger than in the preceding year, the nett income was only \$342,000, as compared with \$1,674,000 for the preceding year. When discount on adjustment mortgage bonds was written off, which took for the second time \$308,000, there was barely \$34,000 left. The preferred dividend takes \$956,000, so any distribution for the past year was impossible.

### Insurance News.

In view of the increasingly large number of men joining the colours, there is now a more pronounced disposition on the part of life assurance companies to issue policies for new business with the clause providing that in the event of the death of the policy-holders while on active service, the premiums paid shall be returnable in full, this plan having been adopted as an alternative to the more general method of stipulating that, in the event of the assured going on active service, an additional premium would be required. Obviously this extra premium has had to be a very stiff one, and the new arrangement now being adopted does away with the possibility of the suggestion that the companies were asking too much. From the first the companies have acted with the greatest generosity towards their policy-holders, but, naturally, the disturbance caused to actuarial calculations by the war has been very great, and those responsible for the welfare of the life assurance offices have been called upon to devise new methods for meeting the abnormal conditions attaching to the insurance business since the outbreak of war.

A provisional agreement has been entered into by the directors of the Morley Mutual Fire Insurance Co., whereby the business and goodwill of the company are proposed to be transferred to the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. The little Mutual office, which will thus disappear as an independent concern, has had a prosperous career since it was established in 1872, primarily with the object of insuring woollen mills and premises occupied by the allied trades in Morley and district against loss by fire. Since its formation the business has been extended to include other classes of risk. Substantial dividends have been paid, but, according to the *Post Magazine*, an amalgamation with an insurance company of high standing has been considered advisable by the directors, who feel that the amount of property insured in proportion to the total capital is so great that it would be better to seek amalgamation with one of the big offices. The directors of the Morley Mutual will act as a local board for Morley as a sub-branch to Leeds.

According to statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the past year, just issued in the form of a White Paper, the number of persons coming within the provisions of the Act was rather more than 7 millions, or less by half a million than the figures for the preceding year. This decrease was due presumably to the calling up or enlistment of large numbers of workmen engaged in the seven principal groups of industries during the latter part of 1914. The number of cases dealt with was 432,100, as contrasted with 480,700 in 1913, while

the payments made amounted to £3,465,400, against £3,361,700. There was thus a decrease in the number of cases of 48,600, but an increase in the amount of compensation paid of £103,700.

A new clause will probably be introduced into the Finance Bill, the object of which is to maintain the limit of abatement of income-tax on life assurance premiums at one-sixth of the pre-war income (to operate during the continuance of the war), in the case of policy-holders who have suffered such a reduction of income that the abatement of income-tax to which they may hitherto have been entitled in respect of their premiums is liable to be reduced.

### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alabama Great Southern Railroad.—3 per cent. on the preferred, payable Feb. 23.

American Freehold Land Mortgage of London.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

Angostura Bitters.—Final of 3 per cent. on the preference and ordinary in respect of half-year to Sept. 30, making 6 per cent. on preference and 3 per cent. on ordinary for the year. For 1913-14 both shares received 6½ per cent.

Army and Navy Auxiliary Co-operative.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, payable Dec. 16, same as a year ago.

Arncliffe Coal.—Final of 24s. per share, making 32s. per share, or 20 per cent., free tax, for the year, against 8s.

Army and Navy Investment Trust.—At the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ended Nov. 30, against 14 per cent.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Jan. 3.

Deamoolie Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, on account of 1915, payable Dec. 2, same as a year ago.

Doom Dooma Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax at 2s. 8d. on account of 1915, payable Dec. 9, against 4 per cent.

Dreyfus and Co.—6 per cent. on the ordinary for year ended June 30, 1915, placing £2,500 to reserve, with £7,956 forward.

Durban-Roodepoort Gold Mining.—Interim on account of year to Dec. 31 of 3s. per share (15 per cent.) free tax, payable Dec. 21, same as a year ago.

John Brown and Co.—On the ordinary of 2½ per cent. actual, payable Dec. 21, same as last year.

Kerala Rubber.—Interim of 3 per cent. for current year. This is the company's first distribution.

London and River Plate Bank.—9 per cent., less tax, making 15 per cent. for year ended Sept. 30, with £260,976 forward, same as a year ago, but free tax, with £275,159 forward.

London Sumatra Rubber Estates and Produce.—The directors are distributing the amount of the dividend of 2d. per share received on the company's holding of 100,000 shares of the United Sumatra Rubber Estates—this is equivalent to 4d. per share on each London Sumatra share.

North Broken Hill.—1s. and bonus of 1s., total 2s., per share, less tax, payable Dec. 31. The preceding dividend was 1s. per share in Oct. last.

Pacific Phosphate.—Interim on the ordinary for six months ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Dec. 10, same as a year ago.

Pahang Consolidated.—In respect of year ended July 31 on the ordinary of 10 per cent., less tax, at 2s. 2½d. (making 15 per cent. for the year), and on the preference 8½ per cent., less tax, at 2s. 2d. (making 12 per cent. for the year). No dividend was paid on the ordinary shares for 1913-14.

Perry and Co.—Further interim on the ordinary of 2½ per cent., tax free. This dividend is paid in accordance with the public intimation made on July 27 last.

Rubber Estates of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 4. No interim was paid last year.

Sennah Rubber.—10 per cent., tax free, for year to June 30 with £20,000 to reserve. This is the company's first dividend.

Southern India Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary and 3 per cent. on the preference, payable Dec. 8.

Star Assurance.—Interim at the rate of 7d., less tax, per £1 share, payable Jan. 5 next, against 1s. 2d. a year ago.

Tara Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, on account of 1915, payable Dec. 2, same as a year ago.

Trust Union.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary for half-year to Nov. 15, payable Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

United British of Trinidad.—Production week Nov. 17, 827 tons.

Monte Video Water Works Co.—The gross revenue for September, £13,932; increase, £823; aggregate from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, £132,322; decrease, £3,225.

The South African banks in London, following the lead of the Clearing House banks, have decided to close on and after December 1 next at three o'clock, except on Saturdays, when the closing hour will be one p.m., as formerly.



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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

Apparently the arrangement by which the Bank of England has been taking loans from the clearing and other banks for a month at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. has not accomplished the full purpose for which it was devised. A further step has therefore been taken, and the Bank has let it be known that so far as the clearing banks are concerned it will accept loans for as short a period as three days at the same rate. Naturally this means the disappearance of cheap credit from the market, as the banks will not be content with a lower rate than they can get at the Bank, and although advances for a week can still be obtained occasionally at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., borrowers have to pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the greater part of their accommodation. Day-to-day loans have not been affected to the same extent, but for these  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was the more general charge, and there have been no surplus balances obtainable below 4 per cent. The market, however, has been much more disturbed by the latest step taken by the Bank of England, which has had the effect of enforcing an all-round rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for any money lent by the clearing banks. Brokers are puzzled to understand the meaning of this fresh action, and are disposed to resent it as interfering with customs between borrowers and lenders with regard to standing monetary arrangements which have existed for many years.

The discount market anticipates that this fresh turn of the screw will have the effect of making money generally dearer, and is holding back until it can see its way a little more clearly than is possible at present. Rates have consequently been called firm at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. for two months' bills,  $5\frac{3}{16}$ – $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for threes,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ – $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. for fours, and  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. for sixes, but holders have not accepted these quotations, and business has been almost at a standstill. A little inquiry for January Treasury bills was in evidence in the beginning of the week, but with the growing fear of dearer money the demand for these also has come to an end.

Although the scheme for improving the New York exchange has not yet come into operation, the anticipation of its doing so shortly was sufficient to bring about an improvement to  $4.71\frac{1}{2}$  in the cable rate. A considerable business has been done, but the rate has relapsed to  $4.69\frac{3}{4}$ . The Paris exchange was expected to benefit by the new loan operations, but the announcement that

a part of the money was to be raised in London had more effect, and the cheque rose to 27.84. After the lists actually opened in Paris, however, it fell back to 27.81. Madrid has risen to 25.17 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and the Dutch rate to 11.21, but the Scandinavian exchanges have moved strongly against this country.

For at least the second week in succession the Bank return shows no indication of the Government borrowing, although last Saturday's revenue figures again showed an increase of £10,500,000 in Ways and Means advances, and the market is more firmly convinced in its surmise that the bankers' "deposits" with the Bank of England are being passed on to the Treasury. Gold movements on foreign account showed a small gain of £143,000, the first for many a day, but sovereigns went out to the country to about the same extent as it came in last week, and the stocks of coin and bullion were reduced by £1,112,000 to £52,457,000. With an expansion of £288,000 in the note circulation, there was a decrease of £1,400,000 in the reserve, but the proportion to liabilities was unchanged at 27.5 per cent. Public Deposits were £1,967,000 up at £52,149,000, and as "Other" Securities showed a decrease of £3,645,000, "Other" Deposits were £7,027,000 lower at £84,649,000.

According to the official statement for the week ended November 20, currency notes issued amounting to £3,509,669 in £1 and £1,123,168 10s. in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,201,267 in £1 and £857,219 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £1,574,381 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £84,205,657 10s., made up of £62,562,595 in £1 notes and £21,643,062 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £580,000 were issued and £480,000 were cancelled, leaving £6,020,000 outstanding. There is also an investment reserve account of £446,969 8s. 6d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £44,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £17,114,063 16s. 7d. in the Bank of England, while £189,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £249,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

As expected, the quotation for silver reacted a little last Saturday on sales from the Far East, but the pressure was soon over, and the market has been decidedly active. Most of the support appeared to be on account of our own and the French Mints, but orders also came from another Continental buyer, which was understood to be Russia, as well as from India. A sharp rise in the Chinese exchanges brought buying orders from that quarter, and although that particular demand slackened when the price of the metal reached 26d. per oz., there was sufficient inquiry from other sources to carry the advance to 27d. per oz. This is the highest level touched since August, 1914, when the price ran up to 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. soon after the reopening of the market following the outbreak of the war.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 75,000 in bills, Rs. 2,44,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 57,10,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 23,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 33,46,000 deferred transfers, and Rs. 16,31,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. receiving about 30 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 23rd inst. the total sales were Rs. 8,90,86,061, realising £5,941,124, compared with Rs. 6,31,81,861 for £4,214,531 to November 24 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 24, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt	£
70,744,180	11,015,100	Other Securities	7,434,900
	52,294,180	Gold Coin and Bullion	52,294,180
		Silver Bullion	
£70,744,180	£70,744,180		

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£	Government Securities	£
14,553,000	18,895,068	Other Securities	98,116,125
Reserve	3,251,886	Notes	37,442,430
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	52,148,990	Gold and Silver Coin	162,807
Other Deposits	84,649,258		
Seven Day and other Bills	13,356		
£154,616,490	£154,616,490		

Dated Nov. 25, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Nov. 25.	Nov. 17, 1915.	Nov. 24, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,236,253	3,235,272	3,251,886	16,614	—
18,691,374	50,181,683	52,148,990	1,967,307	—
256,462,977	91,676,189	84,649,258	—	7,026,931
15,870	15,694	13,356	—	2,338
26,285,717	Gov. Securities	18,895,068	Decrease.	Increase.
311,315,710	Other do.	101,761,023	3,644,898	—
55,358,067	Total Reserve	39,005,747	1,400,450	—
			7,029,269	7,029,269
£	£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
35,314,865	Note Circulation	33,013,920	2,287,830	—
72,222,932	Coin and Bullion	53,569,667	1,112,620	—
318 p.c.	Proportion	27.5 p.c.	—	—
5 "	Bank Rate	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £143,000 in.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,090,919,000	984,535,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. 3 ..	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10 ..	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17 ..	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
" 24 ..	261,627,000	200,392,000	61,235,000	—
Total ..	12,078,462,000	13,604,169,000	—	1,525,705,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 20.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	Development & Road Impvt. ..
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation ..
Land Tax and House Duty ..	Other Consolidated Fund ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties .. .. .	Supply Services .. .. .
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. .. .
Crown Lands .. .. .	For Advance for Interest ..
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. .	Capital Expenditure ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.) ..
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure ..	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	demption Act, 1910 .. .. .
War Loan, 1925-8 .. .. .	Issues under Section 1 of
War Loan, 1925-45 .. .. .	War Loan Act, 1915 .. .. .
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Act, 1913 .. .. .
1913 .. .. .	Under Post Office (Lon-
Under Military Works Acts,	don) Railway Act, 1913 .. ..
1897-1903 .. .. .	Under Housing Act, 1914 .. ..
Under Housing Act .. .. .	Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 .. ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
East Africa Protectorate ..	Under Military Works Acts,
Loan repayments .. .. .	1897-1903 .. .. .
Camard Loan—repayment on	Under Public Buildings Ex-
account of principal .. .. .	penses Act, 1903 .. .. .
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	E Africa Protectorate Loan ..
China Indemnity .. .. .	Deficiency advances repaid ..
Ways and Means Advances ..	Ways and Means Advances
Decrease in Exchequer ..	repaid .. .. .
balances .. .. .	Increase in Exchequer
	balances .. .. .
£47,971,504	£47,971,504

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Egypt (released) ..	Monday—U.S.A. ..
" Straits Settlements	Tuesday—Uruguay ..
(released) ..	Wednesday—Spain ..
Wednesday—Bars ..	Thursday—Egypt (set aside)
Friday—Bars ..	Thursday—Canada ..
	" Miscellaneous ..
	Friday—U.S.A. ..
	" Spain ..
	" South America ..
	" Miscellaneous ..
	(set aside) ..
Nett Efflux ..	
£2,583,000	£2,583,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended November 20, amounted to £30,244,000, or a daily average of about £5,050,000. Bills to the amount of £17,189,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £13,055,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£	12 months	1916.	2 17 1/2
10,000,000		Feb. 27.	
267,636,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	623,626,000	622,632,000	616,360,000	429,240,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	106,742,000	105,742,000	105,230,000	70,092,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,188,000	33,866,000	32,464,000	19,212,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,124,000	9,710,000	9,524,000	12,884,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	642,558,000	640,074,000	633,080,000	387,261,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	28,742,000	28,894,000	28,888,000	18,386,000
Circulation ..	6,980,000	6,978,000	7,086,000	18,530,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	38,988,000	37,760,000	38,300,000	35,366,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans ..	123,473,000	122,566,000	122,018,000	112,220,000
Spocie ..	10,468,000	10,456,000	10,456,000	8,340,000
Deposits ..	129,070,000	127,876,000	127,528,000	110,700,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,894,000	1,882,000	1,854,000	2,480,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 5, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.	Oct. 22, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	46,535,600	43,644,800	45,401,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	245,400	244,400	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	12,168,000	12,392,000	10,934,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	6,313,400	7,411,600	6,925,200
Total reserves ..	65,262,400	63,692,800	63,502,600
10-day bills and loans ..	1,172,600	1,387,800	1,452,600
30-day bills and loans ..	2,087,200	2,119,000	2,239,600
60-day bills and loans ..	3,121,200	3,193,800	2,818,800
90-day bills and loans ..	1,699,600	1,692,400	1,795,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	544,800	420,400	357,800
Total ..	8,625,400	8,813,400	8,064,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	2,106,600	2,101,000	2,096,000
Municipal Warrants ..	4,420,600	5,002,800	5,076,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,036,800	3,914,600	3,136,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	2,496,600	1,706,600	2,468,400
All other assets ..	591,400	729,000	632,400
Total assets ..	86,543,800	85,990,200	85,167,000
Paid-up capital ..	10,969,600	10,967,600	10,966,800
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	69,212,600	68,710,800	68,088,800
Note circulation—nett.	2,732,400	2,783,600	2,961,800
All other liabilities ..	620,400	528,200	558,600
Total liabilities ..	86,543,800	85,990,200	85,576,000
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	81.4 %	77.3 %	79.3 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	90.1 %	87.5 %	88.9 %

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 18, 1915.	Nov. 11, 1915.	Nov. 4, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	193,407,720	192,284,680	191,281,200	190,185,200
Silver in hand ..	14,401,560	14,489,240	14,458,650	14,495,040
Bills discounted ..	1,833,240	11,292,120	10,929,480	12,980,680
Advances ..	22,866,760	22,714,920	22,757,200	22,651,560
Note circulation ..	571,136,960	568,431,520	567,526,640	563,141,560
Public deposits ..	1,713,630	2,250,640	2,367,160	2,080,960
Private deposits ..	106,847,240	104,676,260	100,998,920	100,835,320
Foreign Bills ..	48,320	52,480	53,000	66,040

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36 1/2 per cent., against 36 1/2 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £296,000,000; increase £1,000,000. The assumed payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £36,746,320, decrease £405,840, and at the branches to £38,575,950 decrease £131,120.



## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion	£123,480,350	£123,344,250	£123,342,050	£97,813,250
Treasury Notes	39,641,800	48,016,150	56,892,350	37,902,000
Bills discounted	216,017,350	214,264,750	210,325,050	138,485,700
Advances	803,550	781,400	946,800	1,543,650
Note circulation	291,647,250	295,500,000	297,378,200	203,000,450
Deposits	77,494,050	78,726,800	81,134,350	67,850,350

Clearing House returns during Oct. £242,546,610 against £270,499,060 in Sept.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 5, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.	Oct. 21, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1914.
Notes in reserve	£7,137,800	£8,417,700	£7,921,300	£9,188,400
Cash in reserve	160,366,600	159,825,800	159,503,500	154,832,500
Gold in reserve abroad	3,536,200	3,559,900	3,718,300	21,551,100
Circulation note issue	512,500,000	509,500,000	507,000,000	287,500,000
Treasury deposits	20,674,000	21,998,800	20,765,900	21,465,600

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
Gold	£33,330,147	£33,344,545	£33,318,685	£14,357,014
Silver	247,735	206,497	210,127	387,092
Bills discounted, &c.	14,733,925	15,002,426	14,974,299	26,505,802
Note circulation	47,166,389	47,398,821	47,487,472	39,588,248
Deposits	1,840,372	1,255,304	1,124,036	1,427,407

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
Gold	£33,330,147	£32,566,189	£32,036,107	£22,547,527
Silver	29,764,481	29,547,399	29,534,796	28,016,458
Foreign Bills	4,171,697	4,297,654	4,095,054	6,388,350
Discounts and Short Bills	26,269,872	26,742,781	27,316,005	31,910,059
Treasury Account, &c.	28,266,877	28,307,125	28,570,560	29,339,542
Govt. Securities	82,756,385	83,609,694	83,729,789	78,700,048
Current Accounts, Deposits	26,801,936	26,578,300	25,668,092	24,389,261
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,515,216	1,063,645	1,465,670	1,443,814
Government Securities	1,962,912	1,270,520	1,262,419	4,559,544

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Gold and silver	£12,164,440	£12,141,528	£12,155,930	£10,444,924
Bills	5,198,440	5,652,544	6,054,983	7,766,966
Note circulation	17,188,228	17,553,212	17,724,472	16,436,744
Current and deposit accounts	2,698,568	2,361,956	2,790,837	3,309,240

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Gold	£6,297,000	£6,298,000	£6,298,000	£5,789,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	6,985,000	6,687,000	6,590,000	2,875,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,945,000	2,951,000	3,005,000	1,475,000
Discounts and Loans	4,881,000	5,081,000	5,235,000	8,975,000
Notes in circulation	16,683,000	16,888,000	17,151,000	15,494,000
Deposits at notice	4,319,000	4,093,000	4,168,000	3,492,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1915.	Oct. 30, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Gold	£3,753,000	£3,797,000	£3,760,000	£2,324,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,634,000	3,687,000	3,738,000	1,727,000
Foreign Gov. Sec's	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans	4,334,000	4,109,000	4,198,000	6,753,000
Notes in Circulation	8,339,000	8,463,000	8,603,000	7,147,000
Deposits at notice	1,636,000	1,392,000	1,368,000	1,374,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 23, 1915.		Nov. 25, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	11.34	11.42	11.40	11.47
Do.	Cable transfers	11.16	11.22	11.21	11.27
Italy	Three months' bills	30.84	30.99	30.99	31.04
Do.	Cable transfers	30.45	30.55	30.50	30.60
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	334	34	338	344
Do.	Three months' bills	28.22	28.39	28.20	28.30
Paris	Three months' bills	27.82	27.87	27.80	27.85
Do.	Cable transfers	145	145	145	146
Petrograd	Cable transfers	17.00	17.40	17.20	17.70
Scandinavia	Three months' bills	17.35	17.00	16.85	17.35
Spain (Bak. pls.)	Three months' bills	454	463	452	464
Do.	Cable transfers	25.12	25.22	25.15	25.25
Switzerland	Three months' bills	25.45	25.65	25.45	25.65
Do.	Cable transfers	25.05	25.15	25.05	25.15

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## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	27.70	27.81	Antwerp	short	30.42	30.50
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	12 1/2 d.	12 1/2 d.
Amsterdam	sight	11.20	11.21	Constantinople	3 mths	49 1/2 d.	49 1/2 d.
Batavia	cbqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12 1/2 d.	12 1/2 d.
Hamburg	cbqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	49 1/2 d.	49 1/2 d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1 1/4 d.	1 1/4 d.
Petrograd	3 mths	146	145 1/2	Bombay	T.T.	1 1/4 d.	1 1/4 d.
New York	sight	4.71 1/2	4.70 1/2	Hong Kong	T.T.	1 10/16 d.	1 10/16 d.
London	sight	33 1/2 d.	33 1/2 d.	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
Madrid	sight	25.05	25.17 1/2	Singapore	T.T.	2 1/4 d.	2 1/4 d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2 1/4 d.	2 1/4 d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5	5
Six months	5	5
Nine months	5	5
Twelve months	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
" " short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3 1/2	3 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	4 1/2	4 1/2
" for call loans	4 1/2	4 1/2

## The Week's Stock Markets.

The removal of the fixed minima laid down for the prices of certain stocks at the crisis ensuing on the outbreak of war last year seems to throw a considerable strain upon those who possess large amounts of the securities released from bondage. Take Consols as an example. The minimum price set against the stock by the Government was 65, and directly that bar was removed the stock dropped to 57 1/2. It recovered some two points since, but the figure is still below 59 1/2. City of Vancouver 4 per cents., which had previously been held up at the minimum of 86, was, when released, marked down to 70, as the result of a sale of £100 of the stock. In that case also there has been some recovery, but unquestionably the removal of the barriers will put a considerable strain upon institutions holding masses of liberated securities, and the wisest spirits of the market complain that greater forethought was not displayed in dealing with the policy of minimum prices. For example, Consols have been ex dividend six times since the minimum of 68 was fixed, but no alteration in the price was allowed, or thought of, in all that interval. Had each quarter brought down the fixed minimum price by the amount of the dividend paid, and had attention been given to the tendency of markets, and 1 per cent. say, or even 1/2 per cent., written off each time the dividend was deducted, the minimum would have been gradually lowered to at least 59 or 60, and there would have been no sudden flop such as has now occurred.

Is it too late to introduce this gradual method of letting the market touch bottom? We do not think so, and the fate which has overtaken it in consequence of the abruptness with which the partial release has now been made ought to be a warning to the Government and to the Stock Exchange Committee to act with greater regard to common sense in the future. Up to the present only Home Government stocks, Indian and Colonial Corporation stocks, together with some Foreign Government stocks and bonds, have been released, so that the larger portion of the market remains still bound up by the Treasury embargo upon business. That cannot go on, and the sooner complete liberty is restored to the Stock Exchange the better.

Look what injury has been done to the heirs of estates on which death duties have had to be paid in the interval since the outbreak of war. Without exception the artificial valuation of marketable securities.



involved in the minimum price arrangement has brought a larger proportion of the capitalised amount of deceased estates into the Exchequer than it was entitled to. That also is a grievance which ought to be remedied on mere grounds of common honesty. If more money is required, increase the taxation, but do not make the revenue seem to flourish by an illegal and arbitrary levy through fixing prices at an artificial elevation.

Not much increase in business occurred on the liberation of certain classes and groups of securities. Probably there is no disposition to sell, and owners of stocks will be wise in abstaining from selling, because chances are, on the whole, in favour of better prices. At all critical points in the great arena of the war, except in the Balkans alone, prospects are improving, and even in the Balkans it is not improbable that we have almost seen the worst; certainly the exhaustion of the two Middle Empires is rapidly sapping their remaining strength. It is better, therefore, that all people who possess marketable securities should make up their minds to sit still and endure than that every little cloud arising from accidents or changes in the fortunes of war should prompt them to rush and sell. There has been a little set-back this week in rubber share prices, and that will be wholesome. They were going up too fast and too far, stimulated to the rise by the advancing price of the gum, but it would be unwise to attempt to sell, as a recovery is quite in prospect. In other directions of the market we have no advice to give, except that familiar one, to part with what can be sold when a profit is visible, or on a springy market, such as the assumed better news from Athens produced for a brief space of time on Thursday.

Business in Stock markets has again been more or less restricted by the political situation, and the removal of the minimum price on Consols and certain other securities seemed to check dealings still further for the moment. A fair investment inquiry, however, was experienced for the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and with the market short of stock the price rose to 97½, while the 3½ per cent. War Loan, after relapsing to 89½, hardened again to 89½. Consols, for which the minimum price was 65, were marked down to 57½, but the reduction brought in a good deal of investment buying, and as less stock was available than had been expected the price rose sharply to 59½. Colonial Government short-dated 4½ per cent. stocks were in some request, and Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South African all improved. In the Foreign Government section dealers were mostly occupied with adjusting prices to the new levels created by the abolition of the minimum quotations, but there was again a little business in Japanese, and there was also a moderate inquiry for some of the Chilean loans.

In the Home Railway market there was some demand for the heavy stocks, and especially North-Eastern, which rose sharply to 104½ owing to the market being poorly supplied with stock. North-Western, too, was good with an advance to 103½, and Great Western and Midland deferred improved. Southern stocks were fairly steady, with South-Western ordinary and deferred and Brighton all a shade harder. Most interest, however, was shown in Underground Electric issues, and income bonds rose to 79½, the £10 shares to 2 and the "A" 1s. shares to 6s. 6d., but the two last-named finished below the best. Various rumours were current to account for the demand, but the most probable explanation is that the company is expected to benefit from the Government payment for buses taken for transport purposes. Canadian Pacific shares slipped back to 104½ in the beginning of the week, but have since recovered to 108½, while Grand Trunk ordinary hardened to 12. Very little business has been done in American Railroad shares in the absence of any initiative from Wall Street. Prices were easier on the further recovery in the exchange, and with one or two exceptions have closed near the lowest. Argentine Railways were mostly easier, but Leopoldina ordinary dropped to 37 and hardened again to 38½, while an early rise of 1½ in San Paulo has since been wiped out, and United of Havana have been heavy and close with a loss of 1½ at 72.

Bank shares have been a fairly active market, with a good deal of inquiry for those in the London group. National Provincial £12 paid have risen by 1½ to 20½, and the £10½ paid by 2½ to 25, while Capital and Counties gained ½, London Joint Stock ½, and London County and Westminster, Lloyds, London and Provincial, South-Western and Union of London and Smiths gained ¼ to ½. London and River Plate shares continued in favour and further improved to 37½, while British Bank of South America put on ½. In the miscellaneous section Shipping shares were firm on the advance in freight rates, and P. and O. deferred rose to 203, while Royal Mail gained 2. Cunard put on 1s. 6d., and London-American Maritime Trading touched 25s. 6d. Among Land shares Hudson's Bay weakened to 6½, but Forestal Land ordinary and preferred improved to 45s. 6d. and 33s. respectively, and Niger jumped to 26s. Oil Steel were driven up to 58, relapsed to 40 on profit taking, and then recovered to 53, while the preference rose to

96. Other iron and steel things were quiet, and in the Canadian group, Canadian Car and Foundry preferred fluctuated between 118 and 120, closing at 119, and Dominion Steel, Steel Co. of Canada, and Nova Scotia Steel were all lower in spite of the report that the two last-named have received further large orders for shells. Brazil Traction dropped back to 56½, but a loss of 1 in Mexican Tramways was wiped out later. Motor shares were steady, with small gains here and there. Associated Cement ordinary and preference were supported, and a little inquiry for British-America Tobacco ordinary sent the price

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	65	59½	N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.....	97½	97½
War Loan 3½.....	90½	89½	" 4½ 1922-7.....	96½	96½
India 3½.....	96½	97½	New Zealand 4½.....	95	95
" 3½.....	60½	60½	Queensland 4½.....	92	92
Canada 4½, 1940-60.....	80½	80½	" 4½ new.....	97½	97½
Canada 4½, 1920-5.....	92	92	Union of S. Africa 4½.....	97½	98
N.S.W. 4½.....	96½	96½	1920-5.....	97½	98
	95	95	Victoria 4½, 1920-5.....	97½	98
Belgian 3½.....	66½	55	French Rentes.....	65½	64½
Brazil, 1913.....	63	58	Japan 4½ (1st).....	92½	92½
" New Funding.....	76	76	" (2nd).....	92	92
Chinese 1896.....	95½	95½	Russia 4.....	73	73
" 1913.....	82	78	" 4½.....	74½	74½
Egypt Unified 4½.....	85	79	" 5%.....	92	85½
Brighton defd.....	56½	56½	London and S.W. dfd.....	24½	24½
Caledonian defd.....	84	84	Do. new pf.....	100	100
Chatham ord.....	82	84	Metropolitan.....	24½	24½
Gt. Central pfd.....	14	14	Do. 5% New pf.....	95½	95½
" dfd.....	7½	7	Met. District.....	15½	15½
Gt. Eastern.....	30½	30½	Midland dfd.....	53	53
Gt. Northern dfd.....	38½	39½	Nth. British dfd.....	104	104
Gt. Western.....	92½	92½	Nth. Eastern.....	104	104
Lancs. and Yorks.....	68½	68½	Nth. Western.....	101	103½
			Sth. Western.....	25½	25½
Canadian Pacific.....	108½	108½	Chesapeake.....	67½	67½
Do. 6% Notes.....	110½	110½	Erie.....	47½	47
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.....	93½	93	Milwaukee.....	100½	100½
Grand Trunk ord.....	11½	12	N. Y. Central.....	109	108½
Do. 3rd pf.....	28½	28½	Southern.....	25½	25½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes.....	98½	98½	Southern Pacific.....	108½	108½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. ".....	99	99	Union Pacific.....	147	148½
Atchison.....	114½	114	U. S. Steel.....	92½	92½
Baltimore.....	100½	100½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	122	123	Cent. Argentine ord.....	85	84
Do. 6% Notes.....	103	103	Do. 5% Notes.....	99½	99
Brazil Common.....	94	94	Do. 6%.....	101½	101½
B. A. & Pacific.....	48	47½	Leopoldina.....	39	38½
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	84½	84	Mexican ord.....	104	104
B. A. Western.....	87	86½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	183	182
			United of Havana.....	73½	72
Bank of Australasia.....	108	108½	London City & Midland.....	74	74
Barclay & Co. "A".....	8½	8½	London County & West.....	154	154
Do. "B".....	112	114	London Joint Stock.....	228	228
Capital & Counties.....	20½	21	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd).....	24½	24½
Chartered of India.....	54	54	Do. (£12 pd).....	27½	29½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	74½	74½	Parr's.....	26½	26½
Lloyds.....	22½	22½	Standard of S.A.....	102	102
London & Provincial.....	145	152	Union & Smiths.....	22½	23
London & S.W.....	108	118			
Apollinaris ord.....	14	14	Forestal Land.....	44½	45½
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34	34	Furness, Withy.....	32½	32½
Associated Cement.....	34	34	Hudson's Bay.....	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	38½	38½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.....	22½	22½
Borax dfd.....	24	24	Do. dfd. "A".....	35½	35½
Bovril.....	20½	20	Kynochs.....	28½	28½
Brazil Traction.....	58½	56½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	21½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	64½	65	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.....	27½	27	Marconi.....	14	14
Brunner, Mond.....	38½	38	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	24½	24½
Cammell-Laird.....	44½	44½	Mond Nickel ord.....	31	31
Castner-Kellner.....	62½	61	National Steam Car.....	101	101½
Coats.....	5	5	Pears, A. & F.....	14½	14½
Cunard.....	61½	64½	P. & O. dfd.....	290	293
Dennis Bros.....	30½	31	Royal Mail.....	91	93
Dorman, Long.....	24½	24½	South Durham Steel.....	28½	27½
Eastmans.....	69	69	Underground Inc. Bds.....	75	79½
English Sewing Cotton.....	34½	34½	Vickers.....	329	329
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	24½	25½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	59	69	Mexican Eagle pf.....	13½	15
Baku (10s).....	2½	2½	North Caucasian.....	24½	24½
Burmah.....	4½	4½	Romanian Cons.....	12½	13½
Lobitos.....	28½	31½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	46½	46½
Maikop Combine (10s).....	3½	3½	Shell.....	42½	42½
Maikop Pipeline.....	49	49	Spies (10/-).....	13½	13½
Mexican Eagle.....	14	14½	Ural Caspian.....	12	14½
Anglo-Malay.....	107½	109	Linggi.....	18½	18½
Batu Caves.....	12	12	London Asiatic.....	71	71
Bukit Mertajam.....	2½	3	Malacca.....	44	45
Bukit Sembawang.....	2½	2½	Malayalam.....	22½	23½
Damansara.....	38½	38½	M. rimau.....	49	49½
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/-).....	11½	11½
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	10½	10½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	16½	17	Vallambrosa.....	16½	15½
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s).....	11½	11½
Brakpan.....	3½	3½	East Rand.....	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	44½	45½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15½	15½
Cam & Motor.....	13½	13½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	5½	5½
Chartered.....	10½	10½	Do. Deep.....	5½	5½
City Deep.....	33½	33½	New Modder (£4).....	15½	15½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	43½	43½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	14	14	Rio Tinto (£5).....	57½	57
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½	2½

up to 65s. There was a demand for Aerated Bread shares, sending the price up to 3½, and Lyons were also rather firmer at 4½.

For the most part Oil shares were neglected and dull, but Lobitos were again wanted and rose to 31s. 3d. A rumour was current that a fresh offer by the International Petroleum Co. had been declined. Lagunitos were firmer on the report. "Shells" were a trifle harder, but Dutch slipped back to 46½, while Anglo-Egyptian "B" improved to 6s. 9d. Suez and Eastern Petroleum both dropped on the announcement of a reconstruction with an assessment of 1s. per share. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference were inquired for, but Venezuelan Concessions relapsed to 1½. The rubber share market



paid very little attention to the sensational rise in the price of the commodity, and just as little to the sharp drop which followed, but prices were firm in the early part of the week. Profit taking then set in, and the volume of business has gradually dwindled. Linggi shares touched 19s. 3d., and Anglo-Malay, Highlands, United Serdang, Bukit Sembawang, Kamuning, Singapore United, and Singapore Para were all well supported, but failed to hold the top prices. Malacca were weak at 4 at the outset, and after a temporary rally to 4½ finished at 4½.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

Generally speaking, affairs remain quiet, though transactions were on an extended scale in certain directions, but the question of freightage still weighs heavily upon most commodities. Under the circumstances, consumers deem it advisable to keep their stocks at a safe level by the means of purchasing spot lots and those already afloat.

**SUGAR.**—White descriptions were cleared at recent prices, and a welcome addition to the market proved the arrival of some white Mauritius, which sold for fair average qualities at 30s. 0½d. to 30s. 2½d. American granulated, in 100 lb. bags, sold, 32s. 6d., and white Java as to sample, 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d. Grocery cane crystallised in small supply, but trade is quiet, as, owing to the difficulty of obtaining delivery, distributors are not inclined to operate for their Christmas trade, particularly as the assortment on offer is poor, to say the least. Syrups are very firm on sheer scarcity.

**COFFEE.**—Only small spot sales passed, the market being quite featureless, though suitable home trade descriptions maintain a steady level. The terminal market is without new feature.

**COCOA** firm, with sustained inquiries, with manufacturers still stocking up from available supplies, and not trusting to forward purchases owing to the exceptional position of freights. St. Thomas sold, 90s.; West Coast African, 85s.; and Guayaquil, 90s. to 92s.

**TEA.**—Market steady for all decent liquoring grades, but common and low medium in large supply are still only saleable at comparatively low rates.

**SPICE.**—Pepper quiet, but tolerably steady, both spot and forward. In auction, a liberal supply of West India nutmegs cleared at firm to dearer prices, but mace ruled barely steady. Tapioca firmer, with fair sales.

**FIBRES.**—Hemp firmer, with sales in coarse January-March at £34, and brown £32 to £32 10s. New Zealand quietly steady. Jute ruled steady on few offers from Calcutta, though trade proceeded quietly, and was mainly confined to private marks and to on-ports.

**RUBBER.**—Market active, but prices developed considerable irregularity, the position being very sensitive at times. Plantation spot, crepe, sold up to 3s. 8d., relapsing to 3s. 2d., and then recovering to 3s. 2½d. Forward positions also showed considerable fluctuations. Fine hard Para, spot and forward, sold, 3s. to 3s. 2d. and 3s. The general situation is disturbed by reports of an American syndicate being formed to secure and better control their supply, not to lose sight of the stringency in freights as likely to affect future shipments.

**CAMPHOR** firmer, and 2½ lbs. slabs, spot, sold, 1s. 8d.

**COPRA.**—Firm and advancing markets were again witnessed during the week, and there is no abatement in demand for margarine makers, upon which article the exorbitant prices current for butter has driven the public. Business was done to London in Ceylon, December-January, £32 7s. 6d. Manila to Marseilles, October-December and December-January, buyers, £30, c.f. and i.

**VANILLOES.**—In auction a good supply was catalogued, and experienced a fairly good demand at steady to firmer rates. Seychelles, fair firsts, 5½ to 8 inch, 7s. 9d. to 9s. Madagascar, fair to good firsts, 5½ to 8 inch, 8s. 3d. to 10s. Mauritius, fair, 6 to 9 inch, 8s. 9d. to 11s. 6d.

**FRUIT.**—At public sales this week new crop Valencia raisins met a quiet demand, and prices displayed irregularity. Quarter-boxed, sold, at 62s. up to 77s. Muscatels were in larger supply and passed off with fair competition, common to medium being steady, but the better grades were again rather easier. Smyrna, common to good, sold at 60s. to 88s.; fine to extra choice, 90s. to 117s. 6d. Figs: Spanish, sold without reserve, at 20s. to 26s. Privately the market for currants ruled firm with a good trade passing. Sultanias steady, and figs quiet.

**TALLOW** remained very firm. At public sale, 976 casks were brought forward, and 900 sold, prices being 2s. to 4s. per cwt. dearer. Australian mutton: fine, 53s.; fair to good, 52s. to 52s. 6d.; dark to dull, 45s. to 50s. 3d.; hard, 52s. Beef: fine, 52s. 6d.; fair to good, 50s. 6d. to 52s.; dark to dull, 44s. 6d. to 49s.; sweet, 53s. Market letter 3s. dearer for tallow and 1s. 6d. up for stuff. Town tallow, 45s. 6d.; melted stuff, 31s. per cwt. Rough fat, 11½d. per 8 lb.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—In sympathy with recent colder weather, continued small supplies, both spot and near, together with the high cost of freightage, the general tendency remains firm, but there has been a pause in the demand this week; requirements are being fairly well supplied at present. Wheat (English): Both whites and reds range at 55s. 6d. to 58s. 6d., delivered as to quality, per qr. (540 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 58s. 6d. to 57s. 3d., ex ship, according to position. Flour: Manitoba patents, 45s. 6d. to 47s. 6d., landed. Grinding barley: Plate, 40s. 6d. ex ship, 41s. ex quay. Japanese, in former position near at hand, 41s. Oats: Plate, 31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d., landed, according to quality. Maize: sound Plate, 38s. 6d. ex ship, 39s. 3d. landed. White flat South African held for 40s., quay terms.

**METALS.**—Copper: Influenced by the continued upward movement in America, the speculative market exhibited increased strength last Monday, while a good general demand prevailed, standard spot and three months reaching £82 15s. Freer offerings of near and forward positions led to an irregular decline until the middle of the week, while values settled down at £80 7s. 6d. cash and £80 15s. three months. A further relapse, chiefly respecting near dates took place at Thursday's session, when cash left off at £80 and three months £80 15s. Electros advanced, closing at £88 to £89, c.i.f. Tin: Market irregular and easier until the middle of the week on selling pressure and the absence of support, standard cash fluctuating down to £166 and three months

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 26, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Australian	64-2 3	64-2 3
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Merino	64-2 3	64-2 3
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	64-2 3	64-2 3
Lytle's granulated	32 3-32 9	32 3-32 9	Greasy Merino	64-1 7½	64-1 7½
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	64-1 6½	64-1 6½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	104-1 11½	104-1 11½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	104-1 6½	104-1 6½
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	6-2 8½	6-2 8½
Crystallised, West India	28 3-31 6	29 3-31 6	<b>Indiarubber</b> —per lb. Plantation, Sp. Crepe	0 3 0½	0 3 0½
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 7½-1 1	0 7-1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 8-1 2½	0 7½-1 2½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 8½-1 1½	0 8-1 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	Steamers, best	19 6-20 0	19 6
Pekoe Souchong	0 7½-1 0½	0 6½-1 0½	Seconds	16 6-17 0	16 6-17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 7½-1 0½	0 7½-1 0½	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 8½-1 1	0 8½-1 1	English Pig	28 0 0	29 0 0
Orange	0 8½-1 1	0 8½-1 1	Foreign soft	26 10 0	28 10 0
Broken	0 9½-1 1½	0 9½-1 1½	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle first hand	£16½-£16½	£16½-£16½
Pekoe Souchong	0 7½-1 0	0 7½-0 9	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1½ lb.	s. s. s. s.	s. s. s. s.	English Ingots	170½-171½	167-168
Trinidad	90 0-96 0	90 0-97 0	Do. bars	171½-172½	168-169
Grenada	83 0-92 0	84 0-92 0	Standard cash	£172 5 0	£168 10 0
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	20 6-20 5	22½
Ceylon Plantation	78 0-92 0	78 0-92 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Guayaquil Arriba	94 0-98 0	92 0-94 0	English, Tough	£95-£96	£94-£94
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2½ lb.	s. s. s. s.	s. s. s. s.	Best Selected	£95½-£96½	£97-£98
East India	56 0-94 0	56 0-94 0	Sheets	£112	£112
Jamaica	41 6-120 6	53 0-102 6	Standard	£81 5 0	£81 0 0
Costa Rica	53 0-79 0	53 0-78 0	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
<b>Provisions</b> —			Native firsts for sh'pmt. Oct.-Nov.	£25 5 0	£25 10 0
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			<b>Oils</b> —	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Australian finest	nom.	155½-166½	Linseed, per ton	£33-£33½	£35-£33½
Irish Creameries	152½-162½	158½-168½	Rape, ref. English		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	casks		
Russian finest	124½-132½	128½-134½	Brown English	£41-£42	£43
Normandy baskets	116½-154½	150½-154½	naked	£39	£39 10
Danish finest	176½-186½	180½-184½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£33½-£34	£34 10
Brittany rolls	15 0-17 6	15 0-18 0	Tin, refined	£35½-£41	£36-£42
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	9½d.	9½d.
Irish	98 0-105 0	98 0-105 1	Water White	10½d.	10½d.
Continental	94 0-105 0	96 0-105 1	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Canadian	84 0-93 0	86 0-95 0	Calcutta—per 4½ lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 6 6	3 7 0
American	78 0-90 0	80 0-91 0	Rape, Guzerat	3 5 6	3 6 0
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Nov-Dec		
Irish	128½-134½	128½-144½	<b>Iron</b> —per ton.		
Canadian	100½-102½	100½-103½	Cleveland Cash	3 10 2	3 12 9
American	51 0-98 0	67 0-103 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			5/6 to 6½ per lb.		
Edam	nom.	nom.	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	87 0-90 0	90 0-92 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
English Cheddar	90 0-100 0	90 0-100 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 1-6 0	1 0-6 0
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Garden Siam	14 6	14 6	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
spot	14 9-15 0	14 9-15 0	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars	14 9-15 0	14 9-15 0	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150	130/-150
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Indian Teak	280/-600	280/-600
Dutch	14 0-30 0	27 0-31 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Russian	12 6-15 0	14 0-18 0	Town household official	47/-	47/-
Danish	24 0-26 0	27 0-29 0	American, 1st patents	45/6-48/	45/6-48/
<b>Copra</b> —			<b>Turpentine</b> —		
Malabar, London	31 12 6	33 0 0	American Spot	2 0 2½	2 4 3
Ceylon, London	31 5 0	32 5 0	<b>Spelter</b> —		
South Sea	29 0 0	30 0 0	G.O.B. as to position	£94-£83	£100-£90
F.M.S. Straits	30 10 0	31 10 0			

to £165 15s. An improved tone prevailed at Thursday's session, with sellers becoming reserved, while values of these dates left off at £166 10s. and £165 15s. respectively. Lead dearer. Foreign, November to March, £28 10s. to £27 15s. Spelter stronger. G.O.B., November, £100; February, £90. Iron firmer.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced a strong market during the past week, but the strength of producers is not due to a large turnover, but is owing to the increasing shortage of labour and the consequent curtailment of production. There continues a general indisposition on the part of our customers to purchase freely at current rates, which are admitted to be on a high level in both yarn and cloth compared



with the values ruling in raw cotton. Complications of a varied kind keep arising, and traders are hampered by one thing or another all along the line. Manufacturers of piecegoods have been unable to secure orders of any weight, and in certain districts work for looms is badly wanted. Many firms do not care to stop machinery, as it is very necessary that the operatives available should be kept together. Standard cloths for India have been in poor demand, the offers showing no improvement whatever. In some quarters, however, there have been rumours of rather more activity on the part of China, but actual transactions have been few and far between. Clearances in Shanghai are of such a character that, although shipments are very small, stocks in dealers' hands, if anything, tend to increase. A fair miscellaneous business has been done for some of the South American outlets. Operations for the Near East are practically at a standstill. Dyed and coloured goods have been in request, but high prices have to be paid, and there are many obstacles to free operations. In the way of fresh orders being placed with manufacturers there is now rather less activity in home trade circles. American yarns for home use have rather tended to harden towards the close of the week, and without many large transactions being mentioned, the turnover reaches to fair dimensions. The finer numbers in wets are scarcer. The chief activity in shipping yarns has been for the Continent, particularly France, in coarse numbers. A steady demand has been experienced in Egyptian yarns, and, although this section continues to do rather better, stocks can be met with in some directions.

### The Week in Mines.

The past week has witnessed no important developments in the Mining markets, business in which has, apart from individual shares, been on a smaller scale. As a result, prices have shown a tendency to decline slightly, and in the case of base metal shares profit-taking has caused quotations to close well below the best points reached. Springs Mines have established a new high record, and certain tin shares have shown marked strength.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The chief incident in the South African market has been the steady demand for Far Eastern Rand shares, particularly for Springs Mines, which have advanced on good buying, accompanied by rumours of fresh favourable developments, to 30s. 3d., with the Options up to 10s. 3d. City Deeps have been well supported on the good quarterly report, and are higher at 3 13-32. Van Ryn Deeps have also advanced to 2 1/8, and Transvaal Coal Trusts at 2 1/4, and Consolidated Mines Selections at 11s. are appreciably higher in response to the rise in Springs. Knight Centrals have been bought up to 11s. 3d., and Meyer and Charltons are higher at 5 1/10. Randfontein Centrals spurted to 13s. on the quarterly report, showing an increase in the ore reserves of 1,478,362 tons to 10,398,747 tons. On the other hand, the Modder group has weakened. Modder Deeps have relapsed 3-32 to 5 11-32, New Modders 1/8 to 15 1/4, and Modder B.'s to 5 25-32. Brakpans are 3-32 lower at 3 9-32, and East Rands at 1 3/16, Gold Fields at 1 7/16, Central Minings at 6 5/16, Crown at 3 1/4, and Gedulds at 32s. 9d. are also a little lower. Johnnies have been on offer at 15s. Diamond shares have been quieter and steadier at the lower level. In the Rhodesian section, Chartereds have recovered to 10s. 3d., and Gaikas to 10s. 9d., but Globes have sagged to 26s. 9d. The latter company's lawsuit with the Amalgamated Properties looks like being a long-drawn-out affair. Among West African shares, Ashanti Goldfields have strengthened to 18s., on the dividend declaration, but Presteas and Taquahs have eased to 9s. and 15s. respectively.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been a strong market, in spite of profit-taking and a reaction in the metal market. Rio Tintos are 1/4 up at 57 1/4 (after touching 57 3/4), and Anacondas, after falling from 19 5/8 to 18 1/16, are now back to 18 3/4, while Utahs are 1/2 lower on the week at 16 1/4. Mount Lyells rose 9d. to 24s. 9d. on the latest news from the North Mount Lyell Mine and Hampdens have been actively supported up to 30s. Russians have been quietly steady, with Russo-Asiatics 1/4 down at 4 1/4. A good business has been done in tin shares, though profit-taking has caused a slight reaction in places. Repongs have been up to 1 7/10, and are 3/16 higher on balance at 1 1/4; Malayans have risen to 1 3/4, and Tronohs

to 1 9/16, but Ipohs are easier at 25-32, and Pahangs, despite the declaration of a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year, against nil for 1913-14 and 12 1/2 per cent. in 1912-13, are 3d. lower at 7s. 6d.

Among Westralian issues, Kalgurlis have been bought up to 7 1/2, and Associateds, which have been down to 1s. 3d. this year, have advanced to 5s. 3d. on a little support, said to be based on good developments on the Canadian properties. Of the Mexican shares, El Oros at 10s. 3d., Esperanzas at 11s. 3d., and Mexico of El Oro at 4 3/8 have been in demand, but Neehis, in Colombia, have been weaker at 12s. Indians have been a dull market, with Champions at 9s. 9d. and Nundydroogs at 26s. 6d. A little support has been forthcoming for Broken Hills. Proprietarys have improved to 45s., Amalgamated Zincs to 26s., and Zinc Corporations to 13s. 3d.

### MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The Chartered Company announces that the output of gold in Southern Rhodesia last month amounted to £339,967, an increase of £2,726 on last year; the total is the second largest on record. The following table shows the production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January .....	£ 207,903	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133
February .....	203,055	209,744	218,744	259,888	286,789
March .....	231,947	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,086
April .....	2 1,296	221,476	241,098	295,997	315,541
May .....	211,413	234,407	242,452	291,062	318,898
June .....	215,347	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473
July .....	237,517	249,5 4	249,301	3 0,670	336,565
August .....	243,712	239,077	250,276	316,972	344,493
September .....	225,777	239,573	250,429	309,398	321,085
October .....	218,862	239,072	247,068	337,241	339,997
November .....	214,040	225,957	239,036	311,711	—
December .....	217,026	218,661	254,687	309,669	—
Totals..	2,647,894	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,179,630

The number of producers last month was 238 against 225 in September; and the output of other metals was 17,607 ounces of silver, 2 tons of lead, 39,624 tons of coal, 313 tons of copper, 9,744 tons of chrome ore, 225 tons of asbestos, and 22 carats of diamonds.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—Returns compiled by the West African Chamber of Mines show that the output of gold last month totalled £141,771, the largest since May. As compared with October last year there was a decrease of £17,639, and the aggregate increase for the year to date is reduced to £1,341. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

MONTH.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Jan. ..	£ 143,649	£ 128,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262	£ 66,107
Feb. ..	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270	63,081
Mar. ..	153,770	131,392	150,660	111,376	67,673
April ..	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796	70,880
May ..	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678	96,409
June ..	135 289	147,289	125,764	114,697	92,174
July ..	140,290	151,923	132,936	127 800	91,935
Aug. ..	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407	103,733
Sept. ..	135,744	154 316	132,394	142,397	109,139
Oct. ..	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414	109,503
Nov. ..	—	154,674	132,694	137,700	99,299
Dec. ..	—	147,699	127,472	144,382	99,569
Totals	1,426,012	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179	1,069,442

LUTPAARD'S VLEI.—This company's operations in the year ended June 30 were seriously impeded by abnormal rainfall, which flooded some of the west levels and necessitated at times entire or partial cessation of crushing. As a result the profits decreased from £32,249 to £14,249. This added to the sum brought in makes a total of £137,129, from which £11,371 has been deducted for depreciation, leaving £125,758. As stated in previous reports, this balance is largely represented by the additions which during the last few years have been made to the general equipments of the mine, and to that extent is not in liquid form. Nevertheless, the directors recommend a dividend of 9d. per share, less tax, the first since 1909. Since July last the average monthly profit has amounted to £4,418, which compares with a monthly average of £1,866 in the period covered by the accounts. The fully-developed ore reserves are estimated at 702,123 tons, valued at 3.30 dwts.

GIANT MINES.—Owing to the smaller tonnage crushed, due to poor developments at depth, the profit for the year ended June 30 declined from £18,055 (after writing off £13,832 for depreciation) to £1,220; to this is added £10,610 brought in, making £11,830. Of this amount £9,312 has to be provided for income-tax, leaving a nett available balance of £2,518, which is carried forward.

MOUNT LYELL.—The full report for the half-year ended September 30 gives some interesting additional news regarding the company's operations. The amount of ore treated rose from 173,166 tons to 176,368 tons, which produced 4,053 tons of blister copper as compared with 3,939 tons in the preceding six months.



the copper sold 1,294 tons realised £86 ss. 1d. per ton, and 2,072 tons £87 13s. 10d. The ore reserves at the Mount Lyell mine are estimated at 1,791,479 tons, and at the North Mount Lyell mine (which is the rich mine of the property) at 973,210 tons, not including important additions disclosed by development. This week a cable has been received stating that at the North mine at the 1,200 ft. level No. 1 crosscut traversed 57 ft. of continuously rich ore.

**CHENDERANG TIN DREDGING.**—The first report covering a period of 14 months to March 31 states that 210 tons of tin ore were won. On account of the current year's profits, favourably affected by the high price of tin, an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., tax free, will be paid on December 4.

**BROOKHILL COLLIERIES.**—The profits for the year ended June 30 increased by £5,374 to £52,746, the amount brought forward raising this sum to £72,886. The preference dividend for one year to December, 1911, has been paid out of this, and it is now proposed to pay 1½ years' arrears, i.e., down to June, 1913, less tax. Reserve fund is credited with £10,000, £5,000 is set aside for depreciation, and £14,941 is carried forward.

## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

In the year ended June 30 the Tandjong Rubber Co. brought in a further 454 acres, making a total of 2,622 acres in bearing, and increased the average yield per acre by 61 lbs. to 312 lbs., with the result that the crop exceeded that estimate by about 21,000 lbs., and was 255,691 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 800,958 lbs. The "all in" cost, including .44d. for war risk insurance, was 2.14d. down at 1s. 2.28d., and, notwithstanding a small reduction of 0.89d. to 2s. 1.84d. in the price realised, nett profits showed an improvement of no less than £15,541 at £39,717, to which was added £7,577, or £2,176 more, brought forward. Out of this £10,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend is increased by 12 per cent. to 20 per cent., less tax, leaving the balance carried forward only £383 down at £7,294. In addition to the above-mentioned crop, 16,533 lbs. were obtained from the Tandjong Doerian Estate, the proceeds of which were credited to capital account. Expenditure on development amounted to £18,178, bringing the cost up to £182,702, exclusive of £32,709 for buildings and £9,698 for machinery and plant, the last-named item having been written down by £3,567. Rubber in hand is valued at £31,160, or £17,273 more, but cash is £18,625 down at £17,950, while current liabilities have been reduced by £18,522 to £5,362. For the current year the crop is estimated at 1,042,000 lbs.

The average yield per acre of the Tebrau Rubber Estates having risen by 88 lbs. to 333 lbs., both the original and the revised estimates were considerably exceeded in the year ended June 30, and the total crop of 646,082 lbs. was 311,642 lbs. larger than that of the preceding 12 months. At the same time the gross price improved by .50d. to 2s. 2.17d., while the "all in" cost, including depreciation, was reduced by 4d. to 1s. 1.95d. Nett profits were consequently £22,077 better at £33,172, and with £3,921 brought forward, gave £37,093, or £25,832 more, available. As, however, the called-up capital and the premium received on the second issue of shares were exhausted on June 30, 1914, the directors proposed to issue the remaining 25,000 shares to bring the immature rubber into bearing, but the Treasury declined to authorise the issue, and the company had therefore no alternative but to charge all capital expenditure to revenue, and to close the capital account. Last year's outlay amounted to £10,661, of which £7,340 was met out of reserve, and £3,321 is now written off, leaving £33,772, or £22,512 more, to be dealt with. Of this £16,000 is transferred to reserve to meet Government claims for excess profits and income-tax, compared with £7,340 put to development reserve a year ago, and after payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, as against nothing last time, £5,272, or £1,352 less, is carried forward. Property account now stands at £151,674, equivalent to £38 14s. 5d. per acre, or to £29 2s. 2d. per acre if the reserves of £37,660 are deducted, so that the inability to raise further capital has proved advantageous. Allowing for a certain amount of thinning out, the crop for the current year is estimated at 900,000 lbs.

Owing to a temporary disorganisation of labour, excessive dry weather, and heavy wintering and over-

estimation, the Bukit Kajang Rubber Estates was unable to realise its expected production in the year ended June 30. Compared with the previous year, however, the crop was 40,301 lbs. larger at 580,547 lbs., and the nett price showed an improvement of 1.67d. at 2s. 1.92d. Expenses at the same time seem to have been reduced, although the directors give no details on this point, and the nett profits, after providing £2,595, or £724 more, for depreciation, were £8,278 larger at £30,222. Adding £3,612 brought forward, the disposable surplus was £9,213 up at £33,835, and the directors increase the dividend from 15 per cent. to 22½, but they transfer £1,000 less at £4,000 to reserve, and after providing for their own extra remuneration, £6,574, or £2,299 more, is left to be carried forward. Expenditure on development only amounted to £1,900, making a total of £96,397, in addition to which buildings and machinery stand at £14,566, or £1,111 more. Stocks of rubber are £5,399 up at £17,802, and cash has risen by £2,581 to £13,209, while current liabilities have been reduced by £840 to £9,337. For the current year a crop of 700,000 lbs. is expected, of which 243,160 lbs. were harvested in the first four months.

A year ago the directors of the Rembia Rubber Estates refrained from paying even the preference dividend, and carried forward a largely increased balance, owing to the heavy capital expenditure which had been incurred and the difficulty of raising fresh funds. The policy was a prudent one, and the shareholders are already reaping the benefit, as the company made rapid strides in the 12 months ended September 30. With an increase of 100,696 lbs. to 267,386 lbs. in the crop, the f.o.b. cost was further reduced by 1.44d. to 9.38d., although the upkeep of the immature area has apparently all been charged to revenue. At the same time, the nett price obtained rose by 1.93d. to 2s. 1.70d., and the nett profits, after providing £1,550 for income-tax (a new item), were £2,003 better at £10,954, making, with £10,677 or £7,289 more brought forward, a total of £21,631 available. In addition to paying two years' preference dividend and 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the directors pay a further 5 per cent. on both classes of shares, making 11 per cent. for the year, and transfer £6,000 to reserve, against nothing last time, leaving £3,032 or £7,645 less to be carried out. Last year's outlay on the properties appears to have completed the capital expenditure for the time being, as property account is unaltered at £86,463, and against this the reserve now amounts to £7,305. Stocks are £6,762 up at £11,658, and cash has risen by £1,952 to £4,556, but debtors owe £2,008 less at £703, while current liabilities, including £1,721 for dividends unpaid, are £3,454 higher at £8,159. A further substantial increase to 350,000 lbs. is expected in the crop for the current year.

Even in Peru the effects of the war were felt last year, as the presence of the German Fleet on the coast interfered with shipments. So seriously were the sales of the Lagunitos Oil Co. affected by this cause that some of the pumping wells had to be closed down for nearly four months, with the result that the output for the year ended June 30 only showed a small increase of 2,280 tons at 41,930 tons. Trading profits improved by £3,100 to £57,572, of which £33,882, or nearly £8,000 more, has been written off for depreciation. Thanks, however, to the disappearance of the heavy charge for interest and discount, the nett balance was very little smaller at £18,161, but as considerably more capital now shares in the distribution, the preference dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, now declared requires nearly as much as the 37½ per cent. paid for the previous year, and the sum carried forward is only £161 higher at £2,650. During the year 39 new wells were drilled, as compared with 42 in 1913-14, but four of these were abandoned as being non-productive. Steps have been taken to open up the La Brea tract, and a railway of 13 miles is nearly completed from the Talara Tablazo to this area, of which half the cost will be paid by the London and Pacific Petroleum Co. Arrangements have also been made for sinking test-wells, and a storage tank of 8,000 tons capacity has



been erected at Talara. The cost of the leasehold lands, &c., was reduced by £15,653 to £140,886, but the expenditure on development exceeded the depreciation allowance by £18,022, raising the total to £83,547. Debtors owe £17,342, this sum including £16,883 on deposit in New York, bills receivable come to £26,759, and the company has £45,825 in cash, while its current liabilities are light at £8,313. The auditors point out that no provision has been made for the possible liability to excess profits duty, but the chairman at the meeting explained that the directors had thought fit to take care of this matter in the next accounts.

**SAGGA RUBBER.**—A very full report is issued by the directors of this company, who are not content to give merely the total output, but add statistics of the crop from each plantation, the number of trees tapped per acre, and the yield per acre and per tree. Owing to the thinning out effected last year and to the change in the method of tapping, the crop for the 12 months ended July 31 fell below even the revised estimate, and was only 6,213 lbs. larger than the previous year's output at 358,828 lbs. The price was 0.35d. lower at 2s. 0.72d., but the decline was more than offset by a reduction of 2.21d. to 1s. 1.29d. in the "all-in" cost, and the net profits showed an improvement of £2,391 at £18,163. As, however, only £606, or £3,709 less, was brought in, the amount available for division was £1,318 down at £18,709, but by reducing the appropriation for development reserve by £4,200 to £3,300, the directors, after again transferring £2,300, or 10 per cent., of the issued capital, to reserve, are able to increase the dividend from 35 per cent. to 40, and to carry forward £2,398 more at £3,005. Expenditure on development only amounted to £3,215, making a total cost of £72,173, against which the reserves, including £27,452 from premiums, will now stand at £49,457. Stocks of rubber are £2,653 higher at £11,237, and cash is £3,126 up at £8,830, while on the other hand, liabilities to sundry creditors show very little change at £11,341. For the current year the crop is estimated at 400,000 lbs., and the f.o.b. cost at 0.93d., as compared with 10.01d. in the period under review.

**BRIEH RUBBER.**—For the past two years this company has suffered from repeated flooding of the Brieh section, which has greatly interfered with tapping operations. The crop for the 12 months ended July 31 consequently fell short of the estimate, and was 4,866 lbs. below that of the previous year at 96,650 lbs., while the "all in" cost was only reduced by 0.25d. to 1s. 7.19d. With a reduction of 0.77d. to 2s. 2.67d. in the gross price, the profits, including £302 brought forward, were £452 smaller at £3,314, but nothing is transferred to development account compared with £1,000 last time, and the directors are therefore able to repeat the dividend of 5 per cent., and to carry forward £548 more at £850. The Hurst property, which has been bought and brought to its present condition entirely out of profits, is now near the producing stage, and the directors expect that the output from this will gradually more than counteract any falling off in the productiveness of the Brieh section.

**BADEK RUBBER.**—It is announced that the directors propose to alter the date on which the company's financial year terminates from June 30 to December 31, so that no accounts will be submitted at the annual general meeting next week, but the chairman will make a full statement as to the financial position. The next meeting will be held during the first half of 1916, when accounts will be submitted covering the 18 months from July 1, 1914, to December 31, 1915.

**MAIKOP SPIES.**—The balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1914 (January 13, 1915, new style), shows the effect of the writing down of the capital in May of that year. In accordance with the resolutions passed by the shareholders, 8s. per share was written off the old 10s. shares, and five of the 2s. shares were consolidated into one new 10s. share, so that the paid up capital is now £44,110. On the other hand, the Russian assets were reduced by a like amount, and a further £1,281 was deducted for materials, plant, &c., removed from the plots, leaving a loss of £10,111 not yet provided for. The company's holding in the Terek General Oil Co. has been increased by £24,161 to £40,161, through the payment of calls, but loans for £23,000 have been called in, and current liabilities show a decrease of £19,834 at £18,071. Debtors in Russia owe £5,407 less at £458, but thanks to the raising of a loan of £5,000 from the Spies Co. on the security of the Terek shares, cash is £2,742 up at £3,564. Instructions have been given to the legal representative in Russia to take the necessary steps to wind up the company's affairs in that country. The company also owes to the Spies Petroleum Co. £16,850, which by agreement is to be satisfied by the allotment of 6 per cent. debentures, part of a series of £50,000 proposed to be created. It holds 48,500 shares in the Terek Co., and has an option for three years from January 10, 1914, to subscribe for 25,000 shares at par, and further like amounts at 22s. 6d. and 27s. 6d., but in the present conditions it is impossible to raise further capital by an issue of debentures.

**CHELEKEN OILFIELDS.**—A requisition has been served upon the directors to convene an extraordinary general meeting for the purpose of removing Messrs. F. S. E. Drury, A. J. Milne, and Richard R. Tweed from the board. In their circular calling the meeting for December 3 the directors say that the three gentlemen named are quite ready and willing to resign, provided the wish of the shareholders that this should be done is expressed by the requisite majority. They have been connected

with the company since its incorporation, and as their proposed removal indicates that there is some unexplained motive behind the proposal, the fullest inquiry into the past management is courted. The directors, therefore, suggest that inspectors should be appointed to investigate the company's affairs, and that the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales should be asked to make the necessary nomination.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and November 20, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 20, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 21, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1:—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	48,900,000	30,369,000	22,615,000
Excise .....	54,850,000	38,498,000	24,619,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	30,000,000	20,360,000	15,900,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,113,000	4,990,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	270,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	116,424,000	20,566,000	10,336,000
Excess Profits Tax .....	6,000,000	—	—
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	62,000	61,000
Post Office .....	34,280,000	20,100,000	18,150,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	290,000	300,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,100,000	772,956	792,767
Miscellaneous .....	2,430,000	3,464,236	3,650,452
Revenue .....	305,014,000	138,935,196	101,684,219
Total, including Balance .....		222,386,148	112,718,736
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,410,000	2,020,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		132,888,000	50,100,600
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		585,850,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,650,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		272,196,500	88,106,000
Total .....		1,252,815,226	253,994,738
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16 (including supplementary grants). (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 20, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 21, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	22,055,000	16,851,960	14,303,096
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,030,000	7,065,274	1,068,201
Road Improvement Fund .....	525,000	694,395	889,225
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,600,000	5,537,053	5,558,146
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,807,000	1,193,592	1,097,077
Supply Services .....	1,510,696,000	840,830,148	202,936,409
Expenditure .....	1,589,706,000	872,172,422	225,852,754
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		1,945,000	2,325,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (c) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,300,000	2,350,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (i) (b) .....		100,000	60,000
Section 16 (i) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £163,701,000, in 1915-16) .....		163,701,000	15,000,000
Total .....		1,226,972,430	246,319,774
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Nov. 20. 1914. Nov. 21.		
Bank of England .....	£ 24,824,820	£ 6,681,905	
Bank of Ireland .....	1,017,970	993,059	
Total .....		25,842,796	7,674,964
Total .....		1,252,815,226	253,994,738

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 344 of 1915, which is subject to revision.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on November 20, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	267,636,000
Total .. .. .	£277,636,000

\* Includes £149,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, November 22, 1915.



## Letters to the Editor.

## THE NEW FRENCH LOAN—IS IT FREE FROM TAXATION?

SIR,—In your issue of the 20th inst. you state that the position of the new French Loan "will be considerably better than that of our  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. loan, because the coupons are to be immune from all taxation." It is true that the new French Loan is said to be "exempt from taxation," but there is reason to believe that the phrase is used with a much more limited meaning than would ordinarily be attached to it in this country, and that the coupons are not to be immune from all taxation.

I would refer your readers to the following extract from *Le Matin* of the 13th instant (the italics are not in the original):—

"Le 5 % sera garanti net pendant quinze ans et sera exempt d'impôts. 'La question de savoir,' précisa le ministre des finances, 's'il est bon que la rente soit soustraite à l'impôt ne se pose pas en ce moment. Nous déclarons que le titre est exempt d'impôts, mais cette exemption ne s'applique pas aux impôts qui frappent le porteur ou le revenu. C'est là une déclaration que je demande formellement à la Chambre de confirmer par son vote afin qu'il n'y ait pas d'équivoque.'"

## TRANSLATION.

The following is the definite statement of the Finance Minister:—"The question whether it is desirable that the *Rente* should be subject to taxation does not arise at the moment. We announce that the *bond* is exempt from taxes, but this exemption will not apply to taxes which fall on the *holder* or the *income*. I ask the Chamber formally to confirm this declaration by its vote, in order that there may be no possible misunderstanding."

So far as I am aware, the formal announcement in the *Journal Officiel* in no way modifies the Finance Minister's statement, and, if so, it would appear that while the new bonds are not liable to stamp duty, &c., nor to taxation as personal property, there is nothing to prevent the State from taxing the *income*, either by deduction or in the hands of the holder.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. J. LIDSTONE.

Scottish Widows' Life Fund Assurance Society,  
9, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh,  
November 23, 1915.

[\*\* Thanks for a very opportune and valuable correction.—Ed.]

## Answers to Correspondents.

\*. A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

C. E. R.—Purchase for cancellation principally. They certainly seem fully priced, and we think they might be sold.

M. S. E.—The business is cleverly managed, but the shares are quite high enough, and we should not care to recommend them for an investment. (2) Prospects are very speculative, and they may recover a little. You should not sell just now, but do not think you should find more money.

D. F. J.—The first is redeemable at a date earlier than the years you mention; therefore the second is the better stock.

Gum.—(1) We think so, if you can get them at or not more than 3s. 6d. The company has only recently become a producer on an important scale, and its output should increase rapidly, while its all-in costs are reasonably low. (2) This also looks a promising speculative purchase up to 15s. No dividend has been paid as yet, but with the rapid growth in output it should not be very long before that stage is reached.

L. D.—We do not think you should sell. The drop is caused by the abnormal conditions through the removal of the minimum price. This will adjust itself in time.

T. I. I.—All the companies you mention are doing quite well, and they ought to earn good dividends on their capital. You should write down your shares, and in future consider part of your dividends as return of capital.

O. P. B.—The advice is quite good, and you should accept it.

## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The annual general court of proprietors of the Royal Bank of Scotland was held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, Mr. E. A. Davidson, the senior director, in the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the approval of the report of the directors for the year ending October 9, 1915 (which has already been published), drew attention to the increase of over two millions in the deposits on last year's figures—the amount having now reached a record at upwards of nineteen millions—and, whilst expressing gratification that the year's profits had also shown a highly satisfactory increase, stated that the directors regretted that the usual bonus of 1 per cent. was being withheld owing to the necessity of providing for the depreciation which had taken place in the bank's investments—an experience common to all banking and financial institutions in these times. The report was approved, and a dividend was declared for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to deduction of income-tax.

The governor, the deputy-governor, the extraordinary directors and the ordinary director retiring at this time were re-elected. The auditors were also reappointed for the ensuing year.

## ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The 29th ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the bank, Clement's Lane, E.C., Mr. Henry Adair Richardson, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George H. Soul) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: It is my good fortune to-day to present you with the strongest balance-sheet I have ever put before you. We maintain our dividend, and out of the surplus profits of the last two years have provided in full for depreciation of securities, for all ascertained war losses, and put aside £20,000 for losses that may arise—and are pretty sure to arise—as the war goes on. This result has been largely due to a very gratifying increase in current accounts, the cotton crop having sold much better than seemed likely, and to the fillip that the large number of soldiers located in Egypt has given to business generally. It is a feather in our cap that we have kept the military accounts in Egypt. In Malta and Gibraltar—where we have the Treasury accounts—we have, I believe, done very useful work. Under contract, we have to supply all the funds they require there, and in Malta, owing to the war, their requirements have been very large indeed—double what they were before the war, and now, I believe, they are three times as much. Our Malta branch has met all these demands, and has, I am sure, been of very great service to the country. Our newly-opened branch at Khartum has shown an encouraging profit. Now, as regards Egypt. A year ago it looked very gloomy, with cotton at 5d. a pound, and not readily saleable at that; but Egypt has, after all, come through the year much better than might have been expected. The revenue showed a deficit of only £1,700,000—no very serious matter in itself. For the first few months of the war trade was at a complete standstill, and losses faced every one. Yet, so soon as the Government fixed a minimum for cotton values, things began to improve all round; the moratorium was brought gradually to an end, and the settlement of cotton contracts on the local exchange—which promised to be a serious source of danger and difficulty—was ably and satisfactorily arranged; paper took the place of gold, and readily passed into currency (proving an excellent counter for marketing the cotton crop), whilst the large arrivals of soldiers put money freely into circulation; £5,000,000 sterling was transferred by the War Office to Egypt between February and August—to the great advantage of importers and others; while, with rising prices for cotton, exporters were in most cases able to make good their losses of the earlier months. On the other hand, the cultivators of cotton have suffered severely, though there may be some little compensation in the cereal crops, and sugar cultivators must have done exceedingly well. The crop turned out to be only 6,300,000 cantars—a million cantars less than the estimates, but it was all sold for export—an encouraging fact for the future. Its value was, however, something like £11,000,000 to £12,000,000 less than the larger crop of the previous year. That is the dark cloud that will hang over Egypt for some time; but there is a silver lining to it, for cotton is now round about 10d. per lb., and it seems quite possible that, with the reduced crop of this year, the price may be maintained. At any rate, the process of recuperation is getting a good start. He afterwards referred to the principal figures in the balance-sheet, and called attention to the changes shown as compared with the corresponding entries a year ago, remarking that investments were nearly double, and, having now paid the instalments on the War Loan, stood at £840,000, of which £620,000 was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan written down to 98.

Mr. Alan Richardson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

The ordinary general meeting of the Argentine Great Western Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. T. Dillon) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.



The Chairman said he was sorry to have to inform the meeting that Lord St. Davids was not able to be present, owing to an attack of influenza. He had, however, sent a copy of the remarks which he would have made had he been there, and these he (the chairman) would read:—"The total receipts of the railway for the past year show the large decrease of £244,187—namely, from £1,164,738 in the previous year to £920,551 in the present year, this decrease being equivalent to 20.96 per cent. Taking into account the number of miles open for traffic, these receipts are the lowest for the past ten years. As stated in the directors' report, the decrease is attributable to the war and to the consequent disturbance of credit following upon the depression which existed in Argentina prior to the war. The receipts from passenger traffic and from general goods are fairly accurate indications of the condition of trade, and it will be seen that the former shows a decrease of £107,354 and the latter a decrease of £53,142. These two items together account for more than 65 per cent. of the total reduction in the receipts. The next largest item in reduced receipts is in posts. This is in consequence of the decrease in the plantation of new vineyards, due to trade depression and to the over-production of wine in previous years. The Government of the Province of Mendoza has not only discouraged the plantation of new vineyards, but has taken steps to put out of production some of the existing vineyards, in order to reduce the supply of wine to a figure nearer to the probable consumption. The closing of the Transandine line for through traffic for some months is another factor which has helped towards the decrease in receipts. Capital expenditure during the year has been almost entirely suspended, with the result that, owing to the large amount of materials returned to stores from the extensions which were in construction, there is a credit in the capital expenditure account of £72,040. The investments continue to be shown in the balance-sheet at cost—namely, £159,923. Valuations have been made of these investments as at June 30 last, so far as it has been possible to make valuations in these times, and I have been asked by the auditors to state that they show a depreciation on the cost price of the investments of 13½ per cent. As to the present prospects, the general manager reports that these continue to be excellent. The financial conditions of Argentina are improving, and with that improvement, which should be general all over the country, it is reasonable to expect an increased demand for the products of those parts of the country which our railway serves. According to late advices, the selling price of wine this year has increased. Experiments are being made in the districts served by our railway to grow cereals and vegetables, and these show a fair promise of success. Some 60,000 hectares of wheat are reported to have been sown in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. Up to the date of the latest advices the receipts of our line show an increase this year of more than 13 per cent. over the corresponding period last year, while the receipts of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific system show an increase of £311,000, or more than 23 per cent. over last year's figures. According to a cablegram lately received from the general manager, the following is the position:—"Cuyo prospects excellent. Vineyards very satisfactory; contracts grapes being made, favourable prices."

The Hon. Charles N. Lawrence seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE, LAND, AND FINANCE.

The fifty-first annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Australian Mercantile, Land, and Finance Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Robert Henryson Caird (managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. R. B. Lilley) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that the year they had passed through had been one of grave anxiety. Not only had they had to guard against all the changes and chances arising from the continuance of the terrible war, but they had had to contend with an almost unprecedented drought and adverse legislation in Australia and difficult financial conditions in Argentina. When war broke out no one knew when bills would be met, and no one could tell how prices for wool would go, or even whether wool, which was their chief product, could be got to market at all. They knew that, in the ordinary way, the Continent of Europe took some 67 per cent. of the merino clip and that most of the Continental mills were out of commission. Until January of the current year it had looked as though the gloomiest forebodings would not be too black. Then, however, things began to mend. Prices were now on a satisfactory level, and, though there were still many difficulties to contend with, among them congestion at the docks, and possible interference with shipping by the Government, on the whole the realisation of the wool clip was being successfully accomplished. He would like to say a word or two as to the adverse legislation in Australia, but he did not want to risk being misunderstood. What he wanted to protest against was the imposition of taxation of a penal character, in which category he included the Federal land tax, imposed when revenue was not required, and with the avowed intention of forcing large holdings to be sold. It was of so burdensome a character that it had forced them to realise a large part of their freehold properties, on which they had expended great sums in development, and where their continuance as owners would have been of direct benefit to the country, as they would have gone on increasing its productivity. Recently there had been the Federal land tax on leaseholds, not levied on income, but on the capital value. There were also land and

income-taxes in the various States, and recently there had come the Federal progressive income-tax, running up to 5s. in the £, and nominally a war tax. The inequity of that tax was that they would have to pay on the interest on their debenture debt, which was not a profit at all. Dealing with the items in the balance-sheet, the Chairman claimed that the figures showed that safety was their first consideration, while, subject to that, they had kept their funds well employed. With their monetary resources and their tried and trusted staff of officers, they did not fear the forces of Nature. Droughts would always have to be combated in their fight to get returns from country that, without capital, would still be desert. They did not fear financial crises, nor did they greatly fear the effect of the war. The unknown quantity was the extent to which adverse legislation in Australia would continue. He could only hope that before it was too late political parties might recognise it was bad policy to drive capital from their country. English investors in Australia had to pay three income-taxes, and seemed to have only two alternatives, either to withdraw from England or to withdraw money from Australia. They could not go on paying all three. They could not withdraw from England, so he thought they might congratulate themselves that they had established a branch in Argentina, where they were doing a satisfactory business and were gradually acquiring a reputation, not only as lenders, but as managers of estancia properties.

Mr. F. A. White seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### What Balance Sheets Tell.

#### NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LTD.

Apparently profits for the year closed June 30 last were £14,915 down at £122,301, but before this figure was arrived at £19,085 was added to the reserve account, in addition to special appropriation of £106,706, part of the £166,571 received from liquidator of the New Zealand Land Association, Ltd., whereas no such sum was deducted in the previous year. British and colonial taxes, too, required £21,026 more at £35,754, and it is to these two items that the decrease is chiefly due. The balance of £55,279 brought forward was £41,040 higher, therefore the £177,581 left to divide is £26,125 up, and the ordinary stock again gets its 5 per cent. for the year, less income-tax. Consequently, the balance of £81,405 left to carry forward is just the amount of the increased available total higher. Nothing in the accounts calls for notice, but it may be mentioned that the reserve fund is altogether £125,791 up on the year at £410,000, and that the balance of the sum mentioned

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above as being received from the liquidator has been used to reduce the book value of the premises to £330,000.

#### CREDIT FONCIER OF MAURITIUS, LTD.

Being very largely interested in the sugar industry, this company naturally found the year ended June 30 an exceptionally prosperous one. Profits from working its own properties rose by no less than £15,919 to £16,008, in addition to which interest and management fees yielded £12,603 more, and as miscellaneous receipts were also better, the total income of £63,602 showed an improvement of £29,679. Of this £10,000 is set aside for machinery renewal, against nothing last time, and after meeting fixed charges, the surplus, including £2,517 brought in, was £18,647 up at £29,445. The directors now transfer £2,000, or £2,250 less, to the reserve for depreciation of investments, and £3,500, against nothing, to the general depreciation fund, after which they pay a dividend of 5 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., compared with a distribution of only 2 per cent. a year ago, and carry forward £9,823, or £7,306 more. During the year the debenture debt was reduced by £7,057 to £365,826, the bank loan of £39,289 was paid off, and sundry liabilities were reduced by £2,183 to £19,807. On the other hand, annuity loans are £3,857 down at £7,687, and other mortgage loans £42,670 down at £184,349, while balances due on properties sold have been reduced by £11,439 to £100,886, and advances on current accounts by £5,935 to £33,834. Investments are £40,507 higher at £158,874, cash is £17,500 up at £68,912, and stocks have risen by £5,813 to £13,168, but advances on company's estates, crop 1915, are £3,904 smaller at £8,905. With regard to the current year, the directors state that the crop is fairly satisfactory, and the price of sugar is still above the normal, but working expenses are much heavier than in normal years. They have, however, every reason to believe that clients will be in a position to meet their engagements, as their indebtedness to the company has been materially reduced.

#### BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION, LTD.

Had it not been for the outbreak of war, the directors say, it is probable that fresh business might have been undertaken with the Chinese Government in the year ended June 30. Prevailing conditions rendered the placing of any fresh loans impracticable, and negotiations can only be reopened when the money market has returned to more normal conditions. A year ago an agreement was concluded for £8,000,000 for the construction of the Nanking-Hunan Railway, but the issue has, of course, been hung up for the time being, and the company is continuing to make small monthly advances to enable the survey to be carried on. In the absence of any fresh financial business it is satisfactory to find that the income showed a small increase of £1,467 at £30,967, but the allowance for depreciation had to be nearly doubled at £14,729, and after providing for administration charges, &c., the nett surplus was £6,145 smaller at £7,672. Adding £11,120, or £7,567 more brought forward, the divisible surplus was £1,422 up at £18,792, out of which the dividend of 5 per cent. is repeated, and the balance carried forward is increased to £12,542. Investments, thanks to the writing down, are £14,408 smaller at £205,524, but advances to the Chinese Government have risen by £34,177 to £306,821. Other debtors owe £1,187 less at £2,433, and cash is £17,667 down at £1,262, while sundry creditors and bills payable are a trifle lower at £352,248.

#### R. AND J. DICK, LTD.

This company's year ended August 31 gave an increase of £10,138 in the gross profits, raising them to £77,318, but £4,016 more was absorbed in income-tax, depreciation, and interest, so that the £65,613 of clear revenue left was only £6,122 up. As the balance of £10,363 brought forward was £1,110 down, the ultimate divisible total of £75,976 was only £5,012 larger. But only a year's directors' fees were paid against 18 months' for the previous year. Consequently, although the dividend on the ordinary shares was again raised by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, and although £5,000 more at £20,000 was written off goodwill account, the final balance left to carry forward was £326 up at £10,690. The preference dividend reserve again got £10,000, and now amounts to £40,000. The accounts do not demand analysis, but it may be stated that the stock-in-trade is up £29,740 at £293,697, and the cash £11,139 larger at £27,509, while debtors owe £21,444 less at £92,116.

#### CORDOVA LAND CO., LTD.

During the year ended September 30 the number of cattle sold was 1,279 smaller at 9,719, but the average price was 9s. 7d. up at £12 11s. 10d., and with rather larger receipts from rents, &c., the total income was £1,132 better at £136,987. Expenses, however, were much heavier, and income-tax required £3,848 more, with the result that the nett profits showed a decrease of £6,817 at £101,428. A balance of £46,047 or £31,376 more was brought in, and as the directors content themselves with repeating the dividend of 5 per cent., the sum left to be carried forward is £24,550 larger at £70,606. The area under alfalfa was increased by another 4,216 acres, while further improvements were made in the water supply by the erection of seven mills and five reservoirs of 75,000 gallons each, and 116 new bulls were purchased. Altogether £4,386 was spent on capital account, making the total outlay to date £1,580,858. Debtors owe £27,792 or £3,203 less, and current liabilities have risen by £2,786 to £25,451, but cash balances are £26,151 up at £46,307, so that the company is well supplied with funds.

#### LONDON NITRATE CO., LTD.

With its oficinas closed during the greater part of the year ended June 30, trading profits naturally showed a considerable

decrease. The total was £35,851 down at £16,538, but the company had a substantial windfall in the shape of £9,625 paid by neutral firms in consideration of cancelling contracts for future delivery which were open at the outbreak of war. In addition, £4,578 more at £14,932 was brought forward, so that the amount available was only £21,648 smaller at £41,095. After providing for head office expenses, income-tax, and repeating the appropriation of £7,500 for depreciation, the directors write £3,000 off investments, and pay a dividend of 10 per cent. as against 15, carrying forward £8,369, or £6,563 less. Stocks of nitrate and iodine are £33,552 down at £27,952, sundry debtors owe £4,909 less at £18,641, and cash and loans are a trifle lower at £16,054. On the other hand, liabilities on bills payable have been reduced by £43,937 to £10,000. The amount due to creditors is practically unchanged at £13,603. Manufacturing was resumed at one oficina on April 26, and at the other on May 26, and the directors announce that they have at last secured an iodine quota for the oficina "Transito," which will double the profit from that source.

#### ILFORD, LTD.

A year ago the profits of this photographic materials manufacturing business showed a decrease of £9,856, but trade evidently improved considerably during the 12 months ended October 31, and although a larger amount had to be provided for repairs and depreciation, the nett balance showed a recovery of £4,371 at £27,277. Including £5,880 brought forward, the total available was £4,277 up at £33,157, and in addition to raising the dividend on the ordinary shares from 4 per cent. to 5, the allowance for depreciation is increased by £3,000 to £7,000, leaving £5,257, or £623 less, to be carried forward. Goodwill, patents, &c., stand at £196,000, against which the reserve is only £24,000. Property account has been reduced by £9,535 to £71,046, and investments have been increased by £10,553 to £100,603, but the market value of these is estimated at only £89,500. Stocks have risen by £8,309 to £34,487, and debtors owe £5,230 more at £33,382, against an increase of £6,845 to £13,025 in sundry creditors, while cash has been reduced by £3,288 to £10,155.

#### MORGAN'S BREWERY CO., LTD.

Many difficulties which had to be faced during the year ended September 30 are set forth in the directors' report, but in spite of them all, the gross profits were rather better at £99,373. Savings were effected in working expenses, and £1,322 less at £8,400 was written off, with the result that the nett balance, including £7,090 or £2,002 more brought in, showed an increase of £5,969 at £34,345. Of this £3,000, or £2,000 less, is transferred to reserve, making that fund £66,274, and £4,000, as against nothing, is set aside for a contingencies reserve, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 2 per cent. to 2½, and £3,279 more at £10,369 is carried forward. Liabilities to simple contract creditors have risen by £12,127 to £27,790, and £1,250 more at £33,990 is due to Elijah Eyre's Brewery, Ltd., but loans and trade deposits have been reduced by £1,218 to £93,563. On the other hand, property and goodwill account is £1,403 down at £572,658, but stocks are £5,417 larger at £26,171, debtors owe £3,683 more at £19,404, and cash is £10,733 up at £24,525.

**DARTFORD BREWERY CO., LTD.**—Nett profits for the year ended September 30, after providing for depreciation, interest, &c., were £528 up at £25,058, and with £12,718, or £4,662 more, brought forward; gave an available total of £37,776. Of this £1,500 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 4½ to 5 per cent., but nothing is written off, compared with £1,168 for abnormal expenditure on properties, and the balance carried forward is therefore £5,333 larger at £18,051. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance.

**PHILLIPS AND MARRIOTT, LTD.**—After providing rather more for repairs and depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended September 30 were £1,644 smaller at £10,311, and with £970 less at £1,408 brought in, gave a disposable total of £11,719, or a decrease of £2,614. The dividend on the ordinary shares is therefore cut down from 9 per cent. to 6, and £600 less at £1,000 is transferred to general reserve, leaving £1,626 to be carried forward. Property account is £10,731 up at £188,074, stocks are £1,123 larger at £8,811, debtors owe £5,795 more at £12,237, and cash has risen by £6,125 to £6,811. On the other hand, mortgages and bank loans have been increased by £26,488 to £31,457, and current liabilities are £887 up at £15,953.

**RICHARD HORNSBY AND SONS, LTD.**—This is now a "controlled establishment," and its profit for the year ended September 30 last shows an increase of £17,705 at £55,654. A year ago the profit was £15,630 down, so Government business has done the company good. After meeting debenture stock interest and paying a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, as against 2½ per cent. last year, there is £13,688 more at £27,547 left to carry forward. The company's debt to sundry creditors shows a reduction of £14,160, but still amounts to £106,827, and sundry debtors owe it £67,003 more at £186,333. Its stock, &c., is down £20,335 to £308,257.

Following upon the action of the Clearing Banks, the Discount houses have decided, as from December 1, 1915, to close their offices at 3 p.m. each day, except on Saturday, when the closing time will be 1 p.m.



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## Passing Events.

In last week's Exchequer return it has to be noted that £12,748,000 is entered as receipts from the American loan, and that money rightly comes into the accounts, although it remains in America to meet our debts there. Perhaps the receipt of this loan instalment may account to some extent for the increase of £10,000,000 shown in the expenditure of the week. It was £34,000,000 as compared with £24,000,000, that is to say, about £4,850,000 a day. If, however, the American money used to pay debts on the other side of the Atlantic is included in this large sum, it may be inferred that our home outlay has not been much above the average. At the same time, looking at the heavy drafts made upon us to establish our troops in the Balkans, to assist the Serbians, and to furnish the additional transport necessary for the sustenance and munitioning of all forces there, as well as the heavy and growing expense caused by the latest recruiting hustle, we must expect to find the outgoings severe enough for many weeks to come. It should help to enforce the growing, but not always discreet, demand for "economy" amongst the people. A year ago the expenditure of the week, a week of war, was about £13,500,000, and since April 1 our outgoings this year have been £874,000,000 on Supply Services alone, or £658,000,000 more than that of the same period of last year. The figures appal but in no way dismay. As Mr. Bonar Law well said at the St. Andrew's Day Scots' dinner, our noble aim is to destroy Prussian militarism for ever, so that "never again in our time or in the time of our children or their children will it be within the power of any man or any group of men to turn the world into the charnel house which it has become." The task is great and most costly, far more costly in men and means than any of us thought until we understood that Prussian militarism had drilled a whole race into insanity, but it shall be fully accomplished, cost what it may.

Did the war allow us to stop and think, many of us would doubtless stand amazed at the speed with which State Socialism is putting forth its hand to take a controlling hold upon all our material interests. Recently it was the turn of the rich, especially of the rich joint-

stock companies making large profits. On Wednesday it was the turn of the working man. A great conference of trade union executives and officials, numbering over 1,000, was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, presided over by Mr. Arthur Henderson, the President of the Board of Trade, and attended on the part of the Government by Mr. Asquith, Mr. McKenna, and Mr. Runciman as speakers or advisers, accompanied by Mr. J. W. Gulland, Chief Whip, Mr. E. S. Montagu, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. W. Brace, Under-Secretary for the Home Office, and Mr. G. H. Roberts, Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. What was the purpose of the conference? In one word, it was to persuade the workers to hand over 50 per cent. of their excess earnings to the Government. Instead of spending that extra money—and Mr. Asquith told the meeting that the average increase in the wages of about 4,500,000 of working people was about 3s. 6d. a week—it is to be placed in the War Stock, where it will earn 4½ per cent. interest, and where it will lie at the call of the worker when the conflict is over, a date when, in all probability, bad times may come again for a spell and for many. On the whole the men took the advice well, or at least they took it, as the Scotch law term puts it, *ad avizandum*, and if we may judge from their utterance at the meeting, they are not really unwilling to do as they are told, for they are genuinely patriotic, provided a good example is set to them by people in high places. Will that example be set? Who shall say? But at the speed of our progress in State Socialism we at least shall not be surprised at all to find Mr. McKenna rising in the House of Commons one of these days to propose that private expenditure shall be regulated from above, not only for the working man, but for the annuitant, the man of comfortable means, the wealthy cosmopolite, the peer, for every individual in short, great or small, who can be made to pay towards the devouring costs of this life-and-death conflict.

Most impressive of all among the Ministerial speeches as a clear, well-reasoned, and most cogent argument was Mr. Runciman's. He dealt with the question of high prices, about which there has begun to be a certain wrathful discontent generative of many wild



demands. "You must fix maximum prices," is one favourite clamour of the unthinking. "The Germans have done that, and we must imitate them, or we are lost." Mr. Runciman must have convinced even the most ignorant that there is no reason why we in this country should play the fool in things economic because the Germans are continually doing so. He made it perfectly plain that ours is a country dependent on foreign supplies of food, that therefore the people of other lands who possess food to sell have the power to fix the price, not we. Our only protection is competition between rival suppliers, and as the number of these has been reduced by the war, we are more than usual at the mercy of the seller. We could only make a plausible show of fixing prices by law if all sources of supply were controlled by the Government. As that is impossible, the only thing to be done is to assist the people as much as possible by the Government itself becoming the great wholesale buyer, and that has been done with wheat, sugar, and meat, done silently, swiftly, unostentatiously, to the great advantage of the community. Here, in fact, we have State Socialism in beneficent action, and we therefore trust that the agitation will be dropped, and that the people will understand how delicate a subject the movements of prices is. An endless variety of influences affect them, and not least powerfully the fluctuations of a depreciated currency. Our currency has not depreciated, but, as we have again and again explained, the currencies of Germany and Austria are steadily declining in purchasing power—that is to say, are driving up prices—and this, together with the growing dependence of these brigand empires upon foreign supplies increasingly difficult to get, makes more striking than it otherwise might be the failure of all the German plans to make food cheap by fiat in defiance of all economic law. What has been the result? In Germany, Mr. Runciman answered, the price of pork has more than doubled, the price of butter doubled, the price of bacon been multiplied by three, the price of lard by four, and the price of beef, in spite of an enormously reduced consumption, raised by 50 per cent. Every attempt to fix maximum prices has been defeated, and has tended to divert supplies from Germany. Who is going to sell us his beef at 6d. per lb. because the law orders him to if a customer elsewhere will give him 7d., 8d., or 1s.? No, we must economise on all hands, and produce more at home if we are to keep prices down. The meeting altogether should do much good.

What other sentiment than a more unalterably fixed resolve to spare no sacrifice in order to put an end to Prussian militarism can be excited by the tale of our casualties in the war? Mr. Asquith told the country on Thursday that up to November our total losses amount to 510,230. Of that formidable, sorrow-spreading aggregate 109,723 have been killed and 330,250 wounded. Also 70,257 are classed as missing, and doubtless a large proportion of this last total is also amongst the slain, men who lived and toiled and loved, now buried in undiscoverable graves. We have had killed 6,940 officers and 102,783 rank and file. Also of officers 13,112 have been wounded and 2,067 are missing, the number of men wounded being 317,138 and missing 68,190. As the heaviest fighting has been in France the largest losses have occurred there, the total being 379,958, of which 73,892 have been killed, 4,620 of them officers, and 250,037 wounded besides 56,029 missing. Next comes the Mediterranean tale of slaughter, which means principally the product of the desperate fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula. There 106,610 officers and men have been killed, wounded, or otherwise lost. Of the killed 4,720 are officers and 21,531 men, and there have been 2,860 officers wounded along with 70,148 of their men, but there are only 356 officers missing along with 10,211 rank and file. The Navy has lost 12,160 men, 10,517 of them killed, a proof of how arduous its work has been and how great the peril seeing that it has had but little chance to encounter the fleet of the Prussian braggart. How many of the men thus numbered up by cold statistics are home-born, how many Indian, how

many Canadians, Australians, or New Zealanders the summary does not disclose, but the information will be given one day, and, in the meantime, these figures will go home to the heart of the nation and brace it to fight on. No human mind can measure the sorrow this record of slaughter causes, but it is the sorrow that redeems and purifies, makes us the more willing to toil, endure, and, if need be, die, so be that in our sacrifice mankind may be delivered for ever from the damning curse of war.

To find J. and P. Coats, Ltd., able to show an available profit for its past year closed June 30 £373,162 larger than that of the preceding year is at first sight surely wonderful. This increase, however, is entirely due to the balance brought forward, which was £408,585 up, and the actual gains of the year, after allowing £1,487 less at £39,343 for depreciation, were really £35,423 down at £2,598,996. Even this, however, is wonderful in view of the interruption of the company's operations in the Teutonic Empires, Poland, and Russia. We are told that a farthing per reel has been added to the price of the company's cotton threads in this country, but even that would hardly seem enough to account for the sustained prosperity. Out of its wonderful income the board has been able to maintain the dividend of 30 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but instead of distributing the usual 5 per cent. bonus it sets aside £30,000 to a suspense account against depreciation of investments, and carries forward £362,619 more than was brought in at £1,379,112. That is wise, and the balance-sheet shows a most satisfactory position. The total reserves of the company, including the marine and fire underwriting account, now amounts to £8,835,000, and the only entry on the assets side which may have lurking in it possibilities of loss is "cash at banks in foreign countries at war." This is revealed for the first time, and amounts to £749,653. A bagatelle in one sense to so rich a grouped industry, but none the less too much to sacrifice. Cash at bankers and in hand, however, has increased £397,367 on the year to £852,332. Debts due to sundry creditors have risen £50,152 to £307,105, and stocks and stores are £294,394 down at £1,888,695. Book debts, agents' advances, &c., the largest item among the assets next to property and investments in other businesses, have gone up £3,339 to £2,263,883, but advances to subsidiary companies are £500,447 lower at £2,162,024. A profit of £13,250 was realised last year from the sale of investments, otherwise the gross profit of £2,570,431 would have shown a decline of nearly £60,000.

Many reflections will be excited by the report of John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., which has come out in surprise fashion. Its business year has hitherto been the calendar year, but the report and accounts now published cover the six months and odd days ended July 11 last. The change has been made because on the following day the business passed under the control of the Ministry of Munitions, and in consequence of that it has been decided by the board that July 31 shall in future be the date on which the annual balance is struck. How matters would have stood had the usual course been followed we cannot imagine, but for the six months and eleven days the profits have been just dazzling. Excluding the balance brought forward in each case, the total was £267,333, or just £115,836 more than the profit for the entire previous year, which in turn was an excellent one, enabling the company to pay an 8 per cent. dividend. The shareholders are now to get 10 per cent. on their ordinary shares, or 2 per cent. more than for last year, presumably for the six months embraced in the accounts, and money is stowed away to the extent of £67,000 more—£49,000 goes to goodwill account, £90,000 to the reserve, and £10,000 to a special reserve, leaving the balance to be carried forward £67,880 larger than the one brought in at £78,148. There should be ample means here for the satisfaction of Government demands when the question of the 50 per cent. excess profits tax comes up for solution, as it must; but even so it may be a question whether the board will escape



with the whole of the money which has been set aside to meet capital expenditure during the period. The whole of that capital expenditure has been charged to revenue "in consequence of the plant having been in operation continuously night and day," and because this expenditure "was made with a view to increase the output during the war." Its value, therefore, at the war's end is "more than problematical." Depreciation itself got only £21,830, or £7,411 less than for the whole of the previous year. No profit and loss account is published, and it is useless to attempt any comparison of the balance-sheets, but the statement as here summarised is eloquent of the chances given to make great gains by war pressure. The total overturn of the business has been about four times the average, and has been carried out without a corresponding increase in the staff, a fact which speaks eloquently for the efficient solicitude with which business is controlled and handled. It may be mentioned that the board has decided to set aside £20,000 to create a benevolent fund from which to make grants to members of the staff and employees in certain cases of ill-health, termination of service, &c., and that is outside the writings-off mentioned above. Will the Government want some of that money back?

Just seven months before the end of its fiscal year at June 30, the Entre Rios Railways Co., Ltd., took back its property from the control of the Yankee Argentine Railway Co., and found a stiff tussle before it. The season was a bad one, and the results shown are depressing. Gross receipts declined by £172,220, or 28.24 per cent., to £437,630, while the saving in working expenses was only £6,086, or 1.83 per cent., bringing them down to £326,328. It follows that the nett revenue of £111,302 was £166,134, or 59.88 per cent. lower than that of the preceding year, and as the lessee company had been obliged to abandon its contract, there was no guarantee money from it available to meet the deficiency. Accordingly, after providing for debenture interest and paying £10,957, or £7,468 less than in the previous year, to cover flood damage, as well as debiting against revenue £6,225 as loss on the working of the National Government's Eastern line, there was a deficit of £49,299, instead of a surplus of £11,744. Against this is placed £50,000, being the nominal value of the fully-paid shares of the Compagnie Française des Chemins de Fer de la Province de Santa Fé handed over by the Argentine Railway Co. as some kind of solatium for its breach of contract. Are we to infer that the properties of the Entre Rios Co. have really suffered through the abrogation of the lease? We do not think so at all. On the contrary, the future looks hopeful in many directions, and, thanks to the better season now being experienced, traffic receipts have already improved in a most encouraging fashion. For the first four months of the company's current financial year nett receipts are £27,054 better than for the same period of last year at £45,411. This has but to go on to restore confidence and to enable the company to pay its interest out of revenue, with something over towards wiping off its realised losses. Nothing was set aside last year to write off renewal expenditure, against £38,159 in the previous year, but doubtless that also will be attended to when money comes rolling in again. We, however, trust that the capital account will not be allowed to expand much for the next few years. Only £44,241 was spent on that account last year, as compared with £462,950 for the year before. Such rapid ups and downs occur in the prosperity of the Argentine Republic at the present stage of its progress that it will be well to take heed and go slow even when the purse is full. Owing to the company having taken back its business, it has had to appoint a general manager and managing engineer. Mr. R. H. F. Stuart has assumed these important positions, not only over the Entre Rios system, but also over the lines of the Argentine North-Eastern Railway Co., which are under the same administration. Many interesting facts can, as usual, be gathered from the general manager's report, but the sum of them is that things are emphati-

cally on the mend, crops good, prices good, credit healthy, and prospects cheering.

Government control of sugar supplies is no doubt the main cause of the sharp set-back in the profits of Henry Tate and Sons for the 12 months ended September 30. A year ago market conditions were all in the company's favour, and the profits rose by no less than £197,932, but the fixing of the selling price, and the higher cost of raw sugar, have brought the total for the period under review down by £179,681 to the more normal figure of £166,107. The appropriation to reserve is reduced by £30,000 to £10,000, or the same as two years ago, and although the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at the very comfortable figure of 25 per cent., the bonus of 25 per cent. paid in addition a year ago is not repeated, while the balance carried forward is £10,507 down at £22,801. A considerable sum was spent on the property and plant, and after allowing for depreciation the cost is £35,761 higher at £1,050,646. Investments have been increased by £74,078 to £175,728, and in addition the company holds £179,475 of War Loan purchased on behalf of officials and employees. Debtors owe £143,917 more at £424,604, but stocks are £42,308 lower at £357,940, and cash has been reduced by £216,394 to £117,908, against which £794,626 or £400,037 more is due to creditors.

A very satisfactory display is made by the Bleachers' Association for the six months ended September 30, and from the fact that the directors see their way to resuming the payment of an interim dividend on the ordinary shares, it seems evident that the outlook for the current half-year is encouraging. In the first half of 1914 the nett profits showed a decrease of £98,751, and the bad trade continued throughout the rest of the year, but since then there has been a decided turn for the better. A small reduction to £89,102 in the cost



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## SATURDAY AFTERNOON CURTAILMENT

### Route No. 38A. Victoria Station & Epping Forest

On and after December 4th, 1915, the above route will not continue to the Forest on Saturday afternoons as heretofore, but will work to Walthamstow, as on weekdays. Epping Forest, however, will continue to be served by this route on Sundays.

#### TIMES OF BUSES.

		From Epping Forest.	From Walthamstow. (Hoe Street)
First Bus	..	Sundays	Weekdays
	..	11.0 a.m.	8.16 a.m.
Last Bus	..	8.28 p.m.	10.19 p.m.
From Victoria Station			
First Bus	..	Sundays	Weekdays
	..	10.0 a.m.	7.48 a.m.
Last Bus	..	6.33 p.m.	8.58 p.m.
	..	*10.4 p.m.	*11.33 p.m.
	..	†11.13 p.m.	

Buses every 9 & 10 minutes.

Fare from Victoria Station { Walthamstow 5d.  
Epping Forest 8d.

\* Leyton Green only. † Dalston Junc. only.

Epping Forest is now served on Saturday afternoons by Routes Nos. 10A and 38.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



of maintenance and upkeep was practically offset by an increase to £12,236 in central charges, while an increase in interest charges was met by setting aside £5,000 less at £6,000 for income-tax, with the result that the aggregate of the charges showed very little change. After deducting these items the nett profits amounted to £191,597, or a recovery of £57,884, and of this £30,000 is as usual transferred to the depreciation fund. On the other hand, however, the balance brought forward was £57,226 smaller at £116,731, so that the amount now available is only £351 up at £210,686, but the directors pay an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, or the same as in 1912 and 1913, and reduce the sum carried forward by £59,104 to £151,582.

Slaters, Ltd.'s, year ends September 30, and the accounts now issued for the past 12 months show a nett profit of only £2,836, which is £26,623 less than that of the previous year. The balance of £9,439 brought forward was only £860 higher, consequently there was a loss of £1,160 left to be carried forward after providing for the 6 per cent. preference dividend up to June 30. The directors, however, say that "they have every reason to anticipate the payment of the half-yearly dividend on December 31 next." They are robust optimists, and meantime there is nothing at all for the ordinary shareholders, who got 6 per cent. for the previous year, and all this is attributed to the war, which is unfortunate. The company now possesses a large number of refreshment shops, and ought to be doing well. It seemed to be doing so before the war came upon us. It is unnecessary to examine the accounts. Of more interest will it be to mention that a demand has been made for a committee of the shareholders. The board is willing, but objects to two of the men proposed for this investigation. Their objection seems not unreasonable, if it be true that one of the two is a stockbroker who bought 200 shares for £50 last August to qualify, and the other an accountant who acquired 50 shares for £15 at about the same time. That does not look well, and we should support the board.

We do not feel called upon to "enthuse" over the latest proposals laid before the bondholders of the City of San Paulo Improvements and Freehold Land Co., Ltd., by its directors. Its chief object is to get liberty from the first and second debenture holders to place a 6 per cent. prior lien debt of £200,000 in front of them, they themselves having meanwhile to go without cash interest until September 30, 1919, and accept 5 per cent. scrip instead, to be redeemed out of problematical future profits. Their sinking funds are also to be suspended without compensation, even on paper which may turn out worthless. A former proposal that £750,000 of prior lien bonds bearing 5½ per cent. interest seems to have frightened the unhappy creditors, and this one has been substituted. Is there no other way of "saving the face" except by piling debt upon debt and by robbing old creditors of their property? If no large floating debt exists representing privileged claims standing ahead of the bondholders who were supposed to hold the first charge on the assets, why not suspend interest payments for a few years and devote the revenue to capital purposes? "Not possible?" Then we fear the company is hopelessly involved.

For the first time the Hokkaido Colonization Bank, Ltd. (Hokkaido Takushoku Ginko), has sent us its statement, covering the half-year ended June 30 last. It is a satisfactory statement showing an increase of 102,158 yen, including 65,243 yen brought forward, on the earnings of the corresponding half-year. The total is thus 334,409 yen, and of that 67,000 yen is set aside to reserve against losses, or 8,700 yen more, but the reserve for dividend gets only 7,000 yen as against 11,700 yen. A special reserve, however, is credited with 18,000 yen, and then the dividend is raised by 1 per cent. to 8 per cent. per annum, while 8,000 yen more at 13,000 yen is bestowed as bonus on directors

and auditors, leaving 54,658 yen more at 89,309 yen to be carried forward. The accounts would be very interesting if we could be sure that we understood them fully, but that we do not. It may be noted, however, that the amount of debentures issued increased compared with a year ago by 3,459,000 yen to 19,344,000 yen, and that amongst the assets, loans repayable by annual instalments stand for 22,405,000 yen, or 1,399,000 yen more, while loans repayable at fixed dates are down 558,000 yen to 1,217,000 yen. The bank has 5,409,000 yen on deposit at call, and its numerous assets include bills discounted, overdrafts, bank premises, loans on account with the Hypothec Bank of Japan, movable properties in possession, cash, &c., the aggregate of the balance-sheet being 36,290,000 yen. The institution is therefore a solid one, whose paid-up capital is 5,000,000 yen and whose reserves of various kinds now stand at 1,470,000 yen.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of 66 Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the 12 months ending November 30, 1915. The total paid-up share capital of these concerns amounts to £2,326,969 and loan capital is £906,185. At the beginning of the year spinners were very adversely affected by the war, but some producers of coarse yarns were doing well, owing to the active demand in heavy cloths to meet the requirements of the Government. The March stocktakings were, therefore, irregular, and on the whole disappointing. There was some improvement at the end of June, and most concerns were in a position to report small profits at the end of September. Recently the margin of profit for spinners has much improved as a result of the shortage of labour and the lessened supplies of twist and weft upon the market. The American section on the whole has done better than the Egyptian spinning department. The total profit for the 12 months of the 66 companies, after paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation, only amounts to £5,509. This works out at an average profit per company of £89, as compared with £57 in 1914. The percentage of profit on share capital is therefore less than 1 per cent., and although many companies have paid dividends out of reserve funds, the trading for the year may be described as unremunerative. The total value of plant, including machinery, of these mills is £2,696,958, and the spindles total to 5,701,823. The prospects in the market are more encouraging than at any time since the beginning of the war, and the strong position in which many spinners are now situated should result in improved stocktaking reports during the next few months.

It will be recalled that at the special meeting held in September the board of the Mashonaland Agency abandoned its proposals for the reduction of capital by the process of reconstruction because of the opposition which developed. A fresh scheme has now been drawn up for merely reducing the capital. It is proposed that, having regard to the depreciation which has occurred in certain assets, these shall be written down by cancelling lost capital to the extent of £126,342; it is also intended to distribute in redemption of capital among the holders of the 398,976 shares issued 132,992 Wankie Colliery Co.'s shares, 10s. each, and 6d. per share in cash, equal to £9,974; and, thirdly, to reduce the nominal value of the Mashonaland Agency shares from £1 to 7s. 6d. Thus the capital will be reduced from £400,000 to £150,000. The effect of these proposals will be to leave the company in possession of a number of assets, especially the land assets, which are still in an undeveloped condition. For the development of these a cash working capital of about £40,000 will remain, which is likely to prove none too much if a vigorous policy is to be pursued. Every three Agency shares will receive one Wankie share; as the market price of Wankie shares is 17s., the shareholders will receive in the distribution a return of capital of £123,018, or 6s. 2d. per share.



Although the history of the Pekin Syndicate (Ltd.), so far as it has been allowed to become public property, does not reflect great credit on the management of what promised to be a very important enterprise, there are indications that a more rational policy has now been inaugurated, and we think shareholders may look to the future with somewhat more confidence than has been justified in the past. Nett profit for the year to June 30 last comes out at £21,774, an increase of £1,890, almost entirely due to economies in administration expenses, but £27,446 (a decrease of £35,940) has to be written off for depreciation of investments, and the accumulated balance carried forward is reduced by £5,670 to £409,078. Cash in hand at £57,967 is down £112,430, but investments show an increase of £78,340, shares in other companies are up £5,070 at £102,474, and sundry debtors are £2,070 higher at £28,745, while sundry creditors have been reduced by £17,310 to £16,760. Stocks are £59,000 lower at £32,848, and the expenditure for the year, less proceeds of sales of coal and sundry credits, amounted to £63,184. It would certainly be desirable to have this item segregated, although the method adopted may be permissible during the development stage. However, we may welcome as a step in the right direction a complete list of the company's investments, all except £65,700 of 3½ per cent. War Loan being in Chinese Government securities. From the consulting engineers' report we find that the total output of coal was only 260,430 tons, against 459,370 tons last year, this big decrease, it is stated, being entirely due to the war and undue competition from native-owned mines. That brings us to the most important and encouraging point in the report—the formation of the Fu Chung Corporation. It has been common knowledge that, apart from geological and engineering difficulties (many of them avoidable, we fear), the operations of the syndicate have been greatly hampered by local jealousies and the passive resistance of the Provincial authorities to the Central Government. It may reasonably be hoped that the Fu Chung Corporation will put an end to this state of affairs in the same way as a similar organisation has successfully solved the troubles that beset the Chinese Mining and Engineering Co. The Corporation is the outcome of an agreement between the syndicate and the Chung Yuan Co. (representing the adjoining native mines) for the purpose of adjusting all the differences and disputes between them. It will act as selling agent for both parties, and although it was only inaugurated on June 1, the report states that the production of coal now nearly equals what it was at the commencement of the war. We must wait another year to see the full results, and meantime would counsel patience encouraged by renewed hope.

### After Sixteen Months of War.

In the end of last week it was officially given out in Berlin that "the main operations are now closed with the flight of the meagre remnants of the Serbian Army to the Albanian mountains. Our first aim, the opening of free communication with the Turkish Empire by way of Bulgaria, has now been achieved." And during the current week military critics in Germany have been discoursing on this text, enlarging on the feebleness or futility of the Anglo-French forces sent to gallant Serbia's relief, and telling us that Asia Minor and Egypt will be the next objects of conquest. Already, it seems, 150 officers have passed through Belgrade en route for the army of Egypt. Already, too, reinforcements are pouring into Serbia, and not only reinforcements, but swarms of labourers destined to rebuild the wrecked portions of the transcontinental railway. That is to say, the despised Serbian Army has not retired without making the invader pay a smart price for his "conquest." Both the Austro-German and the Bulgarian troops have lost many men and much material. The railway, too, has been so handled that the junction of Turk, Teuton, and Bulgar—how the surly Bulgar will delight in the partnership—seems likely to be somewhat delayed. Enough, however, has been spectacularly accomplished to enable

the Kaiser and his tools to brag before their deluded countrymen and twirl their moustachios with a swagger of victory. Their hunger-gnawed victims throughout the Fatherland, in city, town, hamlet, and peasant's hovel, will thereby perchance be encouraged to take up still another notch in their belts in alluring hope that the defeated foe will be forthwith eager to sue for peace.

And our pessimists at home will likewise receive much encouragement to go on reviling the Government, to counsel—like M. Clemenceau in Paris, foolish fellow, he never was a statesman—withdrawal from the Balkans altogether, including the Dardanelles, with much advice of the same fatuous kind; advocate the abandonment, in short, of most of the advantages gained. We must steel our minds to endure even that sorrow and press forward with all the more vigour. To listen to people of that cast of mind one would think that the Allies had never been able to overcome the battle of Mons or the surrenders of Antwerp and Warsaw. But we must have patience, events will bring those among our mourners who prove worthy to a better state of mind by and by.

Looking back over these 16 months of conflict is there anything in all the blood-stained story to prompt doubts about the ultimate issue? We can see nothing. Defeats we have suffered a few and disappointments many. There have been failures once and again to obtain all the success aimed at, checks at some critical moments, but never since the epoch-making battle of the Marne any calamity grave enough to shake our confidence in the ultimate complete victory of the Allies, not even the long and misery-charged retreat of the Russians from Warsaw across Poland. Why should confidence remain unshaken? For a host of reasons. The fell foe, ruthless and cruel as a panther, was busy ensuring his own discomfiture with every step forward taken by his troops. Has Prussian "frightfulness" paid him in Belgium, in the ravaged provinces of fair France? Do the Poles turn from the now friendly hand of Russia to grasp that of the plunderers, despoilers, and ravishers who have overrun and literally destroyed the surface of their country and all it contained? "Main operations are now closed" in Serbia, the Hun boasts. Have they won Serbia's love? Can any Austrian or German troops be withdrawn? Is all chance of further hostilities at an end? No, nothing has been secured, the Serbian Army is as intact and as undefeated as the armies of Russia. The barbarian invader must therefore resign himself to go on in Serbia also, killing and being killed, until he has destroyed his own manhood and ruined his empires for ever. That is the judgment of high Heaven, writ large over the face of the history of the last 16 months. A boastful list of "fortresses conquered by our armies" was circulated some days back by the German reptile press on the principle "take this bauble instead of food to fill your empty bellies with, despised pawns," and it looked quite imposing. But did it imply that any people, any nation, had been subdued, that the population had anywhere submitted quietly to its new masters, and was willingly at work producing additions to his depleted revenues? Nothing of the kind. Each fresh "conquest" sets up a fresh drain upon the "conqueror" in men and money, and his dazzling triumphs have now brought him to penury, if not to utter destitution, in both directions. The Hohenzollern empire began the war with insolvency staring its whole banking and industrial system in the face. What, then, must be the position now? Three months of winter, or less, should reveal it beyond possibility of hiding.

Austria-Hungary as an empire has been engaged in the absorbing occupation of keeping up appearances for a century or more back, hoping ever to restore her besmirched fortunes by successful thieving, by tyranny over races held in bondage, by the chance that cunning and impudence in push might enable the Habsburgs to serve themselves heir to the Turk. What, then, are the finances of this impostor empire like to-day? They are so bad that neither the Disconto-Gesellschaft nor



the Deutsche Bank, nor all the Rothschilds in Europe or America could raise them a quarter of an inch out of the slough into which they have fallen. There is no help anywhere for the Habsburgs. Even the Jews have lost the power, if not the will, to come to their aid; they will prefer to be at the dissection of the corpse. It is therefore probable that the "all-highest" Kaiser, poor ne'er-do-well, has to nourish and sustain the Austrian troops in Serbia as part of his ever-victorious armies. He is certainly finding everything needful in the murder trade or conquering hero business for Bulgaria—everything except food, perhaps, and soon that may have to be furnished likewise. A Swiss paper, the *Gazette de Lausanne*, published in the end of last month an estimate, based entirely on German statistics and facts, that already Bulgaria has received £30,800,000 from Germany, through the Disconto-Gesellschaft, viz., £10,800,000 in gold and £20,000,000 in war material. In addition £4,000,000 has been provided for development of the mineral resources of the country. Compared with what the Deutsche Bank has poured into Asia Minor in furtherance of German covetous designs in that quarter, these sums may look trivial, but Germany cannot now afford a tenth of the amount without adding sensibly to the misery of her own inhabitants. At the same time, the Turk has to be kept alive and in fighting trim, Greece has probably to be subsidised, and the cost of plottings and subornings feverishly pursued everywhere must be furnished from Berlin, all at the cost of the now hunger-gnawed nation. Victory, if victory it be, is surely costly enough to give us solid ground for confidence on that head alone. Draw the lines of demarcation at the limits fixed by to-day's positions, and Germany would be ruined by her triumphs.

But have the Allies done nothing except suffer disappointment and defeat in all these 16 months? The spirit of a traitor to the highest aspirations of humanity could alone insinuate such an idea. The Allies of civilisation have destroyed the foreign commerce of Germany, perhaps for good, certainly for good on the pre-war lines, and are now subjecting the vanity-blown, but hitherto willing victims of Hohenzollern lusts to the discipline of hunger, a far more effective teacher of morals than the Prussian drill-master could ever be. Our armies—recoiling at first before a foe who had cunningly lulled us to sleep with smooth words during his generations of secret preparation for his Attila-like inrush—early turned the tables, and since Charleroi it cannot once be said that the savage aggressor has secured a single victory which has made him permanent master over a yard of land or a score of people outside his own pre-war boundaries. Each fresh "success" has only brought a fresh strain, additional expenditure of men and means. A little more of this kind of triumph and the beaten foe, man-drained and bankrupt, must begin to slink back to his lair. No wonder his political emissaries and his Press are continually snuffing and burrowing around with suggestion of "separate" peaces, sketches of "terms the Kaiser might be willing to accept," gracious potentate that he is; or that secret machinations should be unrelentingly be pursued through family relations and courtiers abroad to the same end. All this kind of thing must be encountered with a stern, rigid silence. It must be impressed on our diplomats, always prone to courtliness, sometimes to servility of manner towards the so-named great, that there can be no negotiations of any kind between the Allies and either, or any, Kaiser. Peace must be an affair of peoples, not of potentates. It is impossible to imagine Frenchmen or Britishmen or Russians settling down in ease of mind about their future with only a Habsburg or a Hohenzollern treaty between them and another demoniac outbreak.

And surely, all four Powers now holding bravely and loyally together, we are working our way steadily towards the attainment of this sure peace, much more effectively than if we had snatched a few Sadowas and Solferinos in the field and then patched up a hurried, mob-beguiling compact in the Napoleonic fashion, to

give pretext for a breathing space between the rounds. We contain the foe on all fronts—and consume him. Every day he weakens and we grow stronger. In Russia he is baffled and held for the judgement. Unless he decides to sneak away—which he cannot conveniently do—he will wither under the Russian winter and the unrelenting onslaughts of a brave, resourceful, and now amply equipped adversary. In France and Flanders the daily bulletins demonstrate that the French and ourselves have the game of attrition well in hand, so well that it does not seem necessary—to the mere civilian observer at least—to organise immense offensives for the next two or three months. An application of goads, or irritants without end or pause, so as to provoke attacks by the enemy wherever we want them, all designed to bleed away what remains of his vitality, combined with diligent preparation for an overwhelming onslaught in the spring, when hunger may have taught the misguided Deutscher a thing or two about the cost of his "ueber alles" concert, should bring our peace in sight. If not, we have just to persevere until all Teutonia relapses into the chaos Prussianising has prepared it for. Compromise there can be none.

And what about Serbia? The withering foe is not yet contained in that quarter. No, but, winter helping, he soon will be. Our duty there looks plain enough. Serbia—the whole people and not merely the noble little army—must first of all be fed through Montenegro and Albania with Italy's assistance; then the army itself must be equipped anew and well munitioned. As far, too, as the weather permits, roads from the sea coast inland should be designed and constructed, by help of the homeless Serbs, of prisoners and others willing to work, while such military operations as can be managed should be directed to harassing the invader, to spoiling his devices wherever a chance offers and destroying not only his food and munitions, but such works as can be got at, in course of execution by him in furtherance of his Constantinople, Asia Minor, Egypt or Arabia and Persia visions of conquest.

On all fronts the winter bids fair to be an arduous one, and the more severe the better for us, but when spring returns our winter labours should have brought us well within reach of our goal. Many times between now and then the Prussians will put out peace proposals, to all of which no heed whatever must be given. And when the disillusioned and chastened peoples themselves come to us, as they by-and-by will, the answer must be: "You desire to end the war? Then arrange to summon freely-elected assemblies, representative of your various nationalities, and let them appoint delegates to treat for peace with the spokesmen of the Allies. When these delegates have been selected and given instructions, let them come to us, and after hearing them, we will be willing to state our terms." But there must be no armistice or suspension of hostilities meantime—unless the German armies first either withdraw of their own accord beyond the Rhine everywhere in the West, and from at least all Poland, Galicia, and East Prussia, and perhaps from most of even Silesia likewise. As for the Balkans, before the spring we should be nowise surprised to find Turk, Bulgar, and Teuton tearing at each other's throats, such is love among criminals; but whether or not, the invaders must have withdrawn beyond the Danube, the Bulgar have given up his arms and cleared out of Serbia and Macedonia, and Constantinople must be placed in the hands of the Allies before the word "peace" can be listened to.

"A long and stiff programme," the reader will say. True, but it is the only programme open to us, the one to be resolutely pursued if we, the Allies defending civilisation, are to secure for ourselves and our descendants immunity from a renewal one day of the savage devastation from which Europe is now suffering. Not only must the Teutons be sent away beyond the Rhine, there to wallow as they please, but they must be deprived of all foothold on the Adriatic, of every pass leading into Italy, of the last shred of



authority over the Slavonic peoples now held in bondage in Bosnia, Croatia, Dalmatia, Carniola, everywhere in Southern Europe, and all nationalities, small and great, guaranteed liberty. No waiting on a merciful Providence, then, as excuse for relaxation of effort. Strenuously and without halt until the goal is reached we must be up and doing. The more unremitting the endeavour the sooner the victory.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

Most prominent among the incidents of the hour are the new war loans, the success of which cheers the heart. Oh, we shall win, never fear, and our Empire will not go down just yet, like those that have gone before, because its sons, not alien mercenaries, fight and die for it; as Mr. Bonar Law has well reminded us, and also give freely of their substance. The Dominion of Canada asked for a loan of £10,000,000, and more than double the amount has been subscribed. The Commonwealth of Australia, too, has triumphantly floated its loan. Above all, the French loan is a triumph of patriotism—and of sacrifice; for high though the rate of interest is to be, we are convinced that much of the money handed over by the thrifty people of France to help the Republic to carry on the war to a triumphant end would have been tendered freely and thankfully, even if the subscribers had been offered no interest at all. And this is well, for our next loans, the French and ours, may have to be genuine "benevolences." But until "next time" becomes "now," it is our bounden duty to prove the genuineness of our comradeship by making up a substantial contribution to the French "loan of victory" now offered here, and particulars of the terms and advantages of which will be found under "Critical Index," as well as in the official announcement. A concentration of energy must be exercised this winter to make everything ready for the spring campaign, and, therefore, expenditure of money must now be enormous, because war cannot be waged on bluff and brag and lying, not on the side of the civilised Allies, at least.

"The brigand Empires will also prepare, and it will be 'as you were' when spring comes." A very good argument of the *Times* sort, but we must see to it that the enemy gets as little chance as possible to prepare, and there the supreme power of the British Fleet comes in, aided most loyally as it is by the fleets of France, Russia, and Italy. No legitimate means must be neglected that will help us to starve out our foes, and, thanks to the fleet, none will be. Humanity demands as much as the dictates of military foresight ceaseless effort on our part to stop supplies. When we think of the cold-blooded fiendishness with which *les Boches* have overrun peaceful lands, stripped their peoples of their all, murdered them, carried them away into slavery, or forced them to toil in the land that was once theirs to assist the ravagers in their work of spoliation; when we read the story of stricken Serbia, the recitals of plots to destroy ships at sea, to blow up factories, railway bridges, and tunnels, all without so much as a thought of the multitudes of the innocent who may suffer; when likewise we call to mind the Zeppelin massacres of women and children in this country and in France and Belgium and the merciless inhumanity almost invariably exercised towards prisoners; note also the threats that if the Germans are to be made to starve, they will take care that their prisoners die first of hunger, what is left for us to do but to strain every resource to hasten the destruction of a race of abandoned savages?

Because no great Boche "drives" seem at the moment to be contemplated against this loathsome enemy, it is not to be supposed that the armies of the Allies are to retire into winter quarters in their trenches and dug-outs, like the beaver to his nest beneath the ice. On the contrary, it is to be expected that nowhere will the enemy be given a day's rest. Men and ammunition being now plentiful, our troops and the French seem likely to imitate the Italian armies, who, fighting, it is true, on a restricted front, and therefore possessing more power of concentration than the other

members of the Alliance who hold extended lines do, can maintain endless relays of men and guns in the fighting line night and day, week after week. But we can now keep *les Boches* ever on the *qui vive*. Their depôts and lines of communication will be preyed upon, they will be bombed and smoked out of their burrows—beautifully fitted up with electric light and every comfort, the braggarts keep assuring us—and provision will doubtless be made to goad them to attack us whenever and wherever it suits us. Oh, there is endless work to do to prepare for the "push" in the spring.

Do not let us be too downhearted about the Balkans. The fate of Serbia is at present harrowing beyond expression, and the Huns, with their degraded Ally, Bulgaria, are making the most of their initial success, all as in Belgium. But Serbia will be saved, and the Bulgar's boast, in imitation of his beguiler, that the conquest "is complete" will, we firmly believe, only accentuate the depth of his humiliation. For in the spring, if not sooner, Russia and Rumania will be in the field, and our own and the French armies ready also for effective action.

It is not the Bulgarian brag that bothers us, but Greek shuffling. That continues, and we continue, therefore, to dread that dynastic and family relationships are hampering the action of our diplomatists and military leaders more than is seemly. Greek behaviour is on all fours with Turkish and Bulgarian for months previous to their open adhesion to the side of their worst enemy and ours. Soft words are spoken, but no request of ours is frankly complied with. "To yield would be derogatory to Greece as an independent nation" is now said to be put forward as excuse for non-compliance with the demand that Salonica should be evacuated by the Greek Army, an army which is either maintained at the expense of the Germans or at that of Greece's already half-defrauded creditors. It, seemingly, will not be dishonourable to an "independent" Greece to go into bankruptcy, only to be straightforward and manly and true.

We feel strongly that our diplomacy has been fumbling and irresolute in this quarter, and the apprehension that the cunning Germans may manage to draw Greece to their side at the critical moment prompts us to insist. It was a mistake to remove the restrictions—blockade, or whatever it was—upon the movements of Greek shipping before having made sure that we were to be obeyed, and the sooner the pressure of the fleets is again applied the better. It is a fight for life, remember, in which there is no room for dubiety, little for honeyed language. Either the Greeks—who owe more to France, Russia, and the United Kingdom than to all the rest of the world put together, who without our help would never have attained to any sort of "independence"—will do as we order them or their sea trade must be stopped, and rigorously stopped. What are the Allied fleets in the *Ægean* for if not to help to reduce the foe to im-

### THE CAPE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Meeting of the Directors of this Company held to-day, it was resolved—

"That a dividend of 3 per cent. (making 6 per cent. for the year), be and is hereby declared on the Cumulative Preference Shares, and 1s. per share on the Ordinary Shares (both less Income Tax), payable on the 1st January, 1916, to the Shareholders on the Books of the Company on the 2nd December, 1915, and that the Transfer Books be closed during the said 2nd of December, 1915."

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are informed that Preference Coupons No. 47 and Ordinary Coupons No. 56 will be payable at the above rate on presentation at the Company's Office.

By order of the Board,

P. J. FRANKS,  
Secretary.

9, Green Street Place,  
London, E.C.  
1st December, 1915.

N.B.—Warrants for the Dividend will be sent by post to the Shareholders at their registered addresses.



potence? Parliament is sitting. Will somebody speak out?

Of actual war history there is little this week to recount, but, on the whole, away from the Balkans all goes well—and much goes on. Russia has the upper hand in the East, and will keep it now, aided by Field-Marshal Zero; Italy is nearing victory; France is holding firmly to her wise Generalissimo's resolve to wear down the barbarians, and we are playing a good second—a far more efficient second than our jaundiced Press usually gives us credit for—while at sea the meshes of the starvation net are week by week drawing closer. We have but to persevere for a little time to hear the cries, first of baffled fury, and then of gathering despair from all Teutonia. But that must not be taken to mean the end, only as a hint to redouble exertions. The Kaiser and his Junkers dare not give in now; they must fight on, and on, perhaps to the point where rebellion threatens their lives and property. Therein lies the apparent hopelessness of the prospect, for the Prussian-besotted German is too servile in spirit to make an efficient assertor of his liberty, individual or corporate.

But as the days drag wearily by the chance probably increases that the robbers will fall out among themselves. Nothing that comes either from German sources or Austro-Hungarian is to be relied upon as true without independent evidence, and we set no particular store by the tales about a tariff quarrel between the two Kaisers—although that excellent authority, the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, had an illuminating letter on the subject in Thursday's issue—any more than on the yarns about Bulgarian dissatisfaction and dread of the Turk. But both are sufficiently in accord with known facts and ambitions to forbid us to dismiss them as lies. Pan-Germanism does aim at subjecting Austria-Hungary together with all the Kaiser's conquests in Europe to its Customs union, or *Zollverein régime*, and the Turk must have been promised much to get him to submit to German domineering as he has done. For the old and nobler Turk hates and distrusts the Teuton as much as the Poles themselves do. Great promises must also have been made to Ferdinand the Fox ere he could be persuaded to risk his throne, and we hope his life, in a war which could not fail in the long run to bring both Rumania and Russia down upon him. So there is plenty of material with which to constitute a row. Meanwhile, how is Germany going to provide for the Turkish, Bulgarian, and, we fear it must be added, the Greek armies he has drawn into his daft plan of world domination? If we all work on in stern determination to destroy for ever the power of castes and kings to order rivers of human blood to flow at will, we may get light as we go forward on many points like these now obscure. But, first, with the cold inflexibility of fate, let us make the Greeks obey.

As these notes leave us, particulars of Baron Sonnino, the Italian Foreign Minister's speech in the Italian Chamber are published. This confirms all that we have said about and expected from Italy. Serbia will be helped by Italy; Italy has signed the pact of the Allies to make no separate peace. The Italian fleet will help in the Adriatic, for Italy "could not remain deaf to Serbia's appeal, and will speedily do everything possible to help the Serbian Army." And she is "firmly resolved to pursue this war with all her strength and at the cost of every sacrifice." Bravo, Italy! We knew she would prove true.

Two other scraps of comfort must be noted. What does the despatch of Bulgarian troops to help the Turks in the Dardanelles mean? Surely the approaching exhaustion of both Turk and Teuton? And is it not sign of at-wits-end distraction among the Prussian Staff that troops should now be hurrying East to "intimidate Rumania"? Six or even four months ago that might have been a shrewd move, embarrassing to us, especially to Russia. Now it can only be a plunge of despair. Russia and Rumania have reached accord, a Russian army is getting ready to enter Bulgaria, and every overt action of the Bucharest Government is increasingly hostile to the Prussian bully.

## Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

Not much can be said this year about the report of this company, whose 75th year ended on September 30 last. The company, in fact, is the most venerable, and, in some respects, still the most powerful of our great mercantile fleets. All we can say is that in its past year much of its energy and no small portion of its resources were absorbed in Government service, to its modest profit. Thirty-one of the company's ships are still in that service, but, in spite of that, so well equipped and powerful is it, especially now that it has absorbed the British India Steam Navigation Co. and is relieved of all competition, that no mail departure has had to be abandoned during the year. Services were satisfactorily maintained in all instances, though at much extra cost. That is a most creditable feat to be able to record, and we should have liked to follow results in detail, but the accounts are now so condensed that our old custom of comparing the incomings and outgoings of one year with another has perforce to be abandoned. A year ago, for example, the general working account, although even then more condensed in some respects than that of previous years, set forth in separate lines the receipts from current business, as also the gross amount of the mail subsidy, and deducted therefrom a number of separately exhibited items of expenditure before showing the nett receipts. This year we do not get any of these particulars, either in the general working account or the balance-sheet, but amongst the assets in the former, coal, naval and victualling stores, freehold and other property, workshops and machinery, wharves, moorings, &c., sundry investments and cash at bankers and in hand, are all gathered into one item, which, at £6,453,945, shows an increase of £3,102,805 on the aggregate the year before. We are sorry.

There may be no harm at all in this, only we now have no means of guessing whence the money has come or where it has gone. A year ago, as always before for many years, at least so far as our recollection goes, the amount set aside for depreciation was exhibited, £450,036. This time it is hidden away, but no doubt it is just as full as usual, for the directors say that, as it is impossible to go on building or getting delivery of new ships ordered, the depreciation and other deductions from profits have been, along with the proceeds of certain securities the company has sold, invested in the Government War Loans and in Treasury bills. This is no doubt the best thing that could be done, and we are safe in assuming that the position of the company continues to be thoroughly strong. The dividend of 10 per cent. is continued upon the deferred stock, together with the 5 per cent. bonus, and after paying it free of income-tax, the sum left to carry forward is £78,182. This compares with £68,703 brought in from the previous year.

Various other facts must be taken note of from the report, all tending to show that the business continues to be managed with vigour and capacity under the company's new chairman, Lord Inchcape, and his fellow managing directors, Messrs. Shields and Ritchie. The amalgamation with the British India Co. is working satisfactorily, and economies, as well as advantages to the public, are being gradually introduced. A non-contributory pension scheme has been inaugurated for the commanders and chief engineers, involving with existing pensions an actuarial liability which has been provided for by the addition of £100,000 to the Provident Goods Service Fund, raising that to the requisite £150,000. This has been done, and depreciation, &c., provided for, in spite of the fact that insurance against war risks has involved a premium of over £250,000. The company has had remarkable immunity from attack, at any rate from successful attack, during its past year. Three of its vessels were lost, but only one, the *India*, utilised by the Government as an armed cruiser, was sunk by an enemy submarine on August 8 last. The others, the *Nile* and the *Nubia*, were wrecked, one in the Inland



Sea of Japan on January 11 last, and the other near Colombo on June 20, in both cases without loss of life, whereas in the case of the *India* a lamentable loss of life was suffered. The *Nile* and *Nubia* were both engaged in the company's own business at the time of their disaster, and therefore the company has to bear the loss, but the *India* having been entirely taken over by the Admiralty and out of the company's charge, her loss has to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. The expenditure on working, maintaining, and running the steamers has, the directors inform us, increased enormously owing to advances in wages and to higher prices of stores and coal, while delays in loading and discharging at all ports have lengthened the duration of voyages, still further adding to the cost. On the other hand, rates of charter for vessels commandeered by the Government have been very moderate, ship-owners, we are glad to learn, having displayed "a patriotic disposition to assist the Government in the present great emergency." That reminds us to ask whether the profits of a company like this come within the sweep of the 50 per cent. excess profits rake? In spite of putting aside £100,000 to the provident good service fund last year, this P. and O. Co.'s profit of £499,863 shows an increase of £140,160 on the figure of the preceding year, but no allusion is anywhere made to the possibility that any of that expansion will go to lessen the penury afflicting the Imperial Treasury. The new law does not go back so far in its action, but how about next year? Investors will want to know.

### American Business Notes.

An ingenious and, on the whole, well-informed contributor to the *Gazette de Lausanne* stated the other day, in an article dealing with economic and financial strategy, that the Germans by their intrigues are contriving to utilise the gold of the Allies, and particularly of England, to enable them to pay for their goods bought abroad. Neutral countries are demanding the metal from us, or are egged on to demand it, instead of taking payment in our promises to pay, in bills, and the Germans take advantage of our determination to maintain our credit intact at all costs to buy up English or French paper in Switzerland, or in Holland, and use that gold-secured paper to pay for their own importations. We have tried to imagine how this trick could be performed and have failed. Germany must somehow give solid value for whatever exchange is bought by her, and where is that solidity to come from? We cannot imagine where. The latest news from New York would appear to indicate that the source of Germany's financial strength is not to be found on that side of the Atlantic, for German securities and the German exchange are alike warning bankers of the approach of bankruptcy in the empire of the Hohenzollern. In vain do the German newspapers pose as exhibitors of a serene and wealthy nation marching towards victory. Finance tells another story, and, in the long run, finance is master. When credit takes the place of substantial wealth in any direction, in any country, it portends inflation, the substitution of make-believe for real wealth, and therefore the approach of economic impotence; probably enough also of starvation and eclipse.

The Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* told us on the last day of November that both German and Austrian Government securities have fallen on the Wall Street market to prices significant of catastrophe. The 5½ per cent. Austrian loan and the 6 per cent. third Hungarian loan were offered in 1,000 kronen bonds, the one at Kr. 141.75 and the other at Kr. 146.75, and bankers will lend only up to 70 per cent. of their market value. By waiting, the correspondent adds, buyers will get them cheaper still. Moreover, the German exchange has gone down to 75½, as compared with a normal figure of 95.28, and, as the securities of these two Governments seem to be the only sources left from which means could be raised to pay for good British or French bills, we fancy the Swiss writer has

made a mistake. The Germans have bluffed him, as they try to bluff everywhere. At the same time, it is an undoubted fact that the two strongest nations amongst the civilised Allies are being put to considerable inconvenience by adhering resolutely to their determination to allow no weakening in their ability to pay cash, no undermining of their credit. When our national expenditure is running at the rate of £4,500,000 to £5,000,000 a day, it takes very successful steering and a great capacity to mobilise the accumulated wealth of which both France and England have almost limitless stores, to ensure the smooth functioning of our exchange. Germany has little left except simulations of wealth.

In the long run, should the war last, we believe that we shall find relief principally by leaning more and more on home production. We shall be stimulated to bring our soil into better cultivation and to extend the acreage cultivated, which can be done to the extent of several millions of acres. Extensive private parks, now maintained in gratification of private ostentation or by old usage, will have to be surrendered to the plough and the spade. We shall also increase by much our home production of manufactures. What is the meaning of the continual hammering of public speakers and captains of industry over this supply of munitions necessity? It is not altogether because that supply is insufficient, but underneath the appeals to, or remonstrances with, workmen there lurks the determination to furnish from home factories much or all of what is now bought abroad, principally in the United States. Every weakness shown by the New York exchange on London strengthens this determination, and the more heavy importations put a strain upon our ability to pay our debts on a gold basis the more strenuous will become the effort to do without foreign help. Will our good cousins please take note?

It is to be hoped that people in America will not run away with the idea that this country is disturbed by the prospect of a pacifist raid under the leadership of Mr. Ford of cheap automobile fame. Such an idea might very well become current, because our Press has behaved rather sillily over the incident. It took Mr. Ford for a pro-German because a few of that type of weed, or warped biped, hastened to proclaim their sympathy with his agitation. In reality he is what the Washington correspondent of the *Times* describes him—a man of "pathetically ignorant sincerity." He goes on to explain that Mr. Ford was ten years ago merely an uneducated artisan, and in the interval during which he has suddenly risen to fortune, in quite an honourable fashion, we believe, he has had no time to learn anything. His ignorance of politics, domestic or international, would seem to be phenomenal, and the best thing to do is to let him severely alone, to regard him in silence with benevolent amusement. Our newspapers, however, in their race to outvie each other in exhibitions of patriotism, ostentatiously refused, one after the other, to insert the Ford car advertisements, and as that is an act of self-denial on their part, visible to all, the idea that Mr. Ford is a dangerous character has come to be fashionable. The publication of his advertisements will no doubt be resumed shamefacedly when it is found that he is a mere ignorant enthusiast, incapable of understanding what lies beneath this present European war, and wholly without influence or authority on the course of affairs. Till then it will be best to give him no gratis advertisement.

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.—Some weeks ago the scandal connected with the flinging of this great property into bankruptcy was noticed here, and we were curious to see how far the report of the receivers in bankruptcy for the fiscal year closed June 30 would sustain the contention of Mr. Post's pamphlet (see *INVESTORS' REVIEW* for November 6). Apparently the company worked at some loss last year, for a deficit of \$735,000 is brought out, as compared with a surplus of \$451,000 for the previous year and a surplus of \$4,058,000 after paying a 5 per cent. dividend three years ago. For each of the two years ended



June 30, 1914, the dividends were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and for the past year nothing is given. But the gross earnings of the company were \$2,272,000 larger last year than in the previous one at \$70,948,000. Contrary, however, to the usual run of things in the 1915 railroad accounts, this year expenses were augmented by \$1,886,000 and amounted to \$53,522,000. Also interest charges increased by \$475,000. This last expansion may have been inevitable, but current expenses are too often matters of adjustment and policy in the States, and when we find that maintenance of way and equipment were made to cost \$2,379,000 more last year than in the previous one, and that nothing much was saved on any other category of outgoings, we begin to suspect that another kind of display could have been made had those in control wished. Messrs. Touche, Niven and Co., however, the accountants who examined the books, declared that, in their opinion, "depreciation for equipment is not fully adequate." Their certificate is therefore a qualified one; but even assuming the allowance to have been insufficient, the company's business is too big and its resources too great to have permitted it to be flung into the bankruptcy court for a petty debt, raked up apparently for the purpose.

### The Week in Mines.

There has been a revival of activity in the Mining markets this week, particularly as regards Far Eastern Rand shares and the Broken Hill group. The reason for the increased attention directed to the former is that rumours have been received, apparently originating in South Africa, where most of the buying has come, to the effect that developments in the Springs Mines have lately been very favourable. As to Broken Hills, the dividends declared by some of the companies have stimulated activity in the shares, which has also been accentuated by the rise in silver and by a report that the Colonial Office has sympathetically received the representations of the Anglo-Australian spelter interests for State assistance in extending the smelting industry in this country, so that we shall not be dependent, as in the past, on German sources of supply.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has been enlivened by a fresh outburst of activity in Far Eastern Rand shares, particularly in Springs Mines and Daggafonteins. The former has risen no less than 7s. 3d. to 37s. 6d., while the Options, which mature in May next, have jumped from 10s. 3d. to 18s. The buying has been chiefly on Cape account. Daggafonteins have risen to 9s.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Hendersons, who hold an important interest in the concern, have been largely bought up to 4s. The Modder group has also been very firm, especially Modder B, which has spurted from 5 25-32 to 6  $\frac{1}{16}$ , and Modder Deep, which are 13-32 higher at 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Brakpans have recovered to 3 13-32, and City Deep, under the influence of the quarterly report, have advanced to 3  $\frac{7}{16}$ , with a large business recorded in them almost daily. Randfontein Estates and Central have been supported at 15s. 3d. and 12s. 6d. respectively, and Rand Mines at 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  and Crown at 3  $\frac{1}{16}$  have attracted attention. Knight Centrals rose to 12s. on Cape buying, but afterwards reacted to 11s. 6d. Gedulds have been a strong market, and are about 2s. 6d. higher at 35s. Diamond descriptions, however, have weakened afresh, De Beers deferreds falling from 11  $\frac{7}{8}$  to 11  $\frac{3}{8}$ , and Premier deferreds from 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 7  $\frac{1}{8}$ . Chartered have met with more inquiry, though, at 10s. 9d., the price is below the best. Cam and Motors advanced to nearly 15s., but failed to retain the whole of the rise. In the West African market, Ashanti Goldfields have been in good demand at 18s., but Presteas have weakened further to 8s. Abbotiakoons have been subjected to some selling, and are rather dull at 7s. 6d. The tin group has been quieter with the decline in the metal.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have also relapsed steadily, owing to profit-taking in New York. Rio Tintos have tumbled 2 points to 55  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Anacondas at 18  $\frac{1}{16}$  and Utahs at 16  $\frac{1}{2}$  have been falling steadily after an initial

advance. Mt. Lyells at 24s. 6d. and Mt. Morgans at 2 are also lower on the week. Among West Australian shares Lake View and Oroya rose to 9s. 6d. on the dividend, and Ida H, too, was supported at 2s. 3d. on the unexpected declaration of a dividend.

The declaration of a dividend of 6s. per share by the South Silver Co., and of a dividend and bonus of 2s. in all, against 1s. last time, by the North Co., helped to impart fresh interest to the Broken Hill group. Proprietors have risen sharply to 48s. 6d., Norths to 2  $\frac{3}{8}$ , British to 1 3-32, and South Silvers to 7  $\frac{1}{2}$ . There has been considerable activity in Canadian Mining shares, which have been bought on favourable rumours regarding the company's prospects as the result of the steady advance in the price of silver. Sulphide Corporations were bought on the doubling of the dividend, and Champions, in the Indian section, rose to 10s. on the increase of 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the dividend for the past year.

### MINING NEWS.

**CITY DEEP.**—The recent steady buying of this company's shares is explained by the excellent quarterly report just issued. In the three months to September 30 the tonnage crushed rose by 12,400 tons to 183,400 tons, the largest yet recorded, and the yield was £37,314 greater at £362,721. Value per ton milled rose 1s. 6d. to 39s. 7d., costs declined by 1s. 2d. per ton to 19s. 5d., and the average working profit (after providing for further gold realisation charges, due to the war, of 1s. 1d. per ton), was 1s. 7d. higher at 19s. 1d., the highest figure recorded since crushing began. The total profit reached the record figure of £175,673, against £150,809 in the June quarter.\* The development footage for the quarter was 7,429, and the average assay value of the main reef leader, disclosed over 3,245 feet sampled, was 92s. 10d. over a width of 27 inches.

**NEW MODDERFONTEIN.**—The report for the September quarter states that 3,441 feet sampled on the main reef disclosures averaged 186s. 6d. per ton over 11 inches. The value per ton milled declined 10d. per ton to 39s. 4d., costs rose 6d. to 17s. 2d., and the average profit (after allowing 1s. 2d. for further gold realisation charges due to the war) was 2s. 8d. per ton less at 21s., the aggregate yield declining by £4,718 to £307,270, and the profit by £18,544 to £164,071.

**BRITISH BROKEN HILL.**—The report for the half-year ended June 30 states that after payment of administrative expenses a net expenditure of £13,262 is shown, which deducted from the credit balance brought forward leaves £16,621 to be carried forward to credit of profit and loss account. At the end of June liquid assets amounted to £46,713, and £11,405 due from German buyers of concentrates has not been taken into the accounts. No treatment operations were undertaken in the half-year, the mine and mill remaining closed. Many efforts made to dispose of the company's normal output of lead and zinc concentrates have failed, but of the zinc concentrates on hand 1,000 tons have been sold for treatment in Great Britain.

**ARAMAYO FRANCKE.**—The war seriously affected the operations of this Bolivian tin mining company in the year ended May 31. Its net profits in Bolivia declined from £135,764 in 1913-14 to £3,504; production was curtailed, the sale of minerals much reduced, and prices obtained for tin were the lowest on record. After deducting debenture interest and other charges there was a debit balance of £36,444; this being deducted from £110,364, less £20,000 placed to reserve, brought forward, leaves £53,920. Three dividends amounting to 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. were paid during the period, as against 10 per cent., leaving £9,138. Conditions have improved in the current year, a further £10,000 of debentures have been redeemed, and two interim dividends of 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. have already been declared, absorbing £20,834.

**MIDDLEBURG STEAM COAL.**—Output of coal in the year ended June 30 declined by 8,813 tons to 271,734 tons, costs of production increased, but as prices were higher, the profit rose from £15,740 to £16,421, making, with £8,124 brought in, £24,546. The sum of £2,500 is again added to reserve; a final dividend of 5 per cent. is proposed, making 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the same as last year, leaving £4,390 to be carried forward.

**MOUNT YAGAHONG.**—The gross revenue for the year ended June 30 rose from £4,351 to £7,424, and the net profit was £6,226, making, with the sum brought in, £8,287. The preference dividend absorbs £1,502, but under existing circumstances the balance of £4,784 is to be carried forward.

**THE SPELTER SCHEME.**—Last week Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Runciman at the Colonial Office received a small deputation representing producers and users of spelter, and the merchants to consider the question, as explained in these columns recently, of granting some form of assistance for the extension of the smelting industry in this country. As a result of the deputation, the Committee, which was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to deal with the subject, is now to prepare details of a plan for submission to the authorities. A bonus scheme is proposed by which the Government would pay a bonus on production for at least 20 years, when the average price is less than £23 per ton, of such an amount as to bring the price up to £23. The advantage claimed for this proposal is that it would not raise the selling price in this country artificially above prices ruling on the Continent.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 26	3,118	— 84	171,994	+ 8,843
Grand Canal ..	" 26	1,048	— 178	24,446	+ 2,238
Great Northern ..	" 26	20,585	— 2,215	1,092,130	+ 21,980
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 26	32,213	— 958	1,571,938	+ 91,804
Midland Great Western ..	" 26	12,829	— 914	609,049	+ 9,597

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Sept. *	37,140	+ 8,847	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	Nov. 21	\$268,900	+ \$257,400	c \$6,074,700	+ \$1925,400
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21a	\$2,560,000	+ \$1231,000	c \$49,291,000	+ \$3339,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 30a	192,560	+ 3,689	7,409,770	+ 495,070
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 30a	53,105	+ 18,059	1,454,835	+ 104,598
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 30	20,741	+ 6,059	530,156	+ 48,001
Gr Trk Pac Prairie So	" 21	42,108	+ 22,827	503,086	+ 100,086
Mashonaland ..	Sept. *	52,800	+ 10,533	335,697	+ 154,492
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	5,053	— 2,359	16,721	— 9,720
New Cape Central ..	Oct. 30	1,601	— 89	76,944	+ 670
Rhodesia ..	Sept. *	74,243	+ 4,313	596,013	+ 172,926
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Oct. 7	\$43,239	+ 14,465	\$1,404,667	+ \$33,316

a 9 days.

\* Months.

† July 1.

† Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Nov. 14	862,000	+ 155,000	† 17,115,000	+ 1,993,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 14	357,000	+ 63,000	5,541,000	+ 187,000
Colorado & South'n ..	Oct. 31a	502,000	+ 18,000	5,121,000	+ 184,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Nov. 21	522,200	+ 94,000	10,716,000	+ 757,400
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 14	1,189,000	+ 227,000	21,328,000	+ 637,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	" 7	932,000	+ 295,000	12,405,000	+ 819,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 14	695,000	+ 45,000	12,031,000	+ 620,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 21	1,329,000	+ 172,000	24,709,000	+ 313,000
Southern ..	" 14	1,366,000	+ 170,000	24,885,000	+ 34,000

a 10 days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Oct. 30	1,45,000	— 1,292	5,32,000	— 14,304
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 23	3,11,200	+ 34,669	9,33,500	+ 20,327
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 30	8,57,000	+ 106,000	2,31,79,562	+ 4,05,993
Bombay, Baroda ..	Nov. 27	13,40,200	+ 1,41,000	94,57,000	+ 7,79,000
Burma ..	Oct. 30	3,71,037	+ 23,298	14,04,269	+ 13,994
Delhi Umballa ..	Nov. 20	72,700	+ 4,387	5,28,730	+ 4,960
East Indian ..	" 27	21,18,000	+ 94,000	1,64,45,000	+ 2,49,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 27	19,44,000	+ 4,74,500	1,31,17,700	+ 15,40,389
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Oct. 23	28,448	+ 2,685	97,281	+ 6,086
Madras and S. ..	Nov. 6	7,55,000	+ 78,573	40,20,000	+ 3,67,499
Mahratta ..	Oct. 30	1,23,883	+ 19,303	4,69,160	+ 22,130
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 30	62,964	+ 11,289	2,47,269	+ 18,740
Robilkund and ..	" 23	34,168	+ 2,025	1,03,679	+ 3,404
Kumaon ..	Nov. 6	5,13,891	+ 79,359	27,89,071	+ 5,18,386
Southern Indian ..	July 5	7,01,855	+ 2,45,176	21,34,091	+ 2,09,663

† April 1.

§ Month.

† October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé ..	Sept.	3,639,000	+ 3,000	3	10,589,000	+ 687,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	441,000	+ 349,000	3	768,000	+ 256,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	Oct.	3,161,000	+ 1,203,000	4	12,827,000	+ 3,195,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	1,257,000	+ 537,800	1	1,257,000	+ 537,800
Canadian Pacific ..	"	6,579,000	+ 3,258,000	4	17,567,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Sept.	1,521,000	+ 398,000	3	2,723,000	+ 1,059,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,837,000	+ 370,000	3	6,847,000	+ 192,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	3,773,000	+ 368,000	3	9,116,000	+ 542,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	380,000	+ 67,000	3	953,000	+ 130,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	3,823,000	+ 214,000	3	10,046,000	+ 1,162,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Aug.	1,273,000	+ 335,000	2	1,931,000	+ 678,000
Colorado & Southern ..	Sept.	481,000	+ 96,000	3	1,136,000	+ 151,000
Cuba ..	"	411,923	+ 97,247	3	1,248,647	+ 207,939
Do. ..	"	96,989	+ 44,335	3	360,187	+ 155,074
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	833,000	+ 81,000	8	5,338,000	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	840,600	+ 258,603	2	1,477,000	+ 338,000
Erie ..	"	2,422,000	+ 963,000	10	12,982,000	+ 2,995,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	Oct.	2,128,600	+ 118,000	10	11,967,850	+ 1,310,500
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	4,45,000	+ 37,300	10	4,176,050	+ 1,134,600
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	16,150	+ 10,350	10	1,36,650	+ 172,050
Gr. Northern ..	Sept.	4,488,000	+ 274,000	3	10,230,000	+ 1,403,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,327,000	+ 68,000	3	2,982,000	+ 244,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	Oct.	381,000	+ 137,000	4	1,308,000	+ 213,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,370,000	+ 17,000	4	4,639,000	+ 115,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	Sept.	1,019,000	+ 134,000	3	4,000,000	+ 967,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,267,000	+ 133,000	3	2,850,000	+ 345,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	585,000	+ 35,000	3	1,847,000	+ 208,000
Missouri Pacific ..	"	1,217,000	+ 370,000	3	3,309,000	+ 1,079,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	6,280,000	+ 1,735,000	9	39,649,000	+ 11,188,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,162,000	+ 382,000	3	6,471,000	+ 1,498,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	186,000	+ 2,000	3	916,000	+ 6,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,064,000	+ 578,000	3	5,702,000	+ 1,735,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,443,000	+ 548,000	3	8,008,000	+ 884,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"	11,244,000	+ 2,703,000	10	60,647,000	+ 7,955,000
Reading ..	"	562,276	+ 818	1	1,687,161	+ 18,281
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,194,000	+ 105,000	3	3,500,000	+ 124,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	403,000	+ 100,000	3	1,127,000	+ 27,000
Southern ..	"	1,679,000	+ 641,000	3	4,386,000	+ 1,074,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,738,000	+ 829,000	3	13,928,000	+ 3,382,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,928,000	+ 4,000	3	10,179,000	+ 124,000
Wabash ..	"	933,000	+ 161,000	3	2,346,000	+ 13,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

\* Gross earnings.

† Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		In. or dec. on last year.
		Amount	£			Amount	£	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Nov. 20	Ps. 15,000	— 5,000	†	Ps. 568,200	— Ps. 29,550		
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 28	30,335	+ 11,755	†	1,164,875	— 281,490		
Arauco ..	Oct. *	9,225	+ 2,400	†	71,801	— 6,149		
Argentine N.E. ..	Nov. 27	5,700	+ 1,000	†	145,366	+ 46,279		
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Oct. *	5,895	— 43	†	50,348	+ 1,870		
Bolivar ..	"	8,230	+ 4,039	†	30,532	+ 9,402		
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M3,498,000	+ M107,6517	9	M29,319,000	+ M186,4654		
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	M13,3750	+ M 4,900	8	M272,600	+ M23,000		
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 27	72,000	+ 3,000	†	1,681,000	+ 308,000		
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 28	118,000	+ 14,000	†	1,930,908	+ 359,967		
Do. Western ..	" 28	56,000	+ 4,000	†	984,000	+ 159,000		
Central Argentine ..	" 27	107,000	+ 1,000	†	2,412,000	+ 250,400		
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 27	14,073	+ 2,239	†	244,861	+ 50,627		
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 27	4,254	— 56	†	78,023	+ 20,330		
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 27	2,463	+ 1,024	†	41,065	+ 11,338		
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 27	2,575	+ 317	†	37,996	+ 8,548		
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	10,200	— 326	†	104,242	+ 1,131		
Cordoba Central ..	Nov. 27	24,100	+ 10,260	†	668,640	+ 135,585		
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 16	5,704	— 646	†	74,943	+ 31,386		
Cuban Central ..	Nov. 28	9,396	+ 1,323	†	168,880	+ 25,914		
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *	7,100	+ 100	†	78,400	+ 5,400		
Egyptian Delta ..	Nov. 10a	6,641	+ 1,241	†	100,679	+ 15,529		
Entre Rios ..	" 27	11,600	+ 3,000	†	205,200	+ 38,500		
French Santa Fé ..	Oct. *	81,576	+ 14,083	†	757,768	+ 54,261		
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Nov. 20	Ps. 63,358	+ Ps10,224	†	Ps2,783,921	+ Ps269,600		
Gr. West. of Brazil ..	" 27	13,800	+ 1,900	†	460,200	+ 115,600		
Havana Central ..	" 27	5,627	+ 753	†	116,862	+ 13,820		
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. c *	4,521	+ 2,373	†	168,843	+ 52,153		
La Guaiara and Car. ..	"	6,750	+ 1,500	†	67,750	+ 20,750		
Leopoldina ..	Nov. 27	32,398	+ 297	†	1,408,340	+ 12,956		
Manila ..	" 27	7,703	+ 150	†	409,700	+ 32,644		
Midland Uruguay ..	Oct. *	9,415	+ 2,296	†	42,020	+ 10,518		
Mogiana ..	Sept. *	M2,395,000	+ M 432,733	9	M17,474,000	+ M218,2213		
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	\$20,500	+ \$5,759	†	\$92,504	+ \$25,681		
Nitrate ..	Nov. 30b	24,680	+ 14,146	†	333,544	+ 192,925		
Paraguay Central ..	" 27	\$49,400	+ \$227,000	†	\$9,976,000	+ \$468,000		
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,200,000	+ 947,978	9	M20,150,000	+ M25,49989		
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Oct. *	\$806,900	+ \$176,180	†	\$3,106,037	+ \$232,398		
Salvador ..	Nov. 27	\$19,400	+ \$3,900	†	\$415,250	+ \$70,640		
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 21	34,334	+ 522	†	770,587	+ 182,967		
Sorocabana ..	Sept. *	M1,718,000	+ M658,631	9	M12,442,000	+ M153,7474		
Taita ..	Oct. *	17,708	+ 7,538	†	65,461	+ 2,648		
United of Havana ..	Nov. 28	27,783	+ 6,539	†	532,988	+ 119,795		
West'n of Havana ..	" 20	4,586	— 87	†	96,744	+ 6,205		
Zafra and Huelva ..	Oct. *	11,346	+ 1,694	†	84,319	+ 41,591		

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 11 days. § Apl. 1.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£	
Bristol .. ..	Nov. 26	9,634	+ 1,954	†	451,173	+ 45,649
Dublin United ..	" 26	5,351	+ 13	†	287,415	+ 10,693
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 25	674	+ 13	†	42,939	+ 166
Launceston United ..	" 24	1,501	+ 143	†	81,852	+ 5,145
London Cnty. Cncl.	Sept. 23	46,650	+ 1,298	‡	1,093,822	— 4,815
Provincial ..	Nov. 27	1,877	+ 4	‡	17,190	+ 987
Yorks. (Wst. Rng.)	" 28	1,419	+ 45	‡	75,761	+ 6,107



# PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,  
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £90,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £118,000,000.

## SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,250,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

## PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

**FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.**  
Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.  
Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.  
General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

#### Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

As the result of the action of the clearing banks in raising their terms to brokers for call loans, the discount houses have advanced their rates on deposits by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 4 per cent. for call and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for notice money. Supplies in the Money market were nominally increased by over £16,000,000 through the payment of the dividend on the War Loan on Wednesday, but the money came into the market to a much smaller extent than had been expected, and it was assumed that the release had been offset by other operations. Still, credit appeared to be plentiful enough for the moderate requirements, and loans have been readily obtained at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for the day or over the week-end. The charge for weekly fixtures has been  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. as a rule, but in one or two quarters lenders were said to be accepting  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

The discount market is feeling more and more the effect of the restriction of shipping facilities on the supply of ordinary bank paper, and business this week has again been almost at a standstill. Brokers continue to quote  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for three months' bills, but had a difficulty in securing any parcels even at the lower figure. A fair inquiry, however, was experienced for short-dated Treasury bills at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for December and  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for January maturities. Business in new Treasury bills at the Bank also seems to have reached satisfactory proportions, although it is claimed that the demand has come from outside sources rather

than from the market. French Treasury bills maturing in January were in request owing to the conversion privileges in connection with the French loan, and changed hands at about  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , while the October maturities, which carry no such rights, were quoted at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent.

In foreign exchanges the most notable movement has been the sharp reaction in the Paris cheque, which has gone steadily down since the opening of the lists for the French loan. Business has been done as low as 27.35, although the closing rate is rather above that figure, and there seems little doubt that a considerable amount of support for the loan has come from the U.S., for which the remittances are being made through London. Partly because of this, and partly because the plans for improving the exchange are expected to come into operation very shortly, the New York cable rate advanced, and at one time touched 4.72, although it closes rather below that. The Dutch, Swiss and Italian exchanges have moved in favour of this country, but the Scandinavian have again declined.

In connection with the dividend on the War Loan paid on Wednesday the Treasury had to borrow a large amount from the Bank, and Government Securities showed an increase of £10,945,000, but the actual disbursement was offset by other transactions, and Public Deposits were only £1,788,000 lower. Other Securities were reduced by £1,635,000, but the greater part of the dividend went on to Other Deposits, which rose by £8,876,000. The loss of gold for abroad was again heavy at £1,815,000, but £597,000 came back from the country, leaving a nett decrease of £1,218,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion. At the same time, however, there was an expansion of £973,000 in the note circulation, and the reserve was therefore £2,192,000 down at £35,414,000, while the proportion to liabilities dropped by 2.9 per cent. to 24.6 per cent.

According to the official statement for the week ended December 1, currency notes amounting to £3,742,353 in £1 and £1,316,055 10s. in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,200,728 in £1 and £849,339 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £2,008,341 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £86,213,999, made up of £64,104,220 in £1 notes and £22,109,779 in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £370,000 were issued and £690,000 were cancelled, leaving £5,700,000 outstanding. There is also an investment reserve account of £657,620 1s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold £54,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £9,023,055 19s. 11d. at the Bank of England, while £179,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £249,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

#### SILVER.

Further purchases of silver were made on both Continental and Indian account on Saturday, and the price rose by another  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $27\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz., but the Continental demand then appeared to have been satisfied for the time being. The inquiry from the bazaars also ceased, leaving the home Mint practically the only buyer, and as China has been inclined to secure profits the quotation has fallen back to  $26\frac{7}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,50,000 in bills, Rs. 1,75,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,60,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 48,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 18,88,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 30,64,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 10 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 2,76,374 in bills, and Rs. 7,00,000 in deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and Rs. 2,50,000 in immediate transfers at 1s.  $4\frac{1}{16}$ d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 30th ult. the total sales were Rs. 9,40,86,061, realising £6,274,684, compared with Rs. 6,34,26,861 for £4,230,816 to December 1 last year.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 1, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 69,550,100	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	51,100,100
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£69,550,100		£69,550,100

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 29,840,118
Res .. ..	3,479,501	Other Securities .. ..	96,481,248
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	35,274,995
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	138,569
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	50,360,517		
Other Deposits .. ..	93,525,478		
Saving Day and other Bills	16,434		
	£161,734,930		£161,734,930

Dated Dec. 2, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 2.		Nov. 24, 1915.	Dec. 1, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,227,276	Rest .. ..	3,251,886	3,279,501	27,615	—
12,577,097	Pub. Deposits ..	52,148,990	50,360,517	—	1,788,473
167,970,006	Other do. ..	84,649,258	93,525,478	8,876,220	—
15,761	7 Day Bills ..	13,356	10,434	3,078	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
31,289,646	Gov. Securities.	18,895,068	29,840,118	—	10,945,050
113,121,447	Other do. ..	98,116,125	96,481,248	1,634,877	—
53,932,947	Total Reserve ..	37,605,297	35,413,564	2,191,733	—
				12,733,523	12,733,523
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,926,730	Coin and Bullion	33,301,750	34,275,105	973,355	—
71,409,677	Proportion ..	52,457,047	51,238,669	—	1,218,378
2918 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	27.5 p.c.	24.6 p.c.	—	2.9 p.c.
5 "		5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,815,000 out.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,090,919,000	984,536,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. ..	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
" 24	261,627,000	200,392,000	61,235,000	—
Dec. 1	263,784,000	215,602,000	48,181,000	—
Total ..	12,342,246,000	13,819,772,000	—	1,477,526,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 27.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs .. .. .	1,465,000
Excise .. .. .	642,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	627,000
Stamps .. .. .	70,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	200,000
Land Values Duties .. ..	—
Post Office .. .. .	100,000
Crown Lands .. .. .	60,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. .. .	199,853
Bullion advances repaid ..	120,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	31,722,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	—
American Loan .. .. .	12,748,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Housing Act .. ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments .. ..	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. .. .	1,877,785
	£49,831,638
National Debt Service .. ..	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	389,802
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	500,000
Other Consolidated Fund Charges .. .. .	—
Supply Services .. .. .	33,114,000
Bullion Advances .. .. .	120,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Re- demption Act, 1910 ..	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 ..	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 ..	94,000
Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	4,836
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Public Buildings Ex- penses Act, 1903 .. ..	—
E Africa Protectorate Loan	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid .. .. .	15,609,000
Increase in Exchequer balances .. .. .	—
	£49,831,638

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Bars .. ..	Monday—Pars. .. ..
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	" Miscel. (set aside) ..
Thursday—Sovereigns ..	Tuesday—Egypt (set aside) ..
Friday—Bars .. ..	Wednesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Egypt (set aside) ..
	Thursday—Holland .. ..
	" Canada .. ..
	" U.S.A. .. ..
	Friday—Spain .. ..
	" South America .. ..
	" Egypt (set aside) ..
Nett Efflux .. ..	
£1,390,000	£1,390,000

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended November 27 amounted to £31,785,000, or a daily average of about £5,350,000. Bills to the amount of £15,609,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £16,176,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£ 10,000,000	12 months	1916.	2 17 1/2
*283,812,000	—	Feb. 27.	—
293,812,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 12, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	46,686,000	46,535,600	43,644,800
Gold Redemption Fund ..	245,470	245,400	244,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	12,558,000	12,162,000	12,392,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	6,361,200	6,313,400	7,411,600
Total reserves .. ..	65,850,600	65,256,400	63,692,800
10-day bills and loans ..	981,800	1,172,600	1,387,800
30-day bills and loans ..	2,233,000	2,087,200	2,119,000
60-day bills and loans ..	2,932,600	3,121,200	3,193,800
90-day bills and loans ..	1,904,200	1,699,600	1,692,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	575,000	544,800	420,400
Total .. ..	8,629,600	8,625,400	8,813,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	2,400,600	2,106,600	2,101,000
Municipal Warrants ..	4,560,200	4,420,600	5,002,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,907,400	3,036,800	3,914,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	3,235,000	2,496,600	1,706,600
All other assets .. ..	655,000	592,400	729,000
Total assets .. ..	80,238,400	86,543,800	85,990,200
Paid-up capital .. ..	12,969,200	10,969,600	10,967,600
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	71,863,400	69,212,600	68,710,800
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,601,400	2,732,200	2,783,600
All other liabilities .. ..	804,400	629,400	528,200
Total liabilities .. ..	89,238,400	86,543,800	85,990,200
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	81.1%	81.4%	77.3%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	88.7%	90.1%	87.5%

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 28, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	627,642,000	623,626,000	622,632,000	431,340,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	103,416,000	106,742,000	104,874,000	69,540,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,090,000	33,188,000	33,866,000	19,140,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,626,000	10,124,000	9,710,000	5,100,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	643,136,000	642,558,000	640,074,000	390,280,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	29,082,000	28,742,000	28,894,000	18,920,000
Circulation .. ..	7,018,000	6,980,000	6,978,000	15,660,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	35,986,000	38,988,000	37,760,000	26,480,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 28, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Loans .. ..	123,118,000	123,472,000	122,566,000	111,825,200
Specie .. ..	10,518,000	10,468,000	10,476,000	12,195,400
Deposits .. ..	128,474,000	129,070,000	127,876,000	112,225,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	1,906,000	1,894,000	1,882,000	1,627,200

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 2, 1915.	Nov. 25, 1915.	Nov. 18, 1915.	Nov. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand .. ..	195,100,600	193,407,720	192,284,680	191,281,200
Silver in hand .. ..	14,344,360	14,401,560	14,489,240	14,458,650
Bills discounted .. ..	12,950,200	11,833,240	11,292,120	10,929,480
Advances .. ..	23,309,480	22,866,760	22,714,920	22,575,200
Note circulation .. ..	571,639,760	571,136,960	568,431,520	567,526,640
Public deposits .. ..	4,072,080	1,713,680	2,250,840	2,367,160
Private deposits .. ..	107,607,360	106,847,240	104,670,260	100,998,920
Foreign Bills .. ..	89,500	48,320	52,480	53,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 36½ per cent., against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £296,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £35,990,680, decrease £155,640, and at the branches to £38,388,360, decrease £187,600.



## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1915.	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion	£123,672,450	£123,480,350	£123,344,250	99,683,450
Treasury Notes	27,837,250	39,641,800	48,016,150	29,993,350
Bills discounted	233,339,700	216,017,350	214,264,750	144,374,050
Advances	632,650	803,550	721,400	1,755,000
Note circulation	288,243,400	291,647,250	295,500,000	200,458,200
Deposits	86,167,350	77,494,050	78,726,800	70,789,750

Clearing House returns during Oct. £242,546,610 against £270,499,060 in Sept.

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florias to the £).

	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 28, 1914
Gold	£34,291,515	£34,280,183	£33,967,278	£15,098,555
Silver	314,714	280,285	247,735	407,004
Bills discounted, &c.	13,935,172	14,022,265	14,233,925	26,343,767
Note circulation	47,123,240	46,839,563	47,166,389	40,695,925
Deposits	2,724,577	2,930,915	1,840,372	1,706,602

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.	Nov. 14, 1914.
Notes in reserve	£9,346,200	£7,137,800	£8,417,700	£10,902,200
Cash in reserve	160,316,300	160,366,600	159,825,800	154,928,400
Gold in reserve abroad	13,017,300	3,536,200	3,559,900	21,543,700
Circulation note issue	513,400,000	512,500,000	509,500,000	290,000,000
Treasury deposits	21,137,000	20,672,000	21,998,800	21,956,400

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	Nov. 21, 1914
Gold	£33,330,147	£32,566,189	£32,036,107	£22,547,527
Silver	29,764,481	29,547,399	29,354,796	28,016,438
Foreign Bills	4,171,697	4,287,654	4,095,054	6,383,550
Discounts and Short Bills	26,269,872	26,742,781	27,316,005	31,910,058
Treasury Account, &c.	28,266,877	28,307,125	28,570,560	29,339,342
Notes in Circulation	82,756,385	83,603,694	83,729,789	78,760,648
Current Accounts, Deposits	26,801,936	26,578,300	25,668,092	24,389,261
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,515,216	1,263,645	1,465,670	1,448,414
Government Securities	1,962,912	1,270,520	1,262,419	4,558,544

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1914.
Gold and silver	£12,160,141	£12,164,440	£12,141,528	£10,396,096
Bills	5,234,254	5,198,440	5,652,544	6,634,000
Note circulation	16,702,654	17,188,228	17,553,212	16,040,360
Current and deposit accounts	2,930,136	2,698,568	2,361,956	2,722,776

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 6, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
Gold	£6,295,000	£6,297,000	£6,298,000	£5,798,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	7,217,000	6,985,000	6,687,000	3,048,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,929,000	2,945,000	2,951,000	1,475,000
Discounts and Loans	4,747,000	4,881,000	5,051,000	8,788,000
Notes in circulation	16,327,000	16,683,000	16,888,000	15,004,000
Deposits at notice	4,760,000	4,319,000	4,093,000	3,756,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 22, 1915.	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 7, 1915.	Nov. 22, 1914.
Gold	£3,693,000	£3,753,000	£3,797,000	£2,361,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,630,000	3,634,000	3,687,000	1,712,000
Gov't Securities	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans	4,337,000	4,334,000	4,109,000	6,560,000
Notes in Circulation	8,288,000	8,339,000	8,463,000	7,058,000
Deposits at notice	1,564,000	1,636,000	1,392,000	1,330,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 30, 1915.		Dec. 2, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	11.43	11.47*	11.43	11.50*
Do.	Cable transfers	11.21	11.27	11.24	11.28
Italy	Three months' bills	31.05	31.17*	31.13	31.23*
Do.	Cable transfers	30.65	30.75	30.68	30.78
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	33½	34½	33½	34½
Do.	Three months' bills	—	—	—	—
Paris	Three months' bills	27.95	28.05*	27.80	27.87*
Do.	Cable transfers	27.55	27.60	27.37	27.42
Petrograd	Cable transfers	145½	146½	147½	148½
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	16.50	17.15	16.50	17.25
Do.	Three months' bills	17.00	17.50*	16.90	17.60*
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills	45½	46½	46	46½
Do.	Cable transfers	25.05	25.15	24.93	25.03
Switzerland	Three months' bills	25.55	25.75*	25.68	25.80*
Do.	Cable transfers	25.15	25.30	25.25	25.40

Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris	chqs.	27.81	27.45	Antwerp	short sight	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.55	30.75
Amsterdam	sight	11.21	11.25	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1¼d.	1¼d.
Petrograd	3 mths	145½	148	Bombay	T.T.	1¼d.	1¼d.
New York	sight	4.70½	4.71½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10d.	1/11d.
Lisbon	sight	33½d.	34d.	Shanghai	T.T.	2/6d.	2/7d.
Madrid	sight	25.17½	25.00	Singapore	T.T.	2¼d.	2¼d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2¼d.	2¼d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5	5
Six months	5	5
Nine months	5	5
Twelve months	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	5½-6	5½-6
Four months	5½-6	5½-6
Six months	5½-6	5½-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
" " short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3½	3½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½-4½	4½-4½
" for call loans	4-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Failing active movements on the Stock Exchange, members have a knack of finding side interests to occupy their minds and keep them from falling into the dumps. So the question of the hour is now the sharing commissions with banks. That has become a grievance, and the demand has arisen that, instead of parting with half-commissions to banks, only one-third should be surrendered. Whether it is in the power of the Stock Exchange Committee to assent to any such demand is doubtful, and it rather disguises the true grievance. As far as we can understand, stockbrokers have not risen in revolt so much against the amount of the commission parted with as against the methods, "insidious and unfair methods," they describe them, by which banks are seeking to capture their Stock Exchange business. "They are stealing our clients," the brokers say; "they circularise them, interview them, coax them to leave their old Stock Exchange agents and to give their business to the bank agent, who is generally as ignorant of markets as the man in the street." We fear there is some amount of truth in this complaint, and it is one, therefore, to which the boards of our joint-stock banks should give more attention than to the mere question of the amount of the commission earned—small enough in all conscience at all times—which they are to be allowed to claim. As the stagnation caused by the war extends and as the business of the country dwindles—which, outside war-work business, it is doing and is bound to do for a considerable time to come—the competition between rivals to capture each other's share in what trade is left will tend to become more and more acute, but we should be sorry to see a breach made in the good understanding which has hitherto on the whole existed between bankers and the Stock Exchange. Can they not appoint representatives to meet and discuss new arrangements whereby the broker who is tied to a bank and its servant would be prevented from obtaining an undue advantage over his less privileged comrade?

It has to be noted that American prices here have receded somewhat, just as the New York exchange hardened. That was to be expected, and we hope people of foresight profited by our repeated hint to sell when the market was going up. A further recovery in the New York exchange would most likely lead to



a further decline in prices. It has not yet gone far up, however, and we have always in favour of a rebound the optimism now fashionable in New York business circles. Home Railway securities likewise drag in price, and only in the Miscellaneous market, as it is called, has there been anything like flickers of activity. It is nowhere an activity prompted by a large flow of business, and although the shares of some of the munition firms, like Kynochs, Thornycroft's, and others are spurting upwards, there are no important numbers of shares changing hands. Even the Rubber share market has been little disturbed by business of any kind. The tension of the war more and more causes the whole nation to pause, holding its breath in grim resolve.

Stock markets have been dull and heavy this week, with a fair amount of selling in some sections by investors who wish to subscribe for the new French loan. Consols began well, and at one time touched 61, but have since recoiled sharply to 57½ ex the January dividend. The 4½ per cent. War Loan fluctuated between 97¼ and 97½, and closed at the lowest, while the 3½ per cent. Loan, after recovering to 90, dropped back to 89½. Colonial Government stocks were wanted, and the Queensland 4½ per cent. put on ½ at 98½, while New South Wales 4½ and 3½ per cents. both improved. Canada 4½ per cent. was also firmer on the success of the new internal loan, which was reported to have been subscribed more than twice over. In the Foreign Government section there was some demand for Brazilian issues, and the 1914 Funding Loan improved to 78½. Chilean 4½ 1886 was also wanted, and rose to 90, but Peruvian Corporation issues were flat. The ordinary dropped to 4 and the preference to 22¼. Russian loans were ½ to 1½ better.

The Home Railway market has been weak, with a good deal of selling, especially of the heavy stocks, and North-Western, Midland deferred and preferred, Great Western and North-Eastern fell ½ to ¾. Great Northern deferred dropped to 39, but the preferred improved to 71¼. Metropolitan fell to 24½ in the beginning of the week, but have since recovered to 24¾, and District has risen to 16¾. Underground Electric 6 per cent. income bonds were again in demand in the beginning of the week, and touched 80½, but have since fallen back on profit taking to 78½. An issue of £323,000 5 per cent. mortgage registered bonds, redeemable in five years from January 1, 1916, has just been made by the London Chatham and Dover Railway at 98. No addition to fixed charges is involved, as the proceeds will be utilised to repay loans already bearing interest and to meet calls made by the Joint Committee for expenditure already incurred. The bonds are issued under a special Act, and will be redeemed at maturity by the issue of the balance of the debenture stock authorised by the Act of 1909. Canadian Pacific shares have been heavy all week, in spite of a good revenue statement for October. The price has gone down to 194½ xd. The Grand Trunk statement was also good, an increase of £53,900 in gross revenue being accompanied by a reduction of £11,750 in working expenses, but within the last day or two these stocks have also come on offer. Argentine rails have moved irregularly, Buenos Ayres and Pacific and Buenos Ayres Western both finishing with small gains, while Central Argentine dropped ½. Antofagasta preferred improved 1, but Leopoldina was lower, and San Paulo was dull. United of Havana improved to 73½, while Mexican ordinary dropped to 19 and the first preference to 67.

A fair business was again done in bank shares, but changes in price of the London group were small. Hong Kong and Shanghai shares were in request, and rose to 75½, Canadian Bank of Commerce advanced ½ to 39½ xd, and Standard Bank of South Africa and National of South Africa were ¾ to ¼ up. South American bank shares were easier, London and Brazilian receding to 23¼ and Anglo-South American to 5½. In the shipping section, the most active spot was Royal Mail shares, which rose rapidly to 99½, but finished at 99. Cunard, too, improved to 70s. 6d., and P. and O. was 1 better at 294 on the report. Hudson's Bay shares were dealt in at 7 and 6½, and closed at the middle figure, while Western Canada Land were rather sought after, and there was again good support forthcoming for Forestal Land ordinary and preference. Brazilian Traction shares were dull and lower at 55½, and except for a little demand for Darracqs, Sunbeam and Rolls-Royce, the motor section was idle. British Aluminium hardened to 22s. 6d., and there was some inquiry for both the old and new shares of Alby Carbide. Otis Steel continued to give way, and touched 46, but rallied to 49, while the preference has dropped to 95. Canadian Car and Foundry fell to 115, and then recovered to 116½, but Dominion Steel closed lower at 49. In ammunition and engineering things, Thornycrofts were wanted on the excellent report, and improved to 25s. 6d., and Kynochs rose 2s. 6d. to 30s. 6d. Aerated Bread again met with support, but Liptons were dull, and British and Argentine Meat gave way a little. Textile things were mostly a shade better.

Oil shares were still without much interest, but there was a little support for "Shell," while Royal Dutch fell to 46¼, and Spies were a trifle easier. Lobitos fluctuated within narrow limits, but there was some inquiry for Lagunitos at 4s. 6d., and Mexican Eagle things were steady. Venezuelan Concessions

improved to 1½ on expectations that a meeting will be called shortly to consider the proposed agreement with the "Shell" Co. A further batch of very satisfactory dividends failed to stimulate business in rubber shares, and movements in price

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	57½	N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.....	97½	97½
War Loan 3½.....	89½	89½	"    4½ 1922-7.....	96½	95½
India 3½.....	97½	97½	New Zealand 4½.....	95	95
"    4½.....	69½	69½	Queensland 4½.....	92	92
Canada 4½.....	80½	80½	"    4½ new.....	97½	98½
"    4½ 1914-60.....	92	92	Union of S. Africa 4½.....	98	95½
"    4½ 1920-5.....	96½	96½	"    4½ 1920-5.....	98	98
N.S.W. 4½.....	95	95½	Victoria 4½ 1920-5.....	98	98
Belgian 3½.....	55	55	French Rentes.....	64½	64½
Brazil, 1913.....	58	61½	Japan 4½ (1st).....	92½	92½
"    New Funding.....	76	75½	"    (2nd).....	92	92
Chinese 1896.....	95½	95½	Russia 4½.....	73	70½
"    1913.....	78	79½	"    4½.....	74½	77
Egypt Unific 4½.....	79	77½	"    5½.....	85½	86½
Brighton defd.....	56½	56	London and S.-W. dfd.....	24½	24½
Caledonian defd.....	9	9	"    Do. new pf.....	100	100½
Chatham ord.....	8½	8½	Metropolitan.....	24½	24½
Gt. Central pf.....	14	14½	"    Do. 5½ New pf.....	95½	95½
"    dfd.....	7	7½	Met. District.....	15½	16½
Gt. Eastern.....	36½	36½	Midland dfd.....	59½	58½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39½	39	Nth. British dfd.....	16	16½
Gt. Western.....	92½	92½	Nth.-Eastern.....	104	103½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	68½	69	Nth.-Western.....	103½	102½
Canadian Pacific.....	198½	194½	Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	25½	25½
"    Do. 6% Notes.....	110½	110½	Chesapeake.....	67½	66½
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.....	93	93	Erie.....	47	45½
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	12	Milwaukee.....	100½	99½
"    Do. 3rd pf.....	28½	28½	N. Y. Central.....	108½	108½
"    Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes.....	98½	98½	Southern.....	25½	24½
"    Do. 5½ 5-yr.....	99	99	Southern Pacific.....	109½	107
Atchison.....	114	112½	Union Pacific.....	148½	146½
Baltimore.....	100½	99½	U. S. Steel.....	92½	90½
Antofagasta dfd.....	123	124	Cent. Argentine ord.....	84	83½
"    Do. 6% Notes.....	103	100½	"    Do. 5% Notes.....	99	98½
Brazil Consols.....	98	98	"    Do. 6%.....	101½	101
B. A. & Pacific.....	47½	47½	Leopoldina.....	38½	37½
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	84	83½	Mexican ord.....	19½	19
B. A. Western.....	86½	86½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	182	180
Bank of Australasia.....	108½	108	United of Havana.....	72	73½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	8½	8½	London City & Midland.....	72	72
"    Do. "B".....	11½	11½	London County & West.....	16½	16
Capital & Counties.....	21	21½	London Joint Stock.....	21½	21
Chartered of India.....	54	53½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd).....	25	25½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	74½	75½	"    Do. (£12 pd).....	29½	29½
Lloyds.....	22½	22½	Parr's.....	29½	29½
London & Provincial.....	15½	15½	Standard of S.A.....	10½	10½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½	Union & Smiths.....	23	23
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Forestal Land.....	45/6	47/1
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34/1	34/1	Furness, Withy.....	32/1	34/1
Associated Cement.....	38	38	Hudson's Bay.....	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	38/1	37/6	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.....	22/3	22/3
Borax dfd.....	24/1	25/5	"    Do. dfd. 'A'.....	35/1	35/1
Bovril.....	20/1	20/6	Kynochs.....	28/1	30/6
Brazil Traction.....	58½	55½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20/9	20/9
British Amer. Tobacco.....	65/1	69/1	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.....	27/1	27/6	Marconi.....	1½	1½
Brunner, Mond.....	38	38	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	24/6	24/6
Cammell-Laird.....	41½	41½	Mond Nickel ord.....	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner.....	61/1	58/6	National Steam Car.....	10/6	11/1
Coats.....	5	5½	Pears, A. & F.....	2	2
Cunard.....	64/6	70/6	P. & O. dfd.....	293	294
Dennis Bros.....	30/1	27/9	Royal Mail.....	93	99
Dorman, Long.....	24/3	24/3	South Durham Steel.....	27/1	25/6
Eastmans.....	6/9	7/3	Underground Inc. Bds.....	79½	78½
English Sewing Cotton.....	34/6	34/6	Vickers.....	32/9	33/1
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	25/3	24/6	Mexican Eagle pf.....	18	18
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	6/9	6/3	North Caucasian.....	24/3	24/1
Baku (ros.).....	2/6	2/6	Roumanian Cons.....	13/3	13/6
Burmah.....	4½	4	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	48½	48½
Lobitos.....	31/3	32/6	Shell.....	48	48
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3/3	3/3	Spies (10/-).....	13/1	12/9
Maikop Pipeline.....	4/9	4/9	Ural Caspian.....	11½	11½
Mexican Eagle.....	18½	18	Linggi.....	18/3	17/6
Anglo-Malay.....	10/9	10/3	London Asiatic.....	7/1	6/9
Batu Caves.....	12	12	Malacca.....	4½	4½
Bukit Mertajam.....	3/1	2/10	Malayalam.....	23/1	22/6
Bukit Sembawang.....	2/9	2/9	Merlimau.....	4/9	4/9
Damansara.....	3½	3½	Rubber Trust (15/-).....	11/6	14/4
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	United Serdang.....	10/6	10/6
Highlands.....	2½	2½	Vallambrosa.....	15/9	15/1
Johore Rubber Lands.....	17/1	17/1	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.).....	11½	11½
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	7/6	7/6	East Rand.....	15½	15½
Brakpan.....	3½	3½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15/9	15/9
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	45/1	48/6	Meyer & Charlton.....	58½	58½
Cam & Motor.....	13/9	14/6	Modder "B".....	58½	58½
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	"    Do. Deep.....	58	58
Chartered.....	10/4	10/10	New Modder (£4).....	15½	15½
City Deep.....	38½	38½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	45	45
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	57	57
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½	Van Ryn Deep.....	24½	24
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½			

have been small. Linggis were not affected by the third interim dividend of 1s. 3d., but Sumatra Consolidated and Bukit Kajang were both a trifle higher, and other recent favourites, including Bukit Sembawang, Kamuning, Anglo-Malay, Tandjong and Tebrau were all steady.

Sir John S. Randles, M.P., has been elected a director of the Star Assurance Society.

New Schibai Petroleum.—Production week Nov. 24: Gross, 79,710 poods (or 1,286 tons). Nett, 49,002 poods (or 790 tons).

Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore.—Nett earnings for Sept., \$278,572; increase, \$10,149; aggregate from July 1, \$750,640; increase, \$39,156.

Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.—The directors announce the following appointments, to take effect from December 1:—Mr. Noel Jennings, to be assistant general manager in South Africa; Mr. Francis Shipton, to be London manager; and Mr. John Jeffrey to be secretary.



## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

There was a moderate amount of business doing and general firmness ensued, the situation being more or less stiffened by the stringency of freights, which makes trading in forward shipments a difficult matter, and thus available parcels come in for chief patronage.

**SUGAR.**—No change was made in prices of refined goods, and a fair trade resulted. American granulated spot sold, 32s. 6d., and white Java, 30s. 3d. to 30s. 9d. White Mauritius, as to sample, sells at 30s. 0d. to 30s. 2d. Cane descriptions, as regards crystallised West India, met a quieter sale, and slightly weaker rates had to be accepted, in order to induce sales. Surinam sold, 29s. 4d. to 30s. 6d.; Demerara, 30s. 3d.; Trinidad, 29s. 6d. Demerara syrups sold, 27s. 3d. to 27s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—This market disclosed more animation than of late, though public sales proved quiet, the principal business being effected by private treaty, and rates ruled steady for both home and export qualities. Terminal market quiet, but firmer. December sold, 41s. to 42s.

**COCOA.**—A quieter state of affairs prevailed in auction, a fair supply offered being largely withdrawn, and prices were barely up to recent private level. Good Trinidad sold, 95s. Cameroon, 82s. to 86s.; and Samoa, 84s. to 86s.

**TEA.**—49,000 packages Indian and 24,000 packages Ceylon were submitted to auction, and experienced fair competition, while prices on balance ruled unaltered. 3,500 packages Java also cleared at about steady prices.

**SPICE.**—Pepper remained quiet, both on spot and forward, and rates in some instances were a shade weaker. Tapioca quiet, but firmly held.

**RICE.**—There was a fair spot inquiry, and where trade resulted full values were obtained. Bran firm, quiet. Beans firm.

**FIBRES.**—Jute market firm, and the question of freightage became more acute during the week. Native first marks, November-December, London, sold, £25 10s. to £26 10s.; and Daisee No. 2, to Dundee, at £22 15s. Hemp.—Manila grades in demand and dearer. New graded fair, January-March, sold, £42 10s. to £43; medium, £41 to £41 10s.; coarse, £34 10s. to £35 5s.; and brown, £32 15s. to £33 5s. New Zealand steady. H.P.F., December-February, sold, £34 10s.

**SHELLAC** dearer, with a moderate trade. T.N., December, 75s. to 79s. 6d.; March, 78s. 6d. to 80s. 6d.

**RUBBER.**—Irregularity governed this market, which remains very sensitive, and trading was of moderate proportions. Crêpe, spot, sold, 3s. 0d. to 3s. 3d.; January-March, 3s. to 3s. 1d. Ribbed smoked sheet, December, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 0d. and 3s. 2d. Fine hard Para, spot and forward, sellers, 2s. 10d.

**COPRA.**—A good steady inquiry was in force, and with reserve on the part of sellers the market further advanced materially during the week, but closed easier.

**FRUIT.**—At public sale, a small supply of Valencia raisins was offered, and sold at steady prices. Quarter-boxes, common to good, sold at 67s. to 75s. Muscatels cleared at 5s. to 10s. decline: medium to good, at 67s. to 82s.; fine to extra choice, 85s. to 115s. Cape realised 53s. Spanish figs sold, 30s; and Egyptian dates, 38s. to 40s.

**METALS.**—Copper: Statistics for last half of past month show a decrease in the total visible supplies of 625 tons. The warrant market showed a downward tendency until Tuesday, on moderate realisations of cash and early prompts with forward offerings, spot standard moving down to £79 10s., and three months to £80. An improvement characterised movements during the middle of the week, when sellers exercised greater reserve, cash delivery touching £80, three months' £80 10s. A reaction set in at Thursday's session, values of these dates being finally fixed at £79 10s. and £80 respectively. Tin: Market generally quiet and irregular. Soon after the week's commencement prices slipped away on selling desire, while, after moderate fluctuations, standard cash delivery settled down on Thursday at £165, and three months £164 10s. Lead: English, £29; and foreign, £28 10s. to £28 2s. 6d., as to position. Spelter easier. G.O.B., December, £91; January, £86. Iron rather better.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—Buyers evinced no desire to embark in fresh business with any degree of freedom this week, the all-round tone, however, being distinctly steady, and supplies, both spot or near, in most parts scarce. Wheat (English) rather easier, whites and reds ruling at 55s. to 58s. per qr., 504 lbs. delivered. Of imported grades, Canadian steadier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 59s. 6d.; ditto, now due, 59s, both ex ship. Flour maintained. American first spring patents, 45s. 6d. to 47s. 6d., both landed. Grinding barley steady. Plate, 40s. ex ship, 41s. landed. American, 38s., ex ship. Maize stronger. Sound Plate, 40s. ex ship, and 41s. landed. White flat South African held for 41s., quay terms. Oats easier, while less sparingly offered. Plate, 30s. 6d. to 31s. 6d., landed, according to quality.

**TALLOW** continued firm. Near parcels, afloat, nominal. At public sale, 250 tons of better coloured and 120 tons of inferior were offered. 200 tons of the former and all of the latter sold at average advance of 1s. per cwt. Australian mutton: fine, 53s.; fair to good, 52s. to 52s. 6d.; dark to dull, 47s. to 50s. 3d.; hard, 53s. Beef: sweet, 53s.; fine, 52s. 6d.; fair to good, 51s. 6d. to 52s. 6d.; dark to dull, 47s. to 49s. Market letter 1s. 6d. up for stuff. Tallow unchanged. Town tallow, 45s. 6d.; melted stuff, 32s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 11d. per 8 lb.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The difficulties in doing business in the market seem to increase rather than get less, and buyers and sellers throughout the past week have had to struggle hard to arrange transactions of any importance. Prices are on a higher level than for a long time back, and owing to increased charges of one kind and another in production it is estimated that current rates in yarn and

cloth are based on raw cotton being at a much higher level than it is at present. Prospects are very uncertain, and many problems confront spinners and manufacturers at the present time. In the opinion of many people, the only safe policy is to move quietly from day to day. The upward movement in raw cotton rates has been chiefly due to the difficulty in arranging imports into Liverpool, growers in the United States being not at all anxious to sell. The prosperity in America is resulting in the cotton crop being easily financed. Manufacturers of piece goods have met with a fair amount of demand, but business has been very irregular. Comparatively few of

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 3, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Australian	6 2 2	6 2 2
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Merino	12 1 1	12 1 1
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	12 1 1	12 1 1
Lyle's granulated	32 3 32 9	32 3 32 9	Greasy Merino	10 1 1	10 1 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	7 1 1	7 1 1
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	11 0 1	11 0 1
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	10 1 1	10 1 1
Crystallised, West India	29 3 31 6	29 3 31 9	Cape snow white	6 2 2	6 2 2
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1/-	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot	0 3 3	0 3 6
Indian Pekoe	0 7 1 12	0 6 1 11	Crepe	0 3 3	0 3 6
Broken	0 7 1 12	0 7 1 12	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Orange	0 8 1 0	0 7 1 1	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1 4	0 8 1 3	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 6 1 0	0 6 1 0	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 7 1 11	0 7 1 11	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 8 1 1	0 7 1 1	Steamers, best	19 6	19 3-19 6
Orange	0 8 1 1	0 7 1 1	Seconds	16 0-17 0	16 0-17 0
Broken	0 9 1 1	0 8 1 1	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 7 1 9	0 7 1 10	English Pig	29 0 0	29 0 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1/-	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft	28 10 0	28 0 0
Trinidad	90 0 97 0	90 0 97 0	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	£ 168 10 0	£ 168 10 0
Grenada	84 0 92 0	84 0 92 0	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
West Africa	nom.	79 0	English Ingots	167-168	166-167
Ceylon Plantation	78 0 92 0	78 0 92 0	Do. bars	168-169	167-168
Guayaquil Arriba	92 0 94 0	92 0 95 0	Standard cash	£ 168 10 0	£ 168 10 0
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2/-	s. s.	s. s.	Tin Plates, per box	22/	22/
East India	56 0 94 0	56 0 94 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	53 0 102 6	53 0 120 6	English, Tough	£ 98 10 0	£ 98 10 0
Costa Rica	53 0 78 0	53 0 78 0	per ton	£ 98 10 0	£ 98 10 0
<b>Provisions</b>			Best Selected	£ 97 10 0	£ 97 10 0
<b>Butter</b> —per cwt.			Sheets	£ 112 10 0	£ 112 10 0
Australian finest	156/-166/-	160/-168/-	Standard	£ 81 0 0	£ 78 10 0
Irish Creameries	158/-168/-	160/-168/-	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for sh'pmt. Dec.-Jan.	£ 25 10 0	£ 26 15 0
Russian finest	128/-134/-	130/-140/-		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Normandy baskets	150/-154/-	150/-154/-	Linseed, per ton.	£ 33 10 0	£ 32 10 0
Danish finest	180/-184/-	180/-182/-	Rape, ref. English, casks	£ 43 10 0	£ 43 10 0
Brittany rolls	15 0-18 0	15 0-18 0	Brown English, naked	£ 39 10 0	£ 40 10 0
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 34 10 0	£ 35 10 0
Irish	98 0-105 0	96 0-103 0	Ditto, refined	£ 36 10 0	£ 36 10 0
Continental	96 0-105 0	94 0-103 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	93d.	10d.
Canadian	86 0-95 0	86 0-95 0	Water White	10d.	10d.
American	80 0-91 0	80 0-90 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 4 lb.	3 7 0	3 6 6
Irish	128/-144/-	126/-144/-	lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 7 0	3 7 6
Canadian	100/-103/-	102/-106/-	Rape, Guzerat	3 6 0	3 7 6
American	67 0-103 0	56 0-102 0	Nov.-Dec.	3 12 9	3 12 3
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton.		
Edam	nom.	nom.	Cleveland Cash	3 12 9	3 12 3
Canadian	90 0-92 0	90 0-92 0	<b>Cobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
Gouda	nom.	nom.	5/6 to 6/24 per lb.		
English Cheddar	90 0-100 0	92 0-102 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
New Zealand	nom.	78 0-84 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Latakia	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
Garden Swat	14 6	14 6	Havana	0 1-0 6	0 1-0 6
spot	14 9-15 0	14 9-15 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Rangoon Stars	14 9-15 0	14 9-15 0	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Dutch	27 0-31 0	18 0-32 0	Antislign		
Russian	14 0-18 0	15 0-19 0	Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Danish	27 0-29 0	27 0-29 0	Indian Teak	250/-600/-	250/-600/-
<b>Copra</b>			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Malabar, London	33 0 0	31 17 6	Town households	47/	47/
Ceylon, London	32 5 0	31 15 0	official	47/	47/
Southern Sea	30 0 0	29 10 0	American, 1st patents	45/6-48/	up to 45/6
M.F.S. Straits	31 10 0	30 15 0	Turpentine	2 4 3	2 6 0
			American Spot	2 4 3	2 6 0
			Spelter		
			G.O.B. as to position	£ 100-£ 90	£ 89-£ 79

the offers coming forward at the present time are of a workable character. With regard to India, occasional lines have been reported in light fabrics, chiefly for Madras, but very little has been done in shirtings. Some China buyers have been rather more disposed to purchase bleaching cloths, and there seems to be a little better outlook for some producers of grey staples. It is unnecessary to go into any detail as to the business offering for most of the minor outlets. The war continues to very adversely affect trading with the Near Eastern outlets. Printing and finishing cloths have been in request for South America at a price. Healthy advices are being received from the home trade, and goods are moving freely to the country. American yarns for home consumption have been strongly held at the higher rates, but rather less



business has been done than recently. Special prices are paid from time to time for prompt delivery in the finer numbers of wuffs. There has not been very much activity in export yarns, and most of the buying has been for the Continent. Egyptian spinnings have moved off in moderate lots, and producers in this section rather tend to improve their position.

### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Baracora (Sylhet) Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax at 2s. 8d., on account of 1915, on ordinary, payable Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Brazilian Traction, Light and Power.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the fully-paid preference, payable Jan. 1.

Brilliant Extended Gold.—6d., payable Dec. 22.

Cape Copper.—1s. per share on the ordinary, less tax, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

Champion Reef Gold of India.—Balance for year ended Sept. 30 of 8d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 4, making a total of 1s. 5d. per share for year, or 56½ per cent., against 53½ per cent. for 1913-14.

Chesters Brewery, Manchester.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. (4 per cent. actual) on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Consolidated Tea and Lands.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary. Last year no interim was paid.

Coventry Chain.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum and a bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the amounts as paid up on the ordinary, same as last year, but no bonus was paid.

Dominion Bank.—Usual quarterly of 3 per cent., payable Jan. 1.

Dinnington Main Coal.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, against 6d. a year ago.

Federated (Selangor) Rubber.—Second interim of 12½ per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31, 1916, payable Dec. 23, making 20 per cent. so far this year, against 12½ per cent.

Halley's Industrial Motors.—The directors intimate that owing to the works having been placed under the control of the Minister of Munitions as at Oct. 2, it has been decided to complete a balance-sheet to that date and to recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1s. per share, free of tax.

Jugra Estate.—Interim of 20 per cent. on the ordinary, against 15 per cent. a year ago.

Kalgurli Gold Mines.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 6, against 4s. a year ago.

Kapar Para Rubber.—Second interim of 15 per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

Kepong Malay Rubber.—Third interim of 10 per cent., less tax, for year ended Dec. 31, payable Dec. 20, making 30 per cent. so far this year; for the whole of 1914, including a final dividend of 25 per cent., the distribution was 45 per cent.

Kurau Rubber.—Second interim of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31, 1915, payable Dec. 9, making 30 per cent. so far this year; for the whole of last year 30 per cent. was paid.

Lake View and Oroya Exploration.—Interim of 5 per cent. (6d. per share), less tax, payable Jan. 12, same as a year ago.

Linggi Plantations.—Third interim on the ordinary of 15 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, equivalent to 3 3-5d. per share, payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

London and New York Investment.—5 per cent. for year on the ordinary, same as last year, £2,000 in reduction of value of investments, with £7,209 forward.

Madingley.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 14. No interim payment was made last year, the dividend for the whole year being 5 per cent.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.—Distribution on Jan. 1 of 15s. per cent. in addition to the guaranteed dividend of 3½ per cent. per annum, making £2 10s. per cent. for half-year, less tax, same as last year.

Marine Insurance.—Interim of £1 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 10, same as a year ago.

Oroville Dredging.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable, less tax, at the rate of 4s. in the £ to adjust tax for two previous quarters, on Dec. 21.

Plymouth Consolidated Gold Mines.—Third interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 20.

Rubana Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending April 30, payable Dec. 9, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

St. Louis Breweries.—2s. per share (1 per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Jan. 1. For 1913-14 the ordinary received 2½ per cent.

"Sanitas" Company.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. in respect of year ending March 31 next, payable Dec. 1.

South African Breweries.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary (being at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year), less English tax, same as a year ago.

Swift and Co.—Quarterly of 2 per cent., payable Jan. 1.

Sulphide Corporation.—Final of 10 per cent. on the preference and 15 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Dec. 31, making 20 per cent. on both classes of shares for year ended June 30, against 10 per cent. for 1913-14.

Sun Insurance Office.—Interim of 7s. per share, less tax, same as a year ago, payable Jan. 7.

Tali Ayer Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending April 30, 1916, payable Dec. 16, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

The Mint, Birmingham.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary for six months ended Sept. 30. A year ago the dividend was at the rate of 7½ per cent., tax free.

Third Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Final dividend on the deferred at the rate of 4 per cent., making 4 per cent. for the year, less tax, same as last year.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—17½ per cent., equal to 3s. 6d. per share, same as for 1914.

Ulu Rantau Rubber.—Second interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 15, making 15 per cent. so far this year, against 10 per cent.

Union Steamship of New Zealand.—Final of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary, making 6 per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent.

Walker and Homfray's Brewery.—7 per cent. on the ordinary, against 10 per cent.; to reserve, £10,000.

### Answers to Correspondents.

Small Investor.—You ought not to sell just now, even though you have to submit to lower prices. Your best course would be to buy a little more of Nos. 1, 3, and 4, when you can afford it. No. 2 we are not so sure about, and do not recommend a further purchase.

J. R. P.—There is no particular reason why you should sell either of these shares at present. Both may go up again soon. If they do, take your profit in No. 1.

Sniper.—We can give no very definite advice. No. 1 looks tempting, and trade is so good in its district that a purchase might answer, but Nos. 2 and 3 are both quite high enough now, and although No. 4 has fallen 20 in little more than a year, it may easily go down another 10. We know no facts, however, only both traders and workmen are hostile to better net earnings.

H. L. C.—Yes, certainly.

Enquirer (Ulster).—(1) It would be prudent to reduce, at any rate, such commitments. (2) Many of the mines are possibly high enough, and some of the other class have advanced considerably. You would have to consider each concern on its own merits. (3) Some of the latter there seems to be no hurry to sell, but it is not possible to give a definite opinion without knowing exactly what concerns you are interested in.

W. P. W.—It is, but we think you should take your profit on at least half your holding if it is of any size. If small, sell the lot.

J. R. Y.—The security should be as safe, and the suggestion is quite a good one, if you desire an investment in that country.

C. R. T.—Prospects look a little better, but the recovery will be very slow, as the district has suffered severely. You should certainly not sell, and if you can afford to risk a little more, it might be worth while making some addition to your holding, but watch the traffics. There is no hurry to act.

Troy.—Sinking fund purchases keep the market steady. As values now stand, we think you might sell and re-invest to get a better return.

J. M. T.—We do not think you should try to sell just now. No doubt the company's business has suffered, but it is carefully managed, and the dividends should be fairly sure. If they stood at a good premium it would be a different matter.

D. D.—We think you should wait until the minimum prices question is settled. You will probably be able to buy more cheaply.

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### A "Daily Mail" Wizard of Woe.

On October 12 we bought a *Daily Mail* in Paris, one and never another. The paper lay on a table in the hotel salon every morning, but we preferred the newspapers of Paris and such London journals as were sent to us from home. On that particular morning, however, the *Daily Mail* (Paris edition, price three sous, or, say, three-ha'pence) lay on the table open, and a big headline, "To the Suez Canal?" caught the eye, forcing us to read on. Here is what we read: "To the Suez Canal? What the New War may Mean to the British Empire. By Lovat Fraser." "Lovat Fraser," we mused, "who is he?" The name seemed familiar. "Ah! to be sure, Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the quick-change patriot whose artificially detached head infected Temple Bar after the '45. Could this gentleman be a descendant of his?" We did not know or care, but we read his screed, and found that Mr. Lovat Fraser has something of the Celt's gift of prophesying. He span with a gusto most abandoned that morning in the *Daily Mail* (Paris edition, price three sous). We read and were dizzy. It was like whirling at the end of a weathercock in a gale.

So amazing was the tirade that we forthwith bought a copy of that number at a stall near by—and have preserved it. Its date (October 12) indicates that full blossoming of the Bulgarian danger or menace, and Mr. Lovat Fraser's first endeavour was to depict the alarm this produced in England. Here is the product of his imagination:—"The British public has been stirred by Bulgaria's decision and by the invasion of Serbia as it has never been stirred since the war began. The scales are falling from the nation's eyes. Even the Censorship cannot now replace them. The rape of Belgium, the coastal bombardments, the Zeppelins, the Russian reverses, the deadlock in France and at the Dardanelles were all decently veiled and tacitly accepted. But when Bulgaria declared against the Allies, when Greece refused to move, when an Austro-German army crossed the Danube and began to march towards the Near East our people saw in a flash that we are more than islanders, and that extremely grave events may be at hand." Awful, wasn't it?

In France we did not find this exactly a true picture of the state of public sentiment at the first shock of the crisis, nor does it seem to have been a model of accurate description in regard to the mood here—at least, not when we got back home. It would, however, appear to be the peculiar virtue of the Harmsworth cast of mind, as of the German, that it does not require contact with facts in the framing of its history or alleged convictions. They are evolved, and Mr. Lovat Fraser seems to be a fully qualified inspirationist. Naturally, one would have supposed that after thus lugubriously depicting the Prussian view of things such a capable-of-guiding-us patriot would have tried to console a beaten, deadlocked nation, and to help it a little to bear up against its misfortunes, past and coming. A skilful soother of souls perturbed might have mentioned the Fleet, for instance; endeavoured to show that while it gives us power to starve the Germans, their victories, "deadlocks," and surprise aggressions on land would in the end avail them nothing. But no; that does not appear to meet Mr. Lovat Fraser's ideal. His idea of consolation seems modelled on the old-style Highland funeral, and therefore he proceeded to wail, to demonstrate how the British Empire in the East might be regarded as already as good as lost, and obligingly drew a map for the Germans to show them how easy it would be for them to open their way to India. We are bidden to look at "the powerful Bulgarian Army, willing enough to fight for Macedonia and against Serbia, but perhaps not over-anxious to do much more"—did ever sapience equal that?—at a Turkish army "only waiting for munitions," to contemplate a "problematical" Russian landing on the Bulgarian coast, and after more harrowers of like gloom get this flung at us: "Where shall we be with a Franco-British force in the highlands of Serbia if a Bulgarian army gets astride the only railway?" Surely the answer is as easy as winkle-swallowing—"Up a

tree," of course, where Mr. Lovat Fraser expects us to be.

After a burst like that it was impossible for the seer to avoid exclaiming in italics, "*We do not want a new and more spacious version of the 'rescue' of Antwerp, with all the Balkans for its setting.*" No, we do not, decidedly not. Anything but that. And had Mr. Fraser stopped there we should have let him alone, regarded him merely as a melancholy Highland word-slinger of no importance, one prone to get intoxicated with his own visions as prophets generally are. But this Celt could not stop. Once heated, he had to go on to denounce the "Radical Press"—for the occasion embodied in the *Daily Chronicle*—and to clear the ground for a first-class display of ignorance. So he reminds his readers how he had said that "the German march to the Near East may develop into a fresh blow at the British Empire. Whither does it lead? The crushing of Serbia, should it be successful, would still be a subsidiary operation. What next?" Ah, yes, to be sure; the "next" is what we want to behold, and Mr. Lovat Fraser is not coy to tell our fortunes with the volubility of a Celtic seer or roving gipsy. And the cost is only 3 sous. "William the Poisoner"—thus labelled is the Kaiser, though great hero to Mr. Lovat Fraser, his King Picrochole, in fact—is not going East—which, of course, he is bound to do, having licked the French and ourselves in the Balkans and the Allied fleets being ignored—for nothing. "He looks complacently upon the Armenian massacres because they will serve as a lurid warning to those Balkan nations who dare to stand athwart his path." He does not even fear "these devilish legions of Grangousier" while he, like Rabelais' Picrochole, is in Mesopotamia, this "William the Poisoner." Contrariwise, he is to pass from triumph to glory, according to the seer of Alfred the Peer. "Serbia overcome would, in the first place, mean for Germany the freeing of the Bulgarian Army, and still more the Turkish Army, for work elsewhere." And Bulgar and Turk are both so rich in men and munitions and the "Central Empires" have wealth so inexhaustible that they could do anything, go anywhere. "End the already stationary conflict at the Dardanelles" and that would let more munitions be "poured into Constantinople." Dear, dear!

All this done, the conquest of Asia Minor and Egypt would be a matter of course. Asia Minor would "instantly" supply Germany with "some quantity of cotton," "though not enough for her needs," condescends this prophet of woe to admit. Also Germany should "obtain much corn," and, "what is far more important for her, *she will solve—in italics again—her copper problem.*" Thereupon follows a description of the copper wealth at Dairbekr—"not very far beyond the constructed portion of the Bagdad Railway"—and such a characterisation of the Arghana Mine as "the richest copper mine in the Turkish Empire," as should ensure a favourable reception for its author in City mining circles. We shall be happy to bear testimony there to his gifts when he has served the Harmsworth turn, and they have "sloughed" him as the Scotch might. How far-seeing is the sentence, "Tsar Ferdinand's decision weakens the work of our sea patrols"! Wonderful! It makes us dizzy.

The Nile Delta is the key to the East, it seems, according to Leibnitz, that renowned philosopher of Germany. "If the possessor has also command of the sea," Mr. Lovat Fraser amends, and it is the only compliment the British fleet gets from him. But it is nothing beyond a compliment, for he coolly assures us that Germany will be able to command the Egyptian supply of cotton next year. She "cannot look towards Egypt for cotton for more than another year because the Egyptian crop is now harvested." This surely rather militates against the foresight of his "William the Poisoner." Such an almighty sort of man ought to have begun his Balkan raid in time to grab the Egyptian cotton crop this year before it could be got away, and his fleet should have been down in the



Mediterranean ready to drive us out of the Ægean, the Adriatic, the Levant, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf—in short, this William is, after all, not a perfect conqueror, although he is infinitely fascinating to Mr. Lovat Fraser, and in William's defence that gentleman is more than a match for all objectors. Never mind, he assures at least himself, it is of no consequence. Germany has enough cotton at present. And lest we have any doubt of our fate, he proceeds to explain that "the last attack on the Suez Canal was only experimental," although "for an experiment very well done!" Next time "a great and well-equipped Turkish army, strengthened by Bulgarian units, stiffened by German troops"—"units" and "troops," was ever such technique in war?—"and served across Sinai by light field railways" would do the job in a jiffy, or perhaps less. Cheer up, then, our Empire Day will soon close, and Lord Curzon need not feel sore at having had to leave India like a common man.

And "the German menace against the British Empire does not end here." Obviously not, nothing of the kind. Why should it end anywhere? Mr. Lovat Fraser sees "the road from India to Bagdad open." Not at first guarded by many "German helmets," but well nourished by German bagmen and political agents, who may overrun Persia and stir up India against us. For, "*the Germans hope to attack Egypt and to light in the Middle East a blaze that will reach India*"—to do all that in italics. There is plainly no end to the horrors of our sufferings, as Mr. Lovat Fraser sees them; in fact, the prospect would seem to excite even in his mind a faint spasm of compunction. He, for moments, appears disposed to relent as he draws to a close, and informs us that it might come all right yet "if General Joffre is able to crumple up the German line in France"—we relish that word "crumple," it is so illuminative. And further to soothe us he quotes a friend who "knows Germany far better than I ever want to do," who has never ceased to tell him that "if ever the Germans collapse, they will do so with their usual thoroughness. There will be a smash such as the world has never yet seen. The heart will drop out of them." A wise friend, surely; but notwithstanding this assurance, Mr. Lovat Fraser forthwith proceeds to stamp all hope out. He does not even thank this friend of his for being so very good as to endorse what we have all along thought to be the highest strategy of the Allied nations, a strategy now being successfully directed to bring about just this smash. No, while admitting that the Russians "may still count for much in these regions," although "practically left out of his calculations," just like the British fleet, it all rests on an "if" in which the prophet has no faith. We may not dare to exult even in the Picrochole or "William the Poisoner" style, for Mr. Fraser hastens to inform us that "the Germans are nothing near collapse," that they are only "beginning to challenge Great Britain for the empire of the East," and that "their move is probably desperate," even though "they are nowhere near collapse." He has grudgingly admitted none the less that "they ought to fail," "but the British Government must stop drifting"—and accept the Harmsworth-Lovat Fraser dictatorship, or at least reveal to them all its secrets. "They"—that is, the British Government—"have waited too long. Do they now 'see'?" See what? Mr. Lovat Fraser, or who? Perhaps Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe, rehearsing for the part of Bombastes Furioso.

The first, quite momentary, feeling excited by this sort of journalistic shandygaff was disgust, the next and more permanent, amusement. Mr. Lovat Fraser is obviously quite a wonderful fellow, and we hear that he has been at it again and again since that October 12 when we first made his acquaintance. Only the day before Mr. Asquith's statement to the nation was to be made, the *Daily Mail* came out with a torrent of words provided by this "braw Hielanman," meant, we imagine, to assert the claim of the Harmsworth clan to dictate the policy of the Ministry, or at least to get first pick of all its secrets, to force out information it was no business of his or ours to get. Mr. Asquith

was admonished in this screed as if he had been a schoolboy of doubtful character and antecedents, told to stop lying and hiding things, to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth as the Harmsworth clan requires, warned of its vengeance if he disobeys, all in the best *Daily Mail* style. Does this sort of thing pay? We should think not, certainly not in the long run. It will soon cease even to amuse. The "Radical Press" says garbage of this kind hurts us with our Allies, but it is not possible to believe that. Our Allies have too much sense. As for the Germans, if it pleases and misleads them, so much the better, for we want them to hold on and hug delusions about us to their last gasp.

### Insurance News.

The question has been raised of suspending certain clauses of the Assurance Companies Act, in order that it may not be necessary to make valuation returns during the war, and it is probable that a decision may be arrived at not to distribute any surplus owing to the difficulties to be overcome in making valuations. If the Act remains unaltered valuations must be made at the appointed time, but no office is bound to distribute a surplus, which is a matter entirely for the discretion of the directors on the advice of their actuary. A uniform course of action seems very desirable at this juncture.

It is understood that the permit of the Board of Trade to show for balance-sheet purposes the value of the Stock Exchange securities as at December 31, 1913, still holds good, although in view of the known heavy depreciation which has taken place since that date, few actuaries would be inclined to make a valuation now on that basis of values, and any surplus arrived at could hardly be described as a real surplus. Companies whose valuation date is still some time ahead naturally stand in a different position to the offices whose valuation period ends on the last day of this month. But this is the fortune of war, and there is much to be said in favour of the suggestion advocating the postponement of all valuations until after the end of the war. The office which has to pass its bonus now will be faced with an uphill task when seeking new business, whereas its position really may be infinitely stronger than that of a competitor the result of whose quinquennial valuation has not yet been disclosed.

A new prospectus has been issued calling attention to the advantages offered by the Equity and Law Life Assurance Society's special scheme of family provision and death duties policies. Whole of life assurances without profits are granted at exceptionally low rates of premium. The rates are reduced to a minimum, and are believed to be lower at the principal assuring ages than those of any other office in the United Kingdom. For example, the annual premium for £1,000 at age 30 next birthday is £17 5s. 10d. The minimum surrender value will be 33 per cent. of the premiums paid, excluding the first three annual premiums. On December 31 last the total funds of the society amounted to £5,160,832, and the surplus divided in respect of the five years ended on that date was £551,166—the largest in the history of the society.

In the absence of any large conflagration during the remainder of the current year, the prospects of profit to the fire insurance companies doing business in Canada and the United States are distinctly favourable. The losses in October were £2,893,000, as contrasted with £2,801,000 in the corresponding month of last year, and for the 10 months the total of £28,152,000 is nearly 10 millions sterling below the level for the corresponding period last year. The frequent outbreak of fires, accompanied by heavy losses, in munition plants in the United States so far does not appear to have affected any important insurance company.

Notice has been given by the Tynemouth Corporation of its intention to apply to Parliament in the en-



suing session for leave to bring in a Bill to effect various objects, one of which is to empower the corporation to establish out of its rates and revenues a fire insurance fund and an accident fund to meet claims under the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts.

### Critical Index to New Investments.

#### FRENCH NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN.

The terms asked for the portion of the new French loan which is being offered in London by the Bank of England should attract considerable support. As already announced the issue takes the form of 5 per cent. Rentes for an unlimited amount offered in Paris at the price of 88, and applications are invited here at £3 4s. per 100 frs. nominal capital (being the equivalent of that price at the exchange of 27.50), if paid by instalments of 7s. on application and 19s. each on January 31, February 29, and March 31, or at £3 3s. 6d., if paid in full at the time of application. Interest is payable quarterly, the first coupon for a full three months, being due on February 16, and both capital and interest will be free from all French taxes. Allowing for these concessions, the yield, when exchange has returned to a more normal level, will be about 6½ per cent., which is surely generous enough to ensure a liberal response from investors. The loan is not redeemable prior to January 1, 1931, but it may be repaid in whole or in part at any time after that date. When payment in full is to be made on application, French sterling Treasury bills due January 16, 1916, at £99 3s. 3d. per cent., and 3½ per cent. Rentes at £3 6s. 4d. for each 100 frs. nominal capital, may be tendered in lieu of cash, while 3 per cent. Rentes at £2 8s. for each 100 frs. nominal may be exchanged into the new loan to the extent of not more than one-third of the total amount payable. It is, of course, stipulated that all securities lodged for conversion must have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the outbreak of war. The bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of peace, but a quotation will be obtained on the London Stock Exchange, so that there should always be a free market for them.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

The output of the Sennah Rubber Co. is growing rapidly, and in the year ended June 30 showed an increase of 287,408 lbs. at 980,253 lbs. A trifling reduction of 0.17d. to 2s. 2.80d. in the average price was more than offset by the reduction in the "all in" costs, which amounted to 1s. 2.37d., or 1.09d. less, although the total included a new item of 1.33d. for loss on exchange. Nett profits, after providing £2,743 for additional remuneration to directors, were £17,140 up at £52,112, and with £25,542 brought forward gave £77,654, or £32,112 more, for distribution. Of this £20,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the shareholders then get a dividend of 10 per cent., as against nothing a year ago, leaving £12,404, or £13,138 less, to be carried forward. Expenditure on development amounted to £40,190, bringing the total cost, including buildings, plant, &c., up to £469,324, or rather over £65 per planted acre. Rubber in hand is valued at £44,763, or £21,962 more, and balances in the hands of agents are £22,184 up at £54,028, against which £23,442 is due to agents in Amsterdam, while cash has been reduced by £7,622 to £15,884. The directors say that delivery has been obtained of the two shipments referred to in the previous report as being held up on German steamers, and these have sold at prices in advance of the valuations placed upon them, but apparently the transaction did not take place until after the close of the year under review. The crop for 1915-16 is expected to reach 1,350,000 lbs.

A circular has been issued by the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust stating that the directors have been considering the question of the options over

shares which will expire on March 31 next. Of these rights, options over 98,462 shares have not been exercised. It is proposed to extend the period during which any option remaining unexercised as at that date will hold good to March 31, 1919, in consideration of a payment of 3s. per share. In view of the large holdings of the company in properties which are likely to become important producers within the next few years, the charge for extending the options does not seem out of the way.

Considering the many disturbances caused by the war, including the shutting down of sea export from Rumania by the closing of the Dardanelles, the Rumanian Consolidated Oilfields did exceedingly well in the year ended June 30. The production of crude oil was increased by 37,688 tons to 103,920 tons, and the nett profit, after providing for taxes in Rumania, &c., showed an improvement of £20,362 at £155,803. Of this £46,862, or £12,541 more, is written off for depreciation as well as £3,325 for debenture discount and expenses, leaving a nett balance, subject to exchange, of £105,616, or £4,496 more. For convenience of calculation and comparison, the accounts were made out at the normal rate of exchange, 25.25 lei per £1, but the present rate is 29.95 lei, and the directors have therefore carried £26,031 to an exchange fluctuation account, and deducting this the disposable total, including £93,886, or £76,120 more, brought forward, was £54,585 up at £173,451. In addition to doubling the appropriation to reserve at £40,000, raising that fund to £100,000, a new special reserve against possible lapses of some of the leases under the law of 1904 is created with £7,000, and £8,000 is reserved for taxes in England, while £5,000 is again put to fire insurance fund. These appropriations leave a balance of £113,451, or £19,585 more, and if the exchange had been normal the directors would have been prepared to recommend the payment of a substantial dividend, but under existing circumstances they consider it better to carry the whole amount forward. Capital expenditure for the year, less depreciation, amounted to £45,028, raising the cost of the properties to £1,086,776, against which £16,000 was received from a further issue of shares, making a total of £1,177,840, and £28,140 was received on account of the 6 per cent. convertible debentures. Stocks are £11,651 higher at £34,584, debtors owe £19,936 more at £154,396, and the loan to the Oilfields Finance Corporation has been increased by £5,025 to £25,000, while cash is £67,704 up at £80,648. On the other hand, current liabilities, apart from a new loan of £6,000 are only £2,257 higher at £37,153.

The interim statement of the Spies Petroleum Co. states that the output of crude oil for the nine months to October 13 was 2,734,885 poods below that of the corresponding period of 1914 at 10,771,800 poods. Part of this decrease is due to the fact that the Well 130/1, which was so prolific in the latter half of 1914, ceased to flow on January 14, 1915, although it is still a good producer. The company, however, has also suffered indirectly from the war, which has made it difficult to obtain the wire ropes necessary for baling and drilling. Old ropes have had to be retained in service after their period of usefulness has passed, with the result that production has been adversely affected by the constant stoppage caused by these breaking. During the first six months deliveries amounted to 7,315,471 poods, or an increase of 2,157,531 poods, and realised 626,218 roubles more at 2,446,000 roubles, the nett average price, after deducting allowance for cancellation of old contracts, &c., having been 33.44 copecks, as against 35.28 copecks. In the three months ended October, 1913, however, the deliveries were 2,936,194 poods, on which a nett average of 40.55 copecks was obtained, as against 35.48 copecks a year ago. Subject to depreciation, the profits for the first six months, calculated at the usual fixed rate of 9.45, were approximately £132,562, and with £118,060 brought forward gave a total of £250,622. Unfortunately the Russian exchange continues so unfavourable for remittances to



this country that if the balance were valued at the ruling rate, the amount available for appropriation would be only £165,044, and in view of this fact the directors do not care to remit funds for the payment of an interim dividend.

**RAJAWELLA PRODUCE.**—This company has a variety of interests, as it produces tea, cocoa, rubber, and coconuts, and in the year ended June 30 it did remarkably well with the three first-named. The tea crop was 59,349 lbs. smaller at 2,459,078 lbs., but the decline was more than offset by an improvement of 1.30d. to 8.96d. in the price. Cocoa yielded 1,826 cwt. more at 6,258 cwt., which sold at an average price of 63s. 8d. nett, as against 61s. 1d. a year ago, and the rubber crop was 40,542 lbs. larger at 190,799 lbs., but realised ½d. less at 2s. 2d. Gross receipts from all sources were £21,442 larger at £134,106, and the nett profits showed an improvement of £18,946 at £48,504. Of this the appropriations to maintenance fund and coast advances are increased by £500 each to £5,500 and £1,500 respectively, and after applying £9,417, or £5,145 more, in redemption of the outstanding "B" mortgage debenture stock, £1,500 is used to redeem first mortgage debenture stock. After providing for preference dividend, a balance of £8,588, or £8,478 more, is left, and would be sufficient to pay 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but owing to the uncertainty as to the sum required to meet the excess profit tax, the whole amount is carried forward. During the year a contingent liability of £104,620 was extinguished by an issue of £52,310 in ordinary shares of 10s. each, and after allowing for the redemption of the "B" debenture stock, the property account was increased by £46,801 to £467,871, exclusive of £13,584 spent on new plantations and machinery.

**SEKONG RUBBER.**—The crop for the year ended July 31 was only 17,837 lbs. larger at 144,359 lbs., but the gross price realised was 1.7d. up at 2s. 3.5d., while the "all-in" cost, owing mainly to a substantial saving in the expense of weeding, was reduced by 5.3d. to 1s. 4.2d. Nett profits rose by £4,554 to £6,940, and with £4,853 brought in, gave an available total of £11,793 or £4,440 more, out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. less tax is paid, as against nothing a year ago, and £500 less at £2,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £819 up at £5,793. Capital expenditure, including 40 per cent. of general expenses on the estate, amounted to £3,778, making a total of £78,710, against which the reserve will now stand at £10,000. The company has invested £6,949 in Treasury bills, and cash has been reduced by £5,366 to £6,322, but stocks are £1,367 up at £6,469, while current liabilities show a decrease of £1,208 at £758. A crop of 171,000 lbs. is expected for the current year.

**INSULINDE (SUMATRA) RUBBER AND TOBACCO.**—This company now has 622 acres in bearing, out of 1,086 planted, and in the year ended June 30 harvested 124,611 lbs. of rubber, or 45,283 lbs. more than in the previous 12 months and 12,611 lbs. in excess of the estimate. Price and cost per lb. are details the directors do not trouble to give the shareholders, but they were evidently satisfactory, as the nett profits showed an increase of £3,780 at £5,210. As £311 was brought forward, compared with a debit of £1,054 a year ago, the available total was £5,145 better at £5,521, and after writing £381 off capital and debenture issue expenses, the company enters the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 10 per cent., which leaves £1,540 to be carried forward. A further 211 acres will be brought into tapping in the current year, and the crop is estimated at 172,000 lbs., of which 48,150 lbs. had been harvested by October 31.

**NAMUNAKULA TEA ESTATE.**—The crop for the year ended June 30 was 96,872 lbs. up at 782,615 lbs., but unfortunately the first invoice of the season, amounting to 11,701 lbs., was lost in the City of Winchester, and was not insured against war risks. The nett price was 1.48d. better at 9.44d., and after providing for fixed charges, profits, including £262 brought in, were £6,101 up at £9,179. Of this £2,350 is transferred to reserve, as against nothing last year, and the dividend is increased by 4 per cent. to 12, leaving £2,605, or £2,343 more, to be carried forward to provide for excess profits tax.

**EL PALMAR RUBBER ESTATES.**—For the second year in succession this company has been prevented by the conditions in Mexico from issuing any accounts. The manager reported in September, 1914, that he expected tapping to commence on some of the Hevea trees in December, and that he had made a start with experimental tapping on four groups of 50 Castilloa trees. He had then 2,905 lbs. of rubber in hand, but had had to stop tapping because of the fear of confiscation and destruction by rebels. Early in 1915, revolutionary bands took up their quarters in the neighbourhood of the estate, and the military authorities ordered all people on the estate to leave the property within 48 hours, which, of course, meant the entire suspension of labour. In September the manager induced an Englishman who had been long in the country to take the risk of a journey to the estate, where he found conditions far from satisfactory. The manager, however, decided to make an attempt if possible to collect the coffee crop, but the latest report stated that in October another raid was made on the estate by about 100 armed bandits, who commandeered 40 head of live stock, and also took away household articles. It is added that the recognition of the Carranza Government by the United States and other Governments has put hatred into the hearts of the rebels, who now declare that they will carry on their campaign harder than ever, and will stop at nothing in order to make the outside world take notice that

they have power. From sales effected during the year ended May 31, £268 has been remitted from the estate, and a further £198 has since been received. Cash in hand at the close of the financial year amounted to £1,400, in addition to which £1,500 had been lent to the Glasgow Corporation, making a total of £2,900.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and November 27, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 27, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 28, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	48,900,000	31,834,000	23,485,000
Excise .....	54,850,000	39,140,000	25,115,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	30,000,000	20,937,000	16,401,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,183,000	5,120,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	270,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	116,424,000	20,766,000	10,866,000
Excess Profits Tax .....	6,000,000	—	—
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	62,000	61,000
Post Office .....	34,280,000	20,200,000	18,350,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	350,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,100,000	772,960	749,119
Miscellaneous .....	2,430,000	3,664,089	3,841,235
Revenue .....	305,014,000	142,299,049	104,653,354
Total, including Balance .....		225,730,001	115,087,873
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,530,000	2,070,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		164,510,000	48,600,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	6,500,000
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		585,850,000	—
For American Loan .....		12,748,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,650,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan: Repayable on account of principal .....		—	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		272,196,500	88,138,000
Total .....		1,300,760,079	262,175,873
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 27, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Nov. 28, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	22,055,000	16,851,960	14,317,973
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,030,000	7,455,076	1,068,201
Road Improvement Fund .....	525,000	694,395	889,225
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c. ....	9,600,000	6,037,053	5,958,146
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services .....	1,800,000	1,193,592	1,126,693
Supply Services .....	1,510,666,000	873,944,148	216,003,509
Expenditure .....	1,589,706,000	906,176,224	239,363,747
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		2,065,000	2,445,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,300,000	2,350,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		744,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (i) (b) .....		104,835	60,000
Section 16 (i) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	500,250
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £179,310,000 in 1915-16) .....		179,310,000	15,000,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Nov. 27. 1914. Nov. 28.		
Bank of England .....	£ 23,055,035	£ 1,614,547	
Bank of Ireland .....	909,976	609,959	
Total .....		1,300,760,079	262,175,873

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 344 of 1915, which is subject to revision.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on November 27, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. ..	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. ..	£283,812,000
Total .. ..	£293,812,000

\* Includes £212,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, November 29, 1915.



## The Financial Position in New Zealand.

Better fortune attended New Zealand in its past fiscal year closed on March 31 than Australia, whose annual accounts are made up on June 30. In Australia drought prevailed, as has been repeatedly noted in our columns, whereas in New Zealand the season was good and the prices realised on the colony's produce abnormally high, especially for wool and frozen meat. Consequently the trade position was more satisfactory than it had been for many previous years. From a table which the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* publishes, we find that the excess value of exports over imports was last year, ended March 31, about £7,150,000, whereas in 1911-12 import and export values almost balanced each other, and never for years before that and since until this past year could it be said that the excess exports of New Zealand furnished enough margin to provide for its debt interest and other obligations payable here. It may be well to put the figures for the past four years on record for reference:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1911-12 .....	20,314,855	20,416,387
1912-13 .....	21,510,545	23,570,789
1913-14 .....	21,632,486	24,582,276
1914-15 .....	19,142,564	26,289,705

On a foundation so broad it would seem to have been comparatively easy for the Government of the Dominion to finance thus far the heavy expenses thrown upon it by the war. At least, Sir Joseph Ward, who has become the Finance Minister in the Coalition New Zealand Government, appears to find considerable warrant, superficially at least, for taking his usual sanguine attitude towards the future. Yet in the past year, so close does the country keep to the edge of "not-enough," it would have been impossible to avoid serious embarrassment to the young nation's finances had it not been for the help granted by the Home Government. During the past financial year £2,207,295 of borrowed money had been laid out on public works, which is a modest sum compared with previous years and small compared with the outlay of the six States of Australia and the Commonwealth together, for they expended about £22,000,000—only about £2 per head, in fact, whereas the large amount used up in Australia was equivalent to about £4 8s. per head. Had this been all, then, there would have been no necessity for New Zealand to lean upon the Mother Country for assistance; but it was by no means all, and the war forced the Government to apply to the Exchequer here for help to the extent of £2,000,000 to enable it to meet its war expenses. That same meek and patient milch-cow had also to advance £3,142,600 to enable the Government of New Zealand to redeem the unconverted portion of an old loan of £5,000,000 which had last year to be paid off or renewed, and a further trifle of £107,000 was obtained for land settlement purposes—to maintain the price of real estate in fact—so that altogether the debt of New Zealand was increased last year by £5,421,053, being money borrowed from the Imperial Treasury alone, and repayable in the current financial year. That means floating debt which will have to be renewed and added to in the current year, because, in spite of the valiant effort the Government of the Dominion is making to provide increased income from taxation, there is no possibility of raising so much as will be required to meet current expenses, let alone to provide for repayment of debt. Indeed, an internal loan of £2,000,000 is required to keep the home finance machine grit-free, a 4½ per cent. loan. Including the temporary advances obtained from the Home Government, the various loans raised by New Zealand falling due in the course of the next seven years, ended with March 31, 1922, aggregate £21,321,080, as set forth in the subjoined table, also extracted from the *Record*, and in prospective circumstances the renewing of these all too lightly contracted obligations promises to be both difficult and costly:—

Date.	Loans Falling Due for Repayment in—			
	London.	Australia.	N. Zealand.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1916.....	6,274,953	127,550	3,503,971	9,906,474
1917.....	222,200	1,087,800	575,240	1,885,240
1918.....	40,700	84,400	3,281,456	3,406,556
1919.....	147,250	60,000	1,604,665	1,811,915
1920.....	42,800	29,400	3,753,245	3,825,445
1921.....	3,000	550,300	894,700	1,448,000
1922.....	11,000	934,400	1,092,050	2,037,450
	6,741,903	2,873,850	14,705,327	24,321,080

And even this does not round off the tale; for beyond the sum borrowed from the British Government during the Dominion's past financial year the New Zealand Government had to borrow further sums in London, unspecified in the summary before us, on the security of its reserve securities held in London. Altogether, then, we can offer nothing but a rather dreary recital of present and prospective embarrassments which present a somewhat uncomfortable outlook. But could the people be persuaded to restrict, or stop, their loan expenditure on "public works" for the next 10 years, thereby ensuring a reduction in the hectic excess of their imports, it would still be possible to look forward with hope, because the country's resources are great still, of the very finest because most enduring quality, and its power to export wool, frozen meat, butter, cheese, and possibly cereals, should be, on the average of years, always on the increase. Last year prices were so high as to give an exaggerated idea of the strength behind the financial superstructure top-heavy with debt, but even so, it is worth noting that a population of barely 1,000,000—male and female of all ages—sold abroad last year £9,908,000 worth of wool, £5,815,000 worth of frozen meat, £2,337,000 worth of butter, and £2,278,000 worth of cheese. The only commodity in which there was a marked decline was gold. But even such figures as we recite reveal how slender as yet is the basis upon which to found large taxation demands. Sir Joseph Ward is flamboyantly sanguine, though, and while estimating the extra cost imposed on his country by the war at a mere £2,000,000 per annum, is brave enough to propose to secure the whole of the amount by extra taxation. We believe that war costs to the colony will exceed £2,000,000, and doubt whether that sum in additional taxation can be got without difficulty from the people—willing, most loyally willing, as they have in all ways proved themselves to be towards the Mother Country and the Empire since war broke out. Scotland itself, with its much larger population, has not done more in proportion to supply warriors for freedom than New Zealand.

How does Sir Joseph Ward propose to raise this extra revenue? He does it by putting on new taxation estimated to produce £2,032,600 per annum, and in the year ended March 31 last the total Customs revenue was £3,167,000, revenue from taxation of all kinds being under £7,000,000. A wide net has to be spread to catch this new money, but only £1,000,000 of it is expected to be gathered in the current fiscal year. From land and income-tax £620,000 additional is expected, and from Customs £285,000. Income from post, telegraph, and railway monopolies cannot be classed exactly as taxation, but these are expected to provide £740,000 additional between them. All the other ekes are insignificant—£50,000 more from a twopenny instead of a penny duty on bank cheques, £20,000 from the bank-note tax, and £40,000 from the doubled receipt stamp—twopence instead of a penny. As large profits have been derived from the sale of wool, meat, and dairy produce it is proposed to apply the income-tax to income derived from land, and last year the income-tax provided £540,318 of the revenue without this extension. What addition it may produce we cannot say, but it is interesting to note that the increase in telegram and cablegram rates, together with a special war tax of a halfpenny on all articles posted, except newspapers, is expected to produce £310,000. Passenger and goods rates are to be raised on the railways, the one by 8½ per cent., or a penny in the shilling, and the other by 10 per cent., except on timber. The Excise duty on beer, hitherto 3d. per



gallon, is to be put on an entirely new basis, the chief object being to encourage the manufacture of lighter ales. Spirits now taxed 16s. per gallon will pay 17s., and non-alcoholic beverages will be levied upon at the rate of a penny per gallon. The bank-note duty is raised from 15s. to £1 per cent. per quarter, and so on. It is odd that not one of the Finance Ministers in any of our colonies, any more than at home, have thought of imposing a modest tax upon matches, which in France, without causing any real inconvenience to the community, nets the Treasury £1,000,000 per annum.

Some observations were made by Sir Joseph Ward on the trade policy to be pursued, and he gave it as his opinion that one way of preventing Germany from again becoming a great commercial and industrial nation with the assistance of British countries, would be to prohibit German-made goods from being imported into New Zealand and other British countries. "One of our supreme duties for the future will be to make our people, as far as practicable, a self-reliant and self-contained nation." Consequently, he asked the Parliament to place a duty of 50 per cent. upon all importations from countries that are now, or may be, enemies of the British Empire, excepting such goods as may be exempted from time to time by Order-in-Council. That sounds patriotic, but to our thinking really indicates a policy far from wise. Keep out German goods by all means by self-reliant vigour in outclassing them, but do not follow a policy that would end by being suicidal. No country can be self-contained, nor is isolation a proof of independence.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LTD.

In the half-year ended September 30 the nett profits showed a decrease of £1,422 at £26,802, the greater part of which was due to heavier working expenses. Adding £8,277 brought forward, the amount available was £2,370 up at £35,079, out of which the directors repeat the dividends of 7 per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares and the appropriations of £10,000 to reserve and £1,000 to officers' provident fund, leaving the balance carried forward £2,370 up at £8,704. The present addition to reserve raises that fund to £250,000 as against a paid-up capital of £439,280. Notes in circulation are again slightly lower at £18,811, bills in circulation have been reduced by £26,084 to £131,042, and balances due to other banks are £12,109 down at £622. Government deposits are £51,179 lower at £347,870, but other deposits have risen by £247,735 to £3,693,441. On the other hand, coin, bullion, notes, &c., come to £904,024, or £48,883 less, bills and remittances in transit are £28,341 down at £361,066, and balances due from other banks are £6,504 smaller at £19,423. The bank has invested £250,000 in British Treasury bills and also holds £138,560 in War Loan at 9½ as against £48,408 in Consols taken at 68½ a year ago, the nett result of the changes being an increase of £346,040 to £448,814 in the total investments. Bills discounted and other advances are £83,212 lower at £2,971,800.

### LIVERPOOL WAREHOUSING CO., LTD.

A substantial increase of £22,887 to £194,601 is shown in the gross revenue for the year ended September 30, but expenses, owing to provision having been made for income-tax and contingent excess profit taxation, rose by no less than £32,463 to £125,172. After meeting other charges and adding £18,728, or £3,395 more, brought forward, the divisible surplus was consequently £5,663 smaller at £85,142. Of this £18,730 is written off goodwill, as against £10,000 a year ago, and £2,000 is again set aside for amortisation of long leaseholds, but nothing is transferred to the dividend reserve compared with £17,000 last year, and the directors are therefore able to increase the dividend on the ordinary shares from 9d. to 1s., and still leave £20,479, or £1,751 more, to be carried forward. Freehold and leasehold properties not appropriated to the trustees of the debenture stock were increased by £45,002 to £266,695, but goodwill, after deducting the amount now written off, stands at £70,000. Debtors owe £97,486, or £31,270 more, but cash has been reduced by £10,318 to £5,851, while, on the other hand, current liabilities, including a bank loan of £14,636, have risen by £46,435 to £106,170.

### ARGENTINE LAND AND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

Owing to the continuance of the financial stringency in Argentina there was a heavy drop in land values, and sales of camp lands in the year ended June 30 only amounted to 847 acres, while sales of town sites showed a decrease of £13,490, of which £6,232 was in the amount credited to revenue. For the same reasons sales of 17,864 acres made in previous years, representing £148,043, were cancelled. This area includes the Tio Pujio estancia, of which the sale was announced in 1911-12, but the contract has not been carried through, and a new agreement has been made for the sale of a reduced area of 8,041 acres. Receipts from sales fell off by £16,110 to £25,482, but there was a satisfactory improve-

ment of £21,818 to £33,043 in rents, and with a small increase in miscellaneous receipts the total income was £7,300 up at £78,750. Expenses, including £7,807 or £5,599 more, for income-tax reserve, £3,775 for depreciation, and £2,121 for loss on land surrendered, were £12,874 heavier at £31,843, and the nett profit showed a decrease of £5,574 at £40,906. Of this £20,000 or £5,000 less is transferred to reserve, making that fund £45,000, and after repeating the payment of 4 per cent. interest on the income stock, and the dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £3,125 is carried forward compared with £3,203 brought in. Unsold lands of the original concession are £5,420 up at £70,916 as the result of the sales cancelled, but other properties have been reduced by £1,941 to £117,135, and land instalments unmatured are £59,195 down at £107,992. Colonists' balances are £29,100 lower at £83,751, but sundry debtors owe £14,069 more at £25,270, cash and bills receivable have risen by £10,211 to £53,867, and investments have been increased by £10,162 to £19,098. Liabilities for land sales are £82,890 down at £90,502, while £7,627 more at £16,753 is due to creditors. Suspense accounts are £2,410 up at £7,373, and the reserve for interest in arrears has been increased by £4,410 to £12,208.

### RIO NEGRO (ARGENTINA) LAND CO., LTD.

Weather conditions during the year ended June 30 were much more favourable, and, for the first time in the company's history, certain low-lying valley flats, which provide the most nourishing grasses on the property, were thoroughly flooded. Owing to the improvement a considerably increased stock could be carried, and the sheep on hand at the close of the year numbered 114,219, or 27,776 more. The wool crop was 165,052 lbs. larger at 603,352 lbs., an increase of .35 lb. per head, and the total income from all sources rose by £7,461 to £29,423, while, thanks to a saving in expenses, the nett profits were £10,931 up at £16,769. A balance of £5,581 was brought in, compared with a debit of £256 a year ago, so that the total of £22,350 available was £16,769 better, out of which a dividend of 4 per cent. is paid and £10,350, or £4,769 more, is carried forward. Property account is £13,662 up at £265,384, and cash and bills have risen by £7,400 to £53,044, while a liability of £2,000 on bills payable has disappeared. Since the close of the financial year a contract has been made with the Port Madryn (Argentina) Co. to lease for 10 years from July 1, 1915, two sections with an area of 200,000 acres, which are fenced, fully developed and stocked. The directors say that it has been found from recent experience that these sections can enjoy good seasons when portions of the Maquinchao Camp are suffering from drought, and *vice versa*.

### LONDON SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST, LTD.

In the year ended October 31 the revenue, including £1,530 or £1,362 less from profit on realisation of securities, and £3,046 or £2,975 more from profit on exchange, fell off by £12,504 to £78,237. The dividend on the deferred stock is maintained at 7 per cent., but only the profit on sales of securities is transferred to reserve, compared with £5,000 set aside last year, and £9,527 is carried forward, as against £13,039 brought in. Investments show a decrease of £33,890 at £1,929,036, and cash balances are £12,182 lower at £19,782, while, on the other hand, the bank loan of £43,000 had been paid off. No list of securities is given, but the abstract of investments shows reductions of £36,268 in American Railway bonds, and £77,113 in bonds and £20,293 in shares of other undertakings in the U.S., and a new item of £99,668 for 4½ per cent. War Loan and Treasury bills.

### CASSEL CYANIDE CO., LTD.

A further substantial increase of £24,436 to £129,005 is shown in the gross profits for the year ended September 30, and after writing £10,000 off buildings, &c., as against £5,286 set aside for income-tax last time, the nett balance of £112,695 was £18,625 larger. During the year, however, the capital was doubled by the payment out of reserve of a bonus of one share for every share held, and the gain in profits is not sufficient to enable the directors to maintain the distribution at the old rate on the additional capital ranking. A dividend of 2s. 9d. is declared, compared with 2s. and a bonus of like amount, and although it is paid less tax instead of tax free the payment requires an extra £26,438, but as the appropriation of £20,000 to reserve is not repeated the balance carried forward is £15,757 up at £30,425. The issued capital now stands at £176,250 and the reserve at £61,875, while, on the other hand, patent rights, buildings, &c., have been increased by £39,009 to £110,886. Investments and cash at call have risen by £51,390 to £260,398, and debtors owe £9,306 more at £84,867, against which £133,365, or £65,695 more, is due to creditors.

### BARNAGORE JUTE FACTORY CO., LTD.

Exceptionally good results were obtained in the year ended August 31, the gross profits showing an increase of £101,591 at £176,920. The actual results would seem to have been even better than this figure indicates, as it is arrived at after charging repairs of plant, whereas in the previous year's accounts the profits were given before deducting £24,965 for that purpose. After providing £37,229 for depreciation and £24,022, or £23,195 more, for income-tax in London and Calcutta, there was a nett profit of £58,990 compared with a loss of £6,630. A year ago £13,500 was taken from the general reserve to wipe out the deficit and to meet the preference dividend, but this time the directors are able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and in addition they write £9,611 off land purchased and transfer £5,000 to debenture sinking fund, together with £13,500 to general reserve, leaving £776 to be carried forward as against £106 brought in. Property account is £8,575 up at £751,357, against which the various reserves



stand at £111,025. Stocks have risen by £121,974 to £315,172, but debtors owe £29,747 less at £19,323, and as the company has invested £6,000 in British Government securities cash is £6,924 lower at £4,586. On the other hand, the amount due to the agents in Calcutta has risen by £148,174 to £193,818, but the £80,000 in bills payable shown in the previous balance-sheet has disappeared, and current liabilities are £5,567 smaller at £137,733.

#### PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES WATERWORKS CO., LTD.

A further expansion of £6,341 to £60,344 was shown in the gross revenue for the year ended June 30, and of this £33,318, or £2,664 more, was retained as nett profit, giving, with £5,644 brought forward, £38,962, or £2,618 more, available. After repeating the dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares and the appropriations of £5,000 to amortisation account, £1,000 to reserve, and £4,000 in reduction of capital issue expenses, the balance carried forward is £2,618 up at £8,262. Expenditure on the properties for the year amounted to £113,552, raising the total cost to £578,993, against which £92,000 was received on ordinary "A" extension shares, and in order to meet the expenditure on extensions beyond those arranged for by the issue of "Extension" capital in 1913 permission was granted by the Treasury for a private issue of £60,000 in three or five-year registered note certificates, of which £17,600 had been sold at the date of the balance-sheet. It is stated that the work of the new extensions is rapidly nearing completion. The greater portion of the mains are laid, and by the end of the present year the new reservoirs are expected to be completed, so that the only work then remaining will be the erection of the large elevated steel tank, the contractors for which have received Government permission to proceed with their contract. A new concession, however, was granted by the Provincial Legislature of the Province to the company for the supply of water to several districts in Quilmes which constitute a rising and flourishing suburb close to Buenos Aires.

#### JOSEPH LUCAS, LTD.

Like many other firms connected with the cycle industry, this well-known company found the year ended August 31 the best in its history. Nett profits exceeded those of the previous 12 months by £13,447 at £39,076, and with £12,831 brought in, gave £51,907, or £11,992 more available. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again 6 per cent., making the sixth consecutive payment at that rate, another £5,000 is written off properties, and £9,500, as against £8,000, is transferred to reserve, leaving £10,923 more at £23,754 to be carried forward. During the year 1,000 ordinary shares of £5 each were issued at a premium of £2 10s. per share in connection with the purchase of Thomson-Bennett Magnetos, Ltd., and the premium was also added to reserve, raising that fund to £70,000, against the paid-up capital of £205,000. Current liabilities are £15,066 higher at £32,223, while, on the other hand, stocks have been reduced by £18,096 to £78,439, but debtors owe £19,608 more at £57,490. The company now has £22,946 invested, but notwithstanding that, cash balances have risen by £25,193 to £33,360. Property account is £8,416 down at £89,983, and plant, &c., £1,864 up at £39,193.

#### HENRY BUCKNALL AND SONS, LTD.

Made up to August 31, 1915, the accounts of this company showed a nett profit for the year then closed of £32,147, which was £4,457 down. Including the balance of £3,604 brought forward, which was £1,225 up, the directors are able to place £10,000 to the reserve fund and to give the full 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares for the year. The assignment to reserve is £5,000 less than it was 12 months ago, so that the balance of £4,147 left to carry forward is £543 up. From the accounts we see that the company has borrowed on security £23,000 from its bankers, but it owes its creditors £29,284 less at £30,609. Cash is down £7,328, but still amounts to £22,793. No other changes in the balance-sheet, apart from a decrease of £25,214 in the value of the stock of cork, bringing it down to £250,109, requires special mention. Goodwill remains at £255,945, and must be a heavy makeweight in these times, especially when the reserve is only £80,000 all told.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.—Production week Nov. 20, 1,595 tons; week Nov. 27, 1,500 tons.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production week Nov. 26, 193,200 poods (or 3,116 tons).

Russian Petroleum.—Estimated production week Nov. 27, 71,767 poods. Price of crude oil, 50 copecks per pood.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Estimated gross production week Nov. 27, 94,800 poods. Price of crude oil 50 copecks per pood.

European Oilfields.—Production week Nov. 28, 83,500 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 51½ copecks per pood.

The Bank of British West Africa has established branches at Casablanca, Morocco, and Koforidan, Gold Coast Colony.

Bibi Eibat Oil Co.—Production week Nov. 28, 61,866 poods or 998 tons.

Mississippi River Power.—The nett operating results for Oct., \$115,529; increase, \$8,469.

The directors of the Union of London and Smith's Bank announce that they have appointed Mr. Gerald C. Mercer local director and manager of their Maidstone branch (Kentish Bank) in succession to his father, the late Mr. W. F. Mercer.

In view of the fall in the value of the British sovereign in the United States, Messrs. Effingham Wilson have published at 2s. nett a useful set of tables for calculating dollars into sterling at rates from \$4.60 to \$4.70½ to the £.

Colonel H. Concanon, Sir L. Fletcher, and Mr. A. B. Canty, managers of the White Star, Dominion, and American lines, have been elected Liverpool directors of the Oceanic Steam Navigation Co.

## COMPANY MEETINGS.

### TANDJONG RUBBER CO.

The eighth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Tandjong Rubber Co., Ltd., was held in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., on Friday, Mr. Charles Arthur Lampard, chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. J. M. Kemp, on behalf of the Secretaries (Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report has been circulated for some time, and I will ask you to allow me to take it as read. In regard to the balance-sheet, our capital remains the same as it was last year, namely, £50,000, and the premiums are £73,684, which is the same as appeared in the last balance-sheet. The £10,000 appearing to the credit of the reserve shows an increase, and if you agree to our proposed allocation to-day, we shall add another £10,000 to that sum, which will make the total amount at the credit of premiums and reserve £93,684, which means £18 6s. 3d. per planted acre. After providing for depreciation the capital expenditure for the year has amounted to £15,494 15s. 5d., and the total expenditure to the date of the balance-sheet amounts to £227,166 11s. That for 5,116 acres planted, making no allowance for any reserve land, is £44 8s. per acre. That is the amount of cash expended on it. Taking the premium and reserve of £18 1s. 3d., it leaves the net book cost at £26 1s. 9d., which is the sum you have to keep in mind. In regard to capital position we have unexpended on capital account £16,518 to meet an estimated expenditure during the current year of £17,379, or an apparent deficit of £861, but we shall recover under depreciation a far larger amount than that, and, in addition, we have our carry forward of £7,294, so that the capital result is quite satisfactory. The 5,116 acres are divided, as you know, into three estates—the Tandjong Kassau of 1,802 acres planted in 1907-8, the Tandjong Merah, consisting of 1,262 acres also planted in 1907-8, and the Tandjong Doerian of 2,052 acres planted in 1910-14. And then we have the new clearing of 250 acres, which will be part of the Tandjong Merah estate. You will find all this set out clearly in the report, and I do not think that any further remarks are necessary from me with regard to them. The new clearings are a part of a programme of 500 to 600 acres, and they were undertaken with the object of keeping the labour employed until a larger area came into production. The rubber harvested in the period under review was 800,958 lbs. against 545,267 lbs. last year. It realised 2s. 1.84d. as against 2s. 2.73d. in the previous year. It cost all-in 1s. 2.28d. as against 1s. 4.42d., and left a profit this year of 11.56d. per lb. as against 10.31d. per lb. last year, so that it showed an increased profit. The average area in bearing, or partial bearing, is 2,622 acres as against 2,169 acres the previous year. The yield per acre was 312 lbs. against 251 lbs. The whole of this planted area is absolutely clean, and the weeding cost per acre has amounted this year to 10.9d. as against 1s. 5.8d. All the stumps and roots have been removed from the planted area, and the condition of the estates is excellent, while the trees show healthy and regular growth. The labour force employed was 2,501, and the European staff, including the general manager and director, amounted to 22. The health all round has been extremely good, and the visiting agent, when reporting on this subject, says:—"This company's properties rank amongst the healthiest on the east coast of Sumatra." This is borne out by the average death rate of the labour force being only ten per thousand. This is due very largely, I think, to the sanitary arrangements, and to the excellent arrangements which have been made for housing our labour force. It is also due, of course, to the medical staff, the splendid up-to-date hospital, and to the general care that has been bestowed on the welfare of the people we employ. (Hear, hear.)

The total profits for the year amount to £39,716 15s. 11d., against £24,176 0s. 7d. With our carry-forward of £7,577 13s. 2d. the amount available for discussion to-day is £47,294 9s. 1d. With your consent we propose to transfer to reserve £10,000, to pay a dividend of 20 per cent., which will absorb £30,000, and leave us a carry-forward for the current year of £7,294 9s. 1d. I hope you will consider this a satisfactory result. It is not so satisfactory, possibly, as it appears, because while we are distributing 20 per cent. of our nominal capital, with our reserves, our premiums and our carry-forward, our capital, instead of £150,000, is £250,000. In addition to that there is another thing. There is more behind it that is frequently overlooked: there is the fact that this company was started now nearly nine years ago, and that for a very long period the money was totally unproductive. To get at a correct idea of what the business has cost, you must allow



for the period when the money was earning nothing at all, and on that basis I have, to get an idea of it, added the interest that would have been paid if this had been a railway construction company. They would have raised more capital than they absolutely required to develop the property in order that during its unproductive period they could have had funds out of which they could have distributed dividends. We did not do that; we went to our shareholders and we really raised this money on the very excellent prospect we believed the industry had before us, and, believing us, the shareholders put up that money and waited during the necessary period; but all that time the interest which they had foregone is in reality a capital charge; it would have been a capital charge if we had raised the money by issuing debentures. I mention this subject because this has a very distinct bearing on the Chancellor's proposal for taxing excess profits, which would hit the new companies certainly unless the original scheme is revised, which I hope it will be, and I think it will be—it will hit the young companies very hardly while it will allow the older-established companies to escape entirely. Turning to the current year, we estimate to harvest 1,042,000 lbs. of rubber, and look for a reduction in costs. The costs cannot come down to the point we hope to get them down to eventually, because there is constantly fresh rubber coming in. We are tapping the younger areas, but that tends to keep the cost up; but we do look for a reduction in costs, and eventually we shall, as we have always told you, in this company, produce our rubber very economically. The crop harvested through November amounted to 462,804 lbs., against 303,414 lbs. harvested during the corresponding period. Of this we have sold 122,891 lbs. at an average of 2s. 3.33d.; and under forward contract we have 483,840 lbs. to deliver at 2s. 2.70d.

After answering questions which had been sent to him by shareholders, the Chairman expressed confidence in the future, and moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Morrison seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

### MOUNT YAGAHONG EXPLORATION AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Mount Yagahong Exploration and Finance Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I., J.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Edward J. Townsend) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: I think you will agree with me that, having regard to the fact that the period covers the outbreak of the war, resulting in the subsequent financial crisis, the company has come through very well, and has continued to make the steady progress that was also apparent in the previous year's accounts. Summarising the figures, the main feature on the debit side of the balance-sheet is that our liabilities, either actual or contingent, have been reduced from £8,827 last year to £3,150 this year, against which we hold cash in hand £2,407, so that even on June 30 last we held the whole of our assets practically free from liability and all fully paid up. On the other side of the account, something more than 90 per cent. of our share and other interests are in shares having a market quotation. On June 30, 1914, these securities had a book value of £122,672. At the middle market prices on that day they showed a depreciation of £4,197, which was an improvement of about £3,000 upon the value on June 30, 1913. These securities further appreciated in value, and on June 30, 1915, were valued at £127,167, which shows an appreciation in the year of £9,500, and of £12,500 as compared with June 30, 1913, which is very satisfactory indeed. Our revenue is practically all dividend and interest, which amounted to £7,411, an increase of £3,696 on the preceding year. The company is now certainly in a sound position. Its capital is fully represented by solid assets, while we are carrying forward the very substantial sum of £4,789.

Mr. Edward Bedford seconded the motion.

Mr. A. T. Macer, in reply to questions, said that at the last meeting he estimated that during the current year they would earn a dividend income of £7,000; they had actually earned a dividend income of £7,400. He had also then pointed out the possibilities of their rubber investments, and he was rather sanguine as to the price of rubber. His views on that subject had been exactly borne out. He had attended daily at the office of the company during the progress of the war, and they had bought and sold hundreds of thousands of shares. The effect of those transactions last year was that they held the whole of their investments at a lower cost, and those investments represented higher values. The previous depreciation of £7,000 had fallen to £4,000 when striking the balance-sheet, while since that date, June 30, 1914, their total quoted securities had increased in value by over £30,000. That was solely owing to the fact that they went into the Kinta Kellas business and took an interest in rubber. Of their total income of £7,400 nearly £5,000 was represented by their rubber investments. On

their shares in Kinta Kellas they had received 7 per cent. The securities which stood in the balance-sheet at just over £121,000 had a value of over £150,000. Those shares had a free market, and could be sold in any quantities. As to the unquoted securities, to some extent they were interests that had not been capitalised, and in others they were not dealt in on the market. They included £4,000 odd Kinta Kellas 6 per cent. debentures—a most excellent security, though it was unquoted. The directors were careful business men, who took no risks, but were steadily building up the assets of the company. With regard to other holdings, the Middleburg Steam Coal and Coke Co. was the oldest of them, and they still held practically the same interest as during the past year. Notwithstanding the difficulties that the company had had to contend with, they had during the year paid a dividend of 7½ per cent. and had been able to strengthen their position. In regard to the Klian Kellas Co., Northumberland and Dorankande Companies, they were steadily increasing their output of rubber. He thought that for the coming year they should earn at least £10,000 in dividends, and should be able to distribute an 8 per cent. dividend.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

### BUKIT KAJANG RUBBER ESTATES.

The sixth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bukit Kajang Rubber Estates, Limited, was held, on Monday, at the registered offices, 7, Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. W. Arthur Addinsell (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. Lewis, on behalf of the secretaries (Messrs. Bright and Galbraith, Limited), read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I see no reason for commenting at length on the balance-sheet and the report, which have been in your hands for some days. It is a great satisfaction to the board to be able to recommend the increase of the dividend from 15 to 22½ per cent. The financial position is undoubtedly sound, and if it is your pleasure to pass the recommendation made by the board to-day, the reserve account will stand at £14,000. Your directors, believing that they interpreted your wishes that they should support the War Loan, applied for and have had allotted to the company £4,000 of the stock. This application would not have been made unless we had felt that our financial position was absolutely secure. With regard to the estate, you will notice from the report that at June 30 we had 2,667 acres planted under rubber. This acreage is about four times as large as Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens put together, and when you consider an area of that magnitude all under rubber, you will see that we have no inconsiderable plantation. Last year, speaking on behalf of the board, I acknowledged the indebtedness of the company to our manager in the East, Mr. E. A. Barbour. What I said then of Mr. Barbour I can with pleasure repeat to-day. He has proved himself an extremely able organiser and a manager of the highest efficiency. His difficulties have been particularly onerous this year, inasmuch as he has had to work at various times with a reduced staff, some of the assistants having joined the forces. I take it that it will be your desire that I should write to Mr. Barbour and express our appreciation of his services and of the services of the staff in general. I think that that is really all that I need trouble you with to-day, gentlemen. I do not wish, and I do not think that you would care, for me to go into all the details of a large estate like this at any length, but I can assure you of this—that it is the directors' united opinion that all's well with Bukit Kajang. I move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, as submitted to this meeting, be approved and adopted, and that a final dividend of 15 per cent., making a total of 22½ per cent. for the year, be declared and paid." I will ask Mr. Cecil de Winton to second the motion.

Mr. Cecil de Winton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring director and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

Mr. A. Harter, for many years sub-manager of the London and Hanseatic Bank, Ltd., has now been appointed manager thereto.

### SOCIEDAD ANONIMA MERCADO CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES (CITY OF BUENOS AIRES MARKETS CO., LD.) ISSUE OF £120,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES OF £100 EACH.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undermentioned Debentures, amounting to £2,900, have been drawn by lot in the presence of Mr. R. de Neuville and Edwin Courtney Walker, Notary Public, for payment on 1st January, 1916:—

145	172	192	245	258	290	322	338	411
418	454	533	555	640	647	660	672	742
745	786	812	819	827	976	1078	1139	1142
1144	1178							

The above Bonds (which must be left three clear days for examination) are payable at Messrs. A. Rüffer & Sons', 39, Lombard Street, E.C.



["LONDON ISSUE,"]

# NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN

## Of the GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

### ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic.

Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1916.

### PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. PER FCS. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL

(Being the equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88, the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Seven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal capital (i.e., Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz. :—

	s.	d.
On application ... ..	7	0
On, or before, Monday, the 31st January, 1916	19	0
On, or before, Tuesday, the 29th February, 1916	19	0
On, or before, Friday, the 31st March, 1916 ...	19	0
Total	£3	4 0

@ Fcs. 27.50 per £ = Fcs. 88

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 3s. 6d. in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The French Government undertake that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931; but they reserve to themselves the right to redeem the issue, in whole or in part, at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

The issue will be made in the form of Bonds to Bearer, which may, if desired, be registered or inscribed in the "Grand Livre de la Dette Publique" at the Ministry of Finance in Paris, without payment of any fee.

#### CONVERSION OF

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills due 16th January, 1916.
2. French Government 3½ per cent. Rentes (Redeemable).
3. French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable).

1. **French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 16th January, 1916**, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 3s. 3d. cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5 % from the 16th November, 1915 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 16th January, 1916.
2. **French Government 3½ % Rentes (Redeemable)** may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £3 6s. 4d. cash for each Fcs. 100 nominal capital (i.e., Fcs. 3.50 of Rente) surrendered.

3. **French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable)** may be tendered in lieu of cash, to the extent of not more than one-third of the total amount payable in respect of any allotment of this issue, where payment in full for such allotment is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the bonds will be accepted at the rate of £2 8s. cash for each Fcs. 100 Nominal Capital (i.e., Fcs. 3 of Rente) surrendered. The Coupon due 1st January, 1916, must be detached before Bonds are lodged for Conversion.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of all securities lodged for Conversion, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the outbreak of War, or, where issued subsequently, since the date of issue.

Applications for the Loan may be paid up

1. Entirely in cash;
2. Partly in cash and partly by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options; or
3. Entirely by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options;

provided always that in no case may the sterling value of 3% Rentes surrendered exceed one-third of the whole sterling amount payable in respect of any allotment. In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Securities to be converted does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of two pence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of Cash applications, and applications for the Conversion of French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, made on forms bearing their Stamp. No commission will be paid in respect of allotments resulting from the conversion of French Government 3½ % and 3 % Rentes.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London Stock Exchange of Bonds of the "LONDON ISSUE." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz. :—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Securities, or both,
  2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments,
- may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., and at the Branches of that Bank; and at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915.

BANK OF ENGLAND, E.C.,

29th November, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

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**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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## Passing Events.

Treasury overturns in the week ended December 4 were stupendous, larger than the overturn for an entire year not so very long ago. Of actual revenue, receipts came to only £3,816,383, but the aggregate inflow for the week from all sources was £96,451,383. This includes £59,923,000 received on Treasury bills, a marvellous aggregate, and £11,987,000 as second instalment of the American loan. Also £20,000,000 was raised for ways and means purposes, but against that £18,325,000 of Treasury bills was paid off because they fell due. Why was such an enormous amount of credit required? It is in a sense easily explained at least on the surface. The Treasury outgoings came to £70,078,879, of which £18,577,936 was set against "war debt," and £51,226,000 disbursed on account of "supply," was sucked up, that is, by the demands of our Army and Navy, and by the assistance necessary for our Allies. After all the volume of credit had been dispersed £7,719,490 was left to add to Bank balances. No wonder the cry for economy grows louder. It will soon extend not merely to Ministers or M.P.'s and their salaries, a new and strange expense, but to courtiers and all that courtliness implies. For this is a war of the peoples, a fight of the humble more even than of the privileged to be allowed to live and to be free, and the commonalty is fast growing into a mood that may not be trifled with.

Last Monday's *Standard* contained an article from its special correspondent in Switzerland dealing with the finances of the German Empire. In summary this writer states that the cost of the war to Germany must have already reached between £1,750,000,000 and £1,800,000,000, and he shows that a great part of this expenditure has been met by the issue of paper money. The three interest-bearing loans emitted by the Government, he insists, as we have always done, are more or less displays of bluff, the subscriptions having consisted chiefly of debts due by the Government exchanged for scrip. For the rest they were the product of pawning and credit make-believe. As for the paper money, there is now £300,000,000 of Reichsbank notes outstanding, £10,000,000 of State

bank notes of Baden, Bavaria, Saxony, and Württemberg, £150,000,000 of *Darlehenskassenscheine*, or cash loan notes—you pledge your cow and get your scrip—besides £12,000,000 of *Reichskassenscheine*, or Imperial loan notes of 5 and 10 marks, and £75,000,000 in notes guaranteed by the Prussian Government issued in January last. Then there is £7,500,000 in notes of the City of Berlin and £14,250,000 in notes of various issues made by the Seehandlung Bank, which is the bank of the Prussian Government. Also £44,650,000 in special Treasury notes were issued in January last to liquidate Stock Exchange loans, and £37,500,000 in notes of the Belgian branch of the War Treasury (formerly Société Générale de Belgique) were issued for the payment of war contributions and guaranteed by the occupation of the Belgian Provinces and the cities of Brussels, Liège, and Antwerp, &c. Altogether the paper money in legal circulation is estimated by this correspondent at about £720,750,000, from which, however, must be deducted the notes in circulation before the war, £70,000,000 in specie, £10,000,000 in State Bank specie, and £45,000,000 of gold substituted by notes, so that altogether the amount of new paper money created and set afloat would be about £496,000,000, in addition to which we have the note issues of private banks and credits granted against no security by the Reichsbank, unspecified in amount. But further than all this there must have been uncounted chunks of paper money called into existence after the manner of Berlin by other municipalities, as we have already intimated. We know on indisputable authority that mark and half-mark notes are in circulation in some at least of the German cities, presumably based on the security of local municipal property, and we have been told, although this is not authenticated, that paper money of as low a nominal value as 10 pf., or say one-tenth of a shilling, is likewise in existence. Furthermore, we believe the estimate of this careful and trustworthy correspondent to be well below the facts in regard to the total cost of the war to Germany by this date. It is probably nearer £2,500,000,000 than the highest figure he gives; and if we add in the expenditure of Austro-Hungary, we certainly cannot err very far in putting the entire war expenditure of the two robber Empires at £4,000,000,000. They are ruined, in fact,



no matter what happens to them on the field of battle, and in no long time the consequences of the ruin will "stagger humanity." What is the cost of financing the Turk in Europe and Asia?

We are glad to see that both the French and the British Governments have followed the example of the United States, and recognised General Carranza as President of Mexico. His perseverance has thus been rewarded, and we may say that he deserves the recognition given to him. Some of his administrative actions have betrayed unfamiliarity with business, a certain Utopianism as a politician, but he and his followers have never been guilty of the atrocities that can only too surely be laid to the charge of General Villa and the brigand Zapata. Moreover, Carranza has shown himself amenable to persuasion and reason when the true position was laid before him, and a respect for the property of others which has contributed to give the Powers confidence in his honesty. If by help of the recognition thus given to him he can gradually restore order to the country, and put an end to lawlessness and brigandage, if concurrently with this he is able to enforce such changes in the land tenure as will do away with the most crying injustices that have lain at the root of all Mexican insurrections, then, indeed, a better day will dawn for the people of that long-suffering nation.

Although £8,613 smaller for the present year, the profits of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., set forth in the accounts made up to November 1, were £240,923, and as the balance of £30,355 brought forward was £7,613 up, the free total of £271,278 was only £1,000 down. The directors nevertheless reduced the dividend for the first half of the year to 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, and now, again, the dividend is brought down to a like rate, which is 2 per cent. below that for 1913-14, or 16 per cent. instead of 18, income-tax being, as usual, deducted. Income-tax at the rate prevalent when the first half of the dividend was paid was retained to £7,143, while for the second half-year the amount kept back is £12,311. Further, £100,000, as against £70,000 a year ago, is set aside to make further provision for depreciation in investments, and bank premises again get £5,000, after which £4,623 less at £25,732 will remain to be carried forward. Where possible the securities have been valued at current prices, otherwise at the minimum fixed by the Government. It is announced that to meet the requirements of the London branch the directors have purchased the adjoining house in Lombard Street. In the accounts an increase of £83,685 is shown in the liability on deposits, now £19,036,911. Notes in circulation are no less than £476,527 higher at £1,754,857. Changes in the acceptances, drafts, circular notes, &c., are insignificant. Specie, currency notes, and cash balances with the Bank of England and other banks make up an item of £1,744,454, which is £1,217,837 below last year's figure. Notes of other banks, cash and cash documents in hand and in course of transmission show, however, an increase of £245,711 at £1,294,723, and call and short credits money in London is up £95,337 to £2,984,026. The most remarkable increase of all is £5,573,336 in British Government securities held, the total of which is now £6,339,832. This heavy increase in Government stocks is worthy of the Scotch spirit of patriotism, and has involved a reduction of £1,706,473 in the other investments of the bank, bringing them down to £2,387,164. Loans on securities are also £1,912,877 lower at £1,523,919, and there has been a reduction on the year's comparison of £1,192,756 in the bills discounted, including Government Treasury bills. Also advances are £147,543 down at £3,807,856, the only other change we need notice being an increase of £80,000 in the book cost of the freehold property in Lombard Street, due, doubtless, to the additional purchase above mentioned. Altogether the balance-sheet total is now £23,358,860, an increase of £635,499 on the year.

Compared with a year ago, the accounts of the Bank of Montreal for the 12 months closed October 30 last show many changes. Profits have declined \$387,820 to \$2,108,631, but the balance of \$1,232,669 brought forward was \$186,452 better, so that the free total of \$3,341,300 thus reached is only \$201,369 down. In the circumstances this must be satisfactory to the management and the directors, for the accounts cover a full year of war, a year, therefore, of strain upon business and upon credit which the Bank has met with conspicuous success. The profits enable the directors to continue the dividend of 10 per cent. and the bonus of 2 per cent., all as in the previous year, but the only other draft upon revenue is \$127,348 of a war tax on the bank note circulation. A year ago \$100,000 were handed to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and \$290,000 written off bank premises. Neither of these get anything out of the past year's balance, and, therefore, in spite of the reduced profit, the balance of \$1,293,953 left to carry forward is \$61,283 better. Changes in the accounts are too numerous to be all set forth here, but the sum of them is an increase of \$43,498,891 in the balance-sheet aggregate, raising it to \$302,980,555. Amongst the liabilities, interest-bearing deposits have risen \$5,743,440 to \$160,277,084, and non-interest-bearing deposits are \$33,056,698 larger at \$75,745,730. Of the increased mass of banking money thus given to the Bank, a large portion has been added to the money lent at call and short notice here and in the United States, the total being \$29,455,406 up at \$70,957,528. Investments have also gone up to some extent, but the expansion is of no particular interest to us here, and we need only note finally that the gold and silver coin possessed by the Bank has increased \$355,882 to \$15,808,701, while the Government demand notes held are \$747,840 less at \$24,461,103. Current loans and discounts in Canada have shrunk \$9,776,827 to \$99,078,506, but loans to cities, towns, municipalities and school districts show an increase of \$2,186,148 at \$11,203,472. The note circulation of the Bank is a mere \$45,280 up at \$17,276,782.

Times have not been too flourishing in the River Plate during the year, closed September 30, covered by the report and accounts of the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd. It is, therefore, in nowise surprising to find available profit down £47,483 to £497,676. A good portion of this decrease, however, or £31,030, is due to the reduced balance brought forward, which was £275,159. On the other hand, £10,534 less at £63,712 was deducted for bad and doubtful debts, income-tax, and depreciation of securities before the profit was taken out. The reduction, however, makes no difference in the amount of dividend declared, which is made up to 15 per cent. for the year by a final payment at the rate of 9 per cent., but this time the whole year's dividend is subject to income-tax, whereas for the previous year it was paid tax free. After making this payment, the balance of £260,976 left to carry forward will be just £14,183 lower than the one brought in. In the balance-sheet several movements are of importance. Acceptances on account of branches, for example, are up £631,651 at £3,390,261, but "customers' drafts under merchandise credits" are £279,588 lower at £1,091,111. "Bills advised" show an increase of £556,030 at £1,345,662, and the liability on current, deposit and other accounts shows an increase of £1,482,413 at £20,112,275. This is the total for the branches, and for the head office it is £59,426 up at £469,200. "Bills for collection" show a diminution of £645,523 at £3,503,322, the total of the balance-sheet being £1,791,192 higher at £34,183,577. Against this mass of liabilities, of which £3,800,000 is represented by the paid-up capital and reserve, the bank holds £9,519,149 in cash, a reduction of £1,280,814 on the figure of 12 months before. In bills receivable, bills discounted, advances, securities, &c., it possesses £20,759,089, or £3,635,365 more, bills for collection being a cross entry. A new entry, "bills receivable on London and the Continent not yet liquidated in consequence of the war," is happily of the



insignificant amount of £67,817. Bank premises show an increase of £14,347 at £334,201. In the profit and loss account, the gross profit of £678,234 is £17,544 higher, and working expenses show a reduction of £42,634 at £379,086, but depreciation is credited with £29,653, and income-tax took £46,979, and these assignments account for the decrease in nett profits.

While the Imperial Bank of Persia naturally did not escape from the consequences of the disturbed state of the country, the outcome of its operations for the six months ended September 20 were less unsatisfactory than might have been expected. Gross profits, it is true, were £14,364 down at £111,292, the decrease following one of £11,381 in the corresponding period of 1914, but the directors were able to effect a substantial saving of £8,898 in management expenses, and the nett profits were only £5,464 lower at £36,729. The balance brought in, however, was £8,756 down at £23,358, giving £14,222 less at £60,087 to be dealt with, of which £4,000 is as usual handed over to the Persian Government in terms of the concession. Out of the surplus remaining, dividends aggregating 6s. per share, as against 8s., are paid, and £19,107 or £4,251 less, is carried forward. Notes in circulation show a shrinkage of £624,051 at £207,960, and deposits in Persia have been reduced by £10,356 to £617,922, but deposits in London have risen by £18,187 to £85,277, and bills payable, &c., are £69,054 up at £740,857. Cash in hand and in transit is £475,000 lower at £587,141, but call and notice money in London is only a few hundreds down at £25,483. Investments are £85,969 down at £545,874, and bills receivable come to £152,196, or £50,933 less, while bills discounted, loans, &c., are much about the same as a year ago at £1,126,123.

During the year closed June 30 last the Continental Union Gas Co., Ltd., suffered cruelly from the adversities incident to the war. Unprecedentedly high freights to French and Italian ports and the high price of coal prevented any revenue from reaching the company from these countries. Consequently, the greater part of its capital has been unproductive, and after paying the full dividend on the 7 per cent. preference stock and giving the ordinary stock 4 per cent., as well as paying £1,202 as supplementary income-tax, and handing £500, as authorised, to the war funds, the balance left to carry forward is £18,655, which seems to be £12,000 above that left 12 months ago after all payments were made. The company is strong in cash, possessing £30,266 more at £90,966, and there is £29,967 of dividends accrued taken into the balance-sheet, a decrease of £26,378 on the similar entry of a year ago. This represents the dividend declared on the company's holding of the Compagnie l'Union des Gaz for the period to June 30, 1914, but the money has not been received. Sundry creditors are owed £67,841 less at £72,990, and, in fact, the company is all right and strong, sure to recover its prosperity, although not perhaps with great rapidity, when the war is over.

It is unnecessary to detain the reader over the accounts of Worthington and Co., Ltd., the great brewers in Burton-on-Trent. No profit and loss account is issued, but the balance-sheet is clear enough as far as it goes, and reveals a decrease of £21,917 in the profit for the year ended September 30 last, bringing the total down to £130,523. After paying debenture interest, dividends on the preference shares, and income-tax, which took slightly more, the balance left is £22,459 down at £64,343, which, added to the undivided profit brought forward and special reserves, £295,894, gives a total credit of £360,237, or £17,950 more than a year ago, the balance brought forward having been £40,409 higher. Regret is expressed at the death of the chairman and managing director, Mr. W. P. Manners, who had been connected with the company since the beginning, and his son has been put in his place. The additional brewing premises referred to last year have been bought, the report adds, and

although being utilised at the present time in manufacture, may have to be closed down, owing to the many difficulties under which the trade is now carried on. As causes of the decline in profits, in spite of the exercise of the strictest economy, the high price of materials, the drastic legislation as to closing hours, &c., and increased taxation are given, and the directors, with but too good reason, look for a further decline in profits in the company's current year.

Evidently the business of Ind, Coope and Co. (1912), Ltd., is looking up in spite of the adverse influences at work. Trading profit for the year ended September 30 last was no less than £33,860 better at £138,670, and as £1,557 more at £7,568 was brought forward, the available profit of £146,238 is £35,417 better. This result, the report says, is arrived at after providing for national service allowance, and such reserves as the board considers expedient. Moreover, all the property at Burton and Romford, freehold and leasehold, plant, &c., has been maintained out of revenue in a proper and satisfactory state of repair. Out of this profit, which includes £7,568 of interest received on customers' loans, bank deposits, &c., £5,858 more than the previous year is put aside to depreciation, making the total £34,375, but interest charges were brought down £4,032 to £54,301. Compensation charges and income-tax reserve, however, took £6,285 more at £12,535, and an underwriting commission of £40,000, carried as an asset a year ago, was wiped off, while £1,184 more at £1,951 was expended in connection with the formation of the company. All these disbursements and assignments made, there was just £680 left to carry to the new year, so that there is no question of any distribution on the reduced share capital of £276,765. Should prosperity, however, continue, the day of dividends will yet come.

These Harmsworth super-men have been so prolific in their advice how to run the Empire, and how not to conduct the war, that we turned to the report of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd., with a certain zest of curiosity to see how they manage one of their own twopenny-ha'penny businesses outside the production of office-boy literature. Not being shareholders, we were neither disappointed nor surprised, but it is a sorry tale, although, as mere outsiders, we can almost admire the prescience which annexed £70,000 odd of the company's profits to convert deferred shares of extremely doubtful value into ordinary shares of a more marketable and somewhat less speculative description. That was a characteristically worthy stroke—for the Harmsworths; how the other shareholders will view it in the light of later events we must wait and see. Nett profit for the year to August 31 is down £19,810 to £16,475, and as, after the share conversion scheme, only £9,312 was

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brought forward (a reduction of £35,900), the available balance is only £25,787 or £55,700 less than last time. So there are no dividends with which to buy *Daily Mails* and *Comic Cuts*, or other of the firm's soul-filling publications. But the balance-sheet will help to fill the gap. In addition to a million and a-quarter of share capital there are debentures for £479,000, and sundry creditors have jumped up £179,000 to £344,200, so that altogether the company owes a trifle of £820,000. Stocks of paper, pulp, &c., are £150,000 higher at £488,400, which points the moral and adorns the tale that "the output of the mill during the past year has again been most satisfactory." Nothing is said, however, about sales, and in this connection we notice that sundry debtors are down £26,800 to £85,000. Property and plant stand at £1,240,000 or practically the same as last year, and we get no indication what has been written off for depreciation. These figures give furiously to think, and they are about as cheerful reading as some of the *Daily Wail's* recent lucubrations.

As might have been expected, the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., did extraordinarily well in the year to August 31 last. Profit on trading amounted to £543,625, an increase of £53,815, owing to increased sales and the results accruing from the additional capital employed in extending the company's factories and providing improved mechanical processes. The results were even better than these figures would indicate, for losses on the Continent arising directly out of the war have been written off, £36,800 has been paid in war bonuses and for special services, the estimated increase of 10 per cent. on the cost of plant and buildings acquired during the year has been defrayed out of revenue, and the rate of depreciation allowed on plant has been raised from 7½ per cent. to 25 per cent., this last being considered necessary, as the plant is now subject to the wear and tear of continuous night and day work, with reduced supervision. After providing £19,250 more for management expenses, interest, &c., the nett profit is £29,720 higher at £411,640, to which has to be added £33,240, or £4,440 less, brought forward. The dividend of 15 per cent. for the year is repeated, and £175,000 is written off land, buildings, plant, &c. (against £180,000 set aside for reserve, goodwill, &c., last year), leaving £75,529, or £42,290 more, to be carried forward. Issued capital shows an increase of £210,000, but debentures have been reduced by £117,000, and sundry creditors by £182,000 to £256,660. Land, buildings, plant, &c., figure at £457,028, a decrease of £127,000, debtors owe £222,000 less at £890,818, stocks are £42,800 lower at £781,354, and cash is down £63,120 at £147,674. On the other hand, investments are up £458,000 at £1,365,770, mainly owing to the purchase of War Loan stock. The expenditure of £81,860 on rubber estates is counter-balanced by £85,720 written off interests in associated companies. Goodwill, patents, trade-marks, &c., which originally stood at £217,640, have now entirely disappeared. The company has acquired a site of 73 acres at Bromford, near Birmingham, for new works and 100 workmen's cottages, the cost of which is estimated at £330,000. It has also concluded arrangements for the erection of cotton spinning and weaving mills near Rochdale at an estimated cost of £200,000. The directors believe that these and other claims on the company's resources can be financed without the issue of new capital, but in order to provide for contingencies they propose to take powers to increase the preference capital from £800,000 to £1,000,000. Under the Finance Act the company will be liable for excess profits tax for the years ended August 31, 1914 and 1915, but as from November 1 last it has been declared a controlled establishment under the Munitions of War Act. A splendid business has been built up in recent years, and shareholders will reap the benefit of this when normal conditions are restored. The figures of the allied Parent Tyre Co., Ltd., for the year to August 31 do not look quite so well, but as the bulk of its income is derived from Dunlop Rubber shares, the difference in profit is mainly

due to higher income-tax and reduced transfer fees. Nett profit comes out at £112,686, or £9,330 less than for the previous 12 months, and the balance brought in was £5,800 smaller at £11,623. After again paying 8 per cent. on the ordinary and 7½ per cent. on the deferred shares, the balance forward is reduced by £9,400 to £2,217. If no unforeseen contingencies arise the directors hope to commence the payment of interim dividends on the ordinary shares next March.

"The directors do not anticipate that any portion of this company's profits for the past year will be subject to Excess Profits taxation." So says the board of A. Darraq and Co. (1905), Ltd., in its report covering the operations of the 12 months closed September 30 last. We do not know that we can hope for this anticipation to be warranted, because the profits were mouth-watering in their excellence. On trading account alone there was an increase of £53,184, bringing the aggregate up to £146,209, after providing for bad and doubtful debts. Then £25,496 was netted as profit on investments realised, including Argyll, Ltd., debentures paid off, so that when interest is also taken credit for, the nett revenue is brought up to £177,161, or £76,424 more than a year ago. This not only enables the board to give £9,283 more at £33,969 to depreciation of buildings, machinery, &c., and to transfer £20,000, as compared with nothing, to investment depreciation account, "to bring the value of the investments approximately to existing market quotations," but to pay a dividend at the rate of 9½ per cent. on the ordinary capital, which a year ago got nothing; the last payment, in fact, was an "interim" of 3½ per cent. in 1912. As £10,087 more at £17,726 was brought forward, the directors are also able to place £50,000 to the reserve fund against nothing a year ago, bringing it up to £150,000, and when the ordinary share dividend has been satisfied, there will be £17,145 left to carry forward, or only £581 less than was brought in. Through the redemption of the debentures, of which £18,100 nominal was paid off last year, the "goodwill" asset has been brought down from the original lusty total of £416,123 to £126,423. A further £2,500 of debenture bonds have been purchased since the accounts were closed, and the amount of these bonds is now down to £51,800, against which the trustees have £10,956 in hand in investments and cash. Altogether, therefore, the position of the company looks most comfortably strong, and the directors declare that a considerable part of the satisfactory results of the past 12 months' working is directly attributable to the ordinary business of the company. It is doing work for the Government, but the business would have been prosperous without that. Another piece of information is that the works of the company at Suresnes, in France, have been transferred to the French company, the whole of whose capital, with the exception of a certain number of shares for which the company's principal employees in France have been allowed to subscribe, will be held by the English company. Owing to the fact that the business was that of an English company, French war orders apparently could not be secured. By the change, however, the company has been enabled to obtain valuable armament contracts. No striking addition was made to either liabilities or assets last year, and it is therefore unnecessary to give an analysis of the accounts.

Very little of an encouraging nature can be extracted from the report of the Peruvian Corporation, Ltd., for the year to June 30 last. Nett profit was only £163,838, a decrease of no less than £245,700, and almost every branch of the company's business seems to have suffered a formidable reduction. Gross receipts of the Central Railway fell off £217,200, or 37.5 per cent., those of the Southern Railway £132,000 or 36.3 per cent., those of the Guaqui-La Paz Railway £48,600 or 55.5 per cent., and those of the Lake Navigation £36,100 or 60.4 per cent. Altogether the gross receipts of the railways and steamers amounted to 8,305,000 soles, a decrease of just over 4,000,000 soles, while



working expenses could only be reduced by 2,150,000 to 2,635,000 soles. Unfortunately, too, the average rate of exchange was only 22d., against 23½d., and the nett receipts in sterling were £241,525, a decrease of nearly £208,000. It is impossible to fight successfully against such adversity, and the company's troubles were increased by the Peruvian Government withholding half of the agreed annuity of £80,000. Thanks, however, to £90,170 more at £150,550 being brought forward, and to the saving of £22,600 expended on coal explorations last year, it is possible to write £10,000 off doubtful assets, and £7,425 for depreciation, leaving the available balance £163,900 lower at £219,213. Nothing is placed to reserve, which got £50,000 last year, and it is proposed to pay 5 per cent. against 6 per cent. on the debentures, and ¼ per cent. against 1 per cent. on the preference stock, leaving £146,570 or £3,980 less to be carried forward. Arrears of dividend on the cumulative preference stock now amount to 78½ per cent., and some day perhaps a scheme will be devised to deal with this position, but it looks a long way off at present. It is satisfactory, however, to find that the income from guano shows an improvement of £10,200 at £136,840, thanks to the law giving the Government preferential rights not being enforced. Official protests against this law have been made by representatives of the British, French, and Dutch Governments, as well as by the Corporation, and it is hoped that an equitable solution of the question will be found. The failure to pay the annuity for the second half of the year is a more flagrant breach of faith, as the annuity is preferentially secured on the sugar tax, and the agreement stipulates that "the Supreme Government shall provide, in preference to anything else, for any deficiency in the revenues from sugar, with the object of securing the payment of the monthly instalments, the amounts of which shall not be subject to suspension or reduction through any cause whatever." That is sufficiently explicit, and we can only hope that payments will be resumed at an early date. There is the better prospect of this because conditions in the country are certainly improving as evidenced in recent traffic receipts, and past experience shows that Peruvian affairs may mend rapidly once the recovery sets in. But the Corporation has had a dismal history, and we cannot pretend to be very sanguine about its future.

Very satisfactory results continue to be shown by the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., whose fortunes began to mend steadily after the formation of the Kailan Mining Administration, under which the mines of this company and those of the Lanchon Mining Co., Ltd., are carried on as a joint undertaking. For the year to June 30 last the Kailan Administration made a gross profit of \$5,448,600, an increase of \$662,350 compared with the previous year. After providing £93,840 or £1,440 less for Kailan bond interest and redemption, \$817,290 or \$99,350 more for depreciation, and \$12,300 more at \$103,316 for the Chihli Government's proportion of profit, there remains a balance of \$3,286,415, an increase of \$358,000, of which 60 per cent. goes to the Chinese Engineering Co. Nett revenue, including interest, is, however, £7,930 lower at £161,428, but thanks to the fact that no preliminary expenses have to be provided for, against £11,910 last time, the nett profit is £3,400 higher at £159,067. Moreover, the amount brought forward was £46,400 larger at £52,268, and after repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. for the year, the carry forward is nearly £47,000 higher at £99,160. That is a very useful surplus of undivided profits to keep in hand, but it would perhaps be prudent to definitely earmark at least half to reserve. Notwithstanding the difficulties caused by the war, the sales of coal were 281,340 tons higher at 2,692,380 tons, but some loss was occasioned by the fall in the rate of exchange. Cash in hand in London shows a decrease of £48,150 at £140,830, but on the other hand there are Treasury Bills (new) for £98,580, and an item of £68,840 appears as cash at bankers in

Brussels which we are afraid will not be readily recoverable. Sundry creditors show an increase of £66,400 at £101,773, mainly owing to outstanding dividend and interest coupons. Apart from £81,937 standing as a credit for expenses of issuing the Kailan bonds, which it would be wise to write off as soon as possible, the balance-sheet looks healthy enough, and under the new régime the company can evidently do a highly lucrative business.

A somewhat depressing story is told by the directors of the Midland Railway Co. of Western Australia, Ltd., in their report covering the 12 months ended June 30 last. Traffic receipts fell off £48,592, and as the reduction in working expenses was only £12,216, it follows that the nett traffic income of £31,935 was just £36,377 down, receipts having been £98,704 and working expenses £66,769. A result so disappointing is ascribed to the drought, the war, and the opening of the Wongan Hills-Mullewa Government Railway, and the report remarks that while the first and second causes are temporary, the third is permanent. As a result of the lost profit there is only £9,451 left, or £39,108 less than a year ago, after meeting the interest on the first mortgage stock. That includes £815 brought forward, which was £4,258 less than the balance brought into the previous year's accounts. All this balance except £612 has been utilised, renewals of permanent way getting £1,721, or £9,548 less, depreciation of rolling stock £4,614, and Federal land tax—the proportion relating to the railway of £8,187 in dispute—£2,047, these entries appearing for the first time. A year ago £10,000 was added to the reserve, and £2,475 provided to meet discount and expenses of debenture stock issue. The setback is thus material, and the company's position is not improved by the story of its land jobbing. As should be remembered, the company is really a pioneer in land settlement, and its projectors counted, legitimately enough, on a large revenue and big profits from the sale of its land grant. Up to the end of June last the sales represented £222,735 of money to come in, an increase of £10,567 on the year, and the company still has 1,777,165 acres to sell. Unfortunately last year the drought not only adversely affected the railway income, but was prejudicial to the sales of land and also to the solvency of previous buyers. Hence the overdue promissory notes of purchasers amounted to £19,093 at the end of June, and it would seem that the management had to renew most of these notes. It has, however, satisfied itself that where renewals were granted they should be to *bonâ fide* purchasers who had made substantial improvements on their land. So poor, however, are the settlers that they have had to seek Government assistance to sow their crops this year, and money thus obtained takes priority over the debt to the company as a charge on the proceeds of the harvest. A cheering note comes at the end in the statement that during the past season plentiful rains have fallen, so that a bountiful harvest seems to be assured. With reference to the above-mentioned Wongan Hills-Mullewa Railway, the dry remark is made that "as anticipated, the opening of this line, unprofitable in itself, has affected the traffic returns of our railway very prejudicially." Perhaps the company will buy the Government out, or *vice versa*, but up to the end of September last the company's nett traffic receipts show a decrease of £9,720, compared with those for the corresponding quarter of last year, and that is not a fact pleasant to contemplate.

Little need be said about the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., now a part of the great P. and O. corporation, beyond a brief statement of its profits, which were £146,390 for the year ended September 30 last, after making ample provision for depreciation. This enabled the directors to pay free of income-tax a 7½ per cent. dividend, plus a special bonus of 2½ per cent., or 10 per cent. in all, and left £15,670 to be carried forward. A large number of the company's steamers have been, and several still are, employed as



transport and hospital ships and in other war services, but the rates of hire are on the same low level as mentioned in the last report, notwithstanding that market rates for freight have further considerably advanced. That is a statement creditable both to the company and the Government, and the only other fact that need be mentioned, for the changes in the fleet are of no special present importance, is the inability of the company to obtain its new steamers under order. Two new boats, the *Margha* and *Masula*, were appropriated by the Government, and four now remain in the builders' hands. The directors, however, hope to get delivery of these early next year. A war bonus to the employees afloat has been granted, together with some further increases of pay, and that also is commendable.

Peek Bros. and Winch being so largely interested in both tea and rubber benefited considerably in the year ended June 30 by the substantial improvements in the markets for those commodities. The profits exceeded those of any previous year in the company's history, and at £43,213 were £22,878 above the total for 1913-14. Owing, however, to the trouble and anxiety caused to export traders by the war, the directors have deemed it advisable to transfer £14,098 or £2,098 more to the contingency fund in connection with outstanding debts in enemy countries, raising that fund to £25,000. A year ago only £3,750 was paid on account of arrears of preference dividend to June 30, 1910, but this time, provided the directors are legally advised that such distribution can be made, they propose to pay a full year's dividend on February 1, which will leave the balance carried forward £5,615 up at £8,358. During the year the balance of the company's holding in Francis Peek and Co., Ltd., was sold at a satisfactory profit, and investments show a decrease of £5,666 at £8,890. Sundry debtors have risen by £138,151 to £322,671, against increases of £53,353 to £110,253 in sundry creditors and £28,060 to £115,114 in temporary loans, while stocks are £14,085 smaller at £154,511, and cash and bills receivable are £5,028 down at £9,841.

In the course of its year closed September 30 last the South American Cattle Farms, Ltd., hardly did so well as we should have expected. In fact, the profit of £62,815 shown is up only £2,844, and of that increase £1,966 was brought forward from the previous year. Debenture interest took rather less, but, unfortunately, income-tax took £3,797, apparently against nothing in the preceding year, and, therefore, after paying the 5 per cent. dividend, free of income-tax, the same as before, £286 less at £5,072 was left to carry to the new year. Movements in the balance-sheet are of no particular importance, and the only fact we need notice is an increase of £5,623 in the cash, making it £8,124.

In one sense, the less said about the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico (Acapulco to Vera Cruz), Ltd., the better. Its board has issued the report for the year closed June 30, but it has no accounts to render and very little information to bestow. A revenue summary, however, is included in the report, which only emphasises the bad times. The year began with a debit of £54,314 on nett revenue account, and it ended with a debit of £295,803. This increase is caused by the year's interest on the 4 and 4½ per cent. debenture stocks and a year's rental of the Mexican Eastern and Mexican Southern Railways, the one taking £104,500 and the other £106,334. There are also £3,683 for accrued interest on debenture stock, and £3,840, a similar charge added to the amount of the unpaid rentals. None of these debts can be paid now. Just a year ago, on December 5, General Carranza issued a decree ordering the Constitutional Government to take charge of the administration of all lines of railway within the territory controlled by that Government. This makes the nation liable for all damage and to indemnify the proprietors for the losses, but when

Mexico will be in a position to do anything towards redeeming its honour and credit no one can now say. Meantime, the directors have no alternative but to beg for an extension of the moratorium given a year ago by the company's creditors. This new moratorium includes, like the last, power to make payments to the Vera Cruz Terminal Co. under the joint and several undertakings of the railway companies serving the port of Vera Cruz. No payment, however, has taken place since December, 1914, and the company is negotiating with the Terminal Co. and its debenture-holders on the one hand and the railway companies on the other to try and reach some agreement. Private advices from Mexico indicate that the company's property is not being properly maintained, that the permanent way has considerably deteriorated, and that some of the stations and a number of locomotives and waggons have been destroyed or damaged. The temporary bridge at San Francisco, some 20 kilometres from Vera Cruz, which was erected to replace the permanent bridge destroyed by the national troops on the occupation of Vera Cruz by the forces of the United States Government, was recently washed away by floods. There is nothing for it but to wait and hope.

Considering the state of depression which existed in Argentina, it was not to be expected that the Cordoba Light, Power and Traction Co. would be able to make much headway in the year ended September 30. As a matter of fact, the chairman at the last annual meeting warned the shareholders that the year would probably be a disappointing one, and, all things considered, it is fairly satisfactory to find that the decrease in revenue was only £2,594 at £78,456. Of this, interest absorbed rather more, but the company was relieved of engineers' fees, &c., amounting to £2,431, and the nett balance, after providing for administration charges, was only £1,784 down at £19,035. With £26,321 brought in, the available total was £1,035 better at £45,356, but the directors have decided to make the dividend period on the preference shares correspond with the financial year, instead of paying the half-yearly dividends on February 1 and August 1. The change means that the dividends now paid cover 14 months instead of 12, and involve an extra £775, so that the ordinary shares again have to forego a distribution, and the sum carried forward is only £260 up at £26,581. Investments in the working companies are unaltered at £478,267, but loans to those undertakings have risen by £6,725 to £1,436,452. Sundry debtors owe £2,530 less at £42, against a decrease of £6,355 to £26,921 in sundry creditors, while, thanks to an increase of £12,000 to £38,000 in bank loans, cash is £12,540 up at £13,319.

On January 1 an issue of £4,200,000 5 per cent. two-year notes of the State of San Paulo fall due for repayment, but under existing circumstances it is impossible to raise a loan in London for that purpose. Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., however, announce that the State has sufficient funds here, accumulated out of the revenue derived from the surtax charged in favour of the notes, to repay 30 per cent. of the amount, and that the remaining 70 per cent. will be renewed for two years at 95. Holders are invited to deposit their notes with Messrs. Schröder for payment on January 1 of £33 10s. in cash, being £30 in respect of repayment and £3 10s. in respect of the renewal, together with £2 10s. for interest due on that date. So advantageous is this offer that the announcement was promptly followed by an advance in the price of the notes, but even taking the value at 99, the return is substantial. The repayment of 30 per cent., and the discount on the renewal of the remaining 70 per cent., together with the coupon payable on January 1, bring the nett cost of the £70 notes down to £63. Allowing for the redemption at par in two years' time, this is equivalent to an issue at 90 per cent., so that the yield works out at over 10 per cent.

It is announced that negotiations have now been completed whereby further funds will be provided for



the development of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Co.—a concern which owns a partially developed mine on the Far-Eastern Rand. This concern, which was controlled by the Henderson's Transvaal Estates, suspended operations in December last year, owing to lack of funds, and it was estimated that £750,000 would be required to bring the mine to the producing stage, owing to the depth of the reef. Promising results had attended development operations, and it has been repeatedly rumoured that the Central Mining group was going to take a hand in the concern. This proves to be correct, for the sum of £100,000 is to be provided jointly by Henderson's Estates, the Consolidated Mines Selection Co., and the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, who will subscribe 100,000 shares at par in a new company to take over the old concern. The scheme will also make provision for the right to create £400,000 6 per cent. first mortgage convertible development bonds. As part of the consideration for the transfer of the undertaking, the Daggafontein Co. will receive one share in the new company for every three shares. The issued capital of the old company is £536,507, but according to the last balance-sheet it owed £107,056, chiefly to the Henderson's Co., for advances.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

Our statesmen ought to be much obliged to King Constantine for his confidences bestowed upon an American journalist. They leave us in no doubt upon his attitude, belief, and intentions. His army was pledged to assist us when the not-too-well managed Dardanelles expedition was first projected; it is now a wing of the German Army. Constantine "is not capable of treachery towards England and France"; it is an "insult" to Greece and to her King, Constantine the Dane, to hint at such a thing, and Greece has no treaty at all with Bulgaria; nevertheless, "Greece must be told the definite plans of the Allies, though whatever these plans may be, she will never abandon her neutrality." That surely is an utterance sublime in its impudence. But it is surpassed by the assurance given to the *Times* correspondent by this King that it is his desire "at all costs" to keep his country "from sharing the perils and disasters of the great conflagration." He could only "consent to proceed to war if the mortal existence of Greece were threatened, or if there were a certainty of victory so great that the rewards would justify the sacrifice." And this shuffling mortal even has the assurance to say that if we—the French and ourselves—are driven back upon Greek territory—it is quite probable we shall have to withdraw there—"his" army will be merciful and protect our re-embarkation for home. He expects us to be beaten, and will not withdraw that army from Salonica. He dare not; it is a creature of the German Army, paid for, or promised to be paid for, by the Kaiser, King Constantine's brother-in-law, Greece having never a farthing to contribute to its cost. Are our diplomatists to go on fumbling around this new proof of German wolf-cunning and malignity? We cannot believe that the French will, whatever our own Foreign Office may be disposed to do. There are no Germans in the French Foreign Office, whereas here not only are there Germans, or people of German descent, but a deep and subtle influence is imposed from Teutonic high family circles, whose tendency is to muffle in sentimentality every vigorous impulse and manly resolution. A little more of this kid-glove handling of the Greek King's treachery, and our own Monarchy stands in danger of being brought within sight of discredit through popular clamour. Greece must be shut in from the sea, her trade stopped, her shipping seized or interned, and the utmost vigour displayed in preventing her pirate or trading coasters from acting as supply agents to Austrian and German submarines or other vessels of war. Was it Greek traders who enabled the Austrians to attack Italian transports off the Albanian coast when carrying supplies to beleaguered Montenegro and stricken, but by no means prostrate, Serbia? It is probable enough.

Anyway, we have had enough, and more than enough, of shilly-shally. In a fight for life we cannot afford to stand on ceremony; still less to allow smooth speech to betray us. Constantine "loves" England, he does; used to spend his holidays here, good man; and he shows that love by betraying the Allies and Greece itself to the Germans. And the man has his defenders here, will have them, to all appearance, should he facilitate the march of the enemy from Monastir to attack the Allied armies in the rear!

Was ever such stage management seen as that of the Prussians in this war! Their ingenuity and resource in finding ways and means to beguile the peoples they are ruining would be the object of our most profound admiration in other circumstances. Even as it is, we experience no small enjoyment in watching the display, because the greater the success the more profound will be the abyss into which the inhabitants of the hell-driven empires will be flung. For the sake of the world's peace the more completely the slaves of the Prussian Junker are swept off the face of the earth the better, and in this connection we are in full sympathy with those who keep nagging at the Government to make the blockade of Germany and Austria-Hungary more rigorous. Nothing must be permitted to come between us and the thoroughness with which all supplies are stopped. "Starve the savages" has been our cry from the first. It is at once the least costly way to victory, in money, and, above all, in men; and the most effective. Thanks to what we have done, the peoples in the two empires are now feeling the pinch of want, and if we act with perspicacity and firmness they may be dying of starvation in hundreds of thousands, perhaps in millions, before another spring has brought new leaves upon the trees. The debasement of their currency alone ensures ultimate hunger for them; it is our bounden duty, and the perfection of good strategy in war, to hasten the catastrophe by a determined stoppage of supplies.

What is true or false about the state of things in Central Europe may be difficult to winnow out, but the reliable correspondent of the *Morning Post* in Budapest more than confirms the reports about growing scarcity in both empires which come through many other channels, and the fact that a "debate" on food scarcity is staged in the Reichstag this week is best confirmatory proof of all that hunger is gnawing at the vitals of the would-be world-rulers. A real debate where free men could unbosom themselves is not to be thought of, but a rehearsed affair where the truth will be modulated to suit Junker necessities had to be allowed, if possible to pacify the empty-bellied commonalty. But even that much could not be risked unless "victory" could be proclaimed at the right moment from somewhere. For the world-subduers it is disappointment and defeat in the West, in Russia, and, for Austria, on the Italian frontier, and only submarine exploits of the dastard kind stand to the credit of the German fleet. In these directions nothing could be laid hold of to help the slave-drivers, land accapareurs, and military bullies who made and who pursue this war, to persuade their dupes and victims to go on suffering and dying in expectation of an early and final triumph.

It might have been a demonstration of despair, but for the Balkans and the Near-East. Ah, there lies the material, all ready prepared, with which to make a blinding picture of glorious success in rapine! By the help of Bulgarian treachery the Austrians—who by themselves had been twice thrashed already by the Serbians unaided—were able to lead German troops and a wealth of instruments of murder—instruments which have been from the first and all through the foundation of German hope and courage—across Serbia. Austrians in the West, Germans and Austrians from the north, and Bulgarians from the East overran the lands of a free people—by surprise, as it were, but not without difficulty and heavy losses—to an extent that gave them the chance to shout "Victory! We have wiped out the Serbian kingdom. We



are joining hands with our ever noble, just, humane, and most wise ally the Turk; we have reopened communications by rail between Berlin and Constantinople; soon our armies will overrun Asia Minor, occupy Egypt, and drive the loathed British out of India. Hoch, hoch, hoch!! Endure for just a few weeks longer, beloved dupes, and you will behold such a triumph as cannot fail to make you forget your vanished fathers, husbands, brothers—forget likewise your hunger." Isn't this first-class staging? We can call to mind nothing equal to it in history. Why, it almost fools us, even us.

This Balkan venture looks indeed the very master-stroke of the war for the Huns, and more embarrassing to us than any single dash for conquest made since the invasion of Belgium. Nothing of Serbia appears to remain. The Government of the kingdom, its army, and a sensible portion of the civil inhabitants have had to take refuge in Albania and Montenegro—so at least the invaders allege—and only British and French forces stand between them and the sea. Even these may not bar the way long, for have they not been attacked by the Bulgarians and Germans, and forced back upon or across the Greek frontier? At sea, too, and in the Danube are not the submarines of the invaders working havoc on the Allies, trying without ruth to prevent food from reaching a hungry, homeless people; and have not the Turks beaten the British-Indian army that had been lured to attempt a *coup de main* on Bagdad? Success! was there ever success like this, complete, universal, without a flaw! But the west? "Ah, well, we shall presently show you how easily we can do in the west what has been done in the Balkans? It may cost you another 300,000 killed and wounded, but that is nothing, nothing at all; the food left will enable those who remain alive to hold out the longer." It is splendid. Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg is going to speak to-day (Thursday), it is said, and we feel we could forecast his harangue. "Peace? Never, until we have conquered the world."

And are things all thus? Is Germany in such pristine vigour after 16 months of the most murderous war the world has ever known? No, not quite. In the Balkans, for example, we are dependent on tainted sources for almost the whole of our information. Greek censors, in German control and pay, are said to overhaul and mould in German interests all Press telegrams sent; Serbia is voiceless, or almost, and the Turk probably leaves all news manufacture to his Teutonic masters. He himself is not by nature an expert, well-disciplined liar. The worst of it is that we are thus without means of sifting the true from the false. All we can be sure about is that even the truth is distorted and made to serve the purpose of the liars. Take this "defeat" or "forcing back" of the Allies from the salient thrust forward by the French towards Uskub in the hope of being able to bring aid in time to the hard-pressed Serbians. A study of the map will show that for the Allies to remain so far from their base would only be to invite outflanking attacks, and perhaps disaster, now that Monastir and all South-Western Serbia has fallen into the enemy's hands. Therefore, it was to be expected that the Anglo-French troops would be brought back, probably within Greek Macedonian territory. For it has been expressly stated that no forward movement is to be undertaken by our troops at present. The season is wholly unsuited for an advance, and the more the enemy is now allowed to exhaust himself in attacks, surprises, outflankings, and other manifestations of his superior skill and energy or callousness of suffering, the better will it be for us when the time of action does come. But the prearranged withdrawal of the French and British troops is trumpeted forth as a "pursuit" by the Bulgarians after victory. The truth is that the Bulgarians who attacked have again and again been soundly thrashed, and at the last reported licking there arose a "panic in the enemy camp, which might have been taken advantage of by us if we had any present intention of undertaking a serious offensive," says the Salonica correspondent of the *Times*.

This example of lie-concoction is of universal application, and we must not get excited over yarns from

Bulgaria dressed up for home and foreign deceiving in Berlin, Sofia, or Salonica. The criminal Empires have well-nigh shot their last bolt even in Balkania. For Russia is getting ready to operate from the North and East, assisted by Rumania, when the time comes, and neither in Europe nor in Asia can much further help be expected from the Turk against us in the Gallipoli Peninsula, where we have just to hold on like grim death until exhaustion brings the enemy to reason and to submission. Remember always that the victory of endurance will prove to be surer for a durable peace than triumph on the field of battle. Why? Because where the fate of a whole nation or race is involved a dragged-out war is necessary to the effective exhaustion and humiliation of the races who began it. Neither Teuton nor Turk when this war is ended must have any room left for vainglory and the swagger of the bully whose insolence is in his armour. The German birth-rate has already declined by more than 20 per cent., it is reported. We should like to see it 75 per cent. down by the time this conflict ends, for with a mind and spirit such as our foes have revealed there can be neither treaty of peace nor truce. The whole morally degraded race must be beaten—by hunger finally—into submission.

A new offensive by the Huns is said to be getting ready against the French and ourselves in the west. We are much obliged for the information. They will find us all ready, and we hope the management of the battles will be such as to ensure us the taking of at least 10 lives for one. The proportion bids fair to be higher even than that away in Lithuania and Poland, where Russia is helped by the cold of winter. As his contribution to the "peace" *revue* in the Reichstag Von Hindenburg has been "doing a brag," but it will not restore the *morale* of his troops, nor permit him to resume his forward march in the spring. The fate of the armies he commands—and of himself probably—will be quite other than triumphant.

To have sent the above to the printer without waiting to see a summary of Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech was not so rash as appears. In the last year and a-half we have used all diligence to repair our culpable ignorance of the Junker mind, and now feel reasoned confidence in our capacity to forecast its workings. The German Chancellor took the line we expected, and used the material for the manufacture of boasts as supplied to him by the German versions of war events with which the world's newspapers have been filled for weeks past, thanks to the "reptile Press" of Berlin. Our bids for Allies in the Balkans were held up to derision, but nothing was said about German astounding offers, promises, and bribes to Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey, or about the demand said to have been made upon Austria to buy Rumania for the Hohenzollern by the surrender of Transylvania. Of course, the stock bogey, England, was dressed up in the familiar style, and even the mild and inoffensive *Westminster Gazette* was quoted to help out the case against her. As for the peace talk, it originated with the Powers opposing the Kaiser's indefeasible right to ravage, annex, slay, and conquer. They are beaten everywhere, and want peace as a matter of course. "I have tried," the labouring functionary wound up, "to give a clear description of the situation in the theatres of war. Against the logic of facts even our enemies can do nothing. Our calculations show no flaw and no uncertain factors to shatter our firm confidence. If our enemies are not yet inclined to yield to facts they will have to do so later. The German people is unshaken in its reliance upon its strength, which is invincible. It would be an insult to try to make us believe that we, who are going from victory to victory and standing far out in the enemy's country, should be inferior in endurance, activity, and internal moral power to our enemies, who are still dreaming of victory. No, we shall not yield to words. We shall resolutely carry on the war, which the enemy wanted, in order to complete what Germany's future demands from us." (Loud and prolonged applause, in which an interruption by Herr Liebknecht was drowned.)



Thus is revealed to us the soul of the German bully. The *mise en scène* was first-rate, the braggadocio flawless—and about the hunger? “We have sufficient provisions if they are rightly distributed,” asserted that functionary. And the wherewithal? Dr. Helfferich, Imperial Finance Minister, tabled a demand for permission to issue another War Loan, the fourth, for £500,000,000, making the total cost of the war to Germany about one thousand eight hundred million pounds to date, exclusive of an unreckoned amount of paper money issued against expectation of indemnities. It will doubtless be again a 5 per cent. loan like its predecessors, and this time it ought to be offered at a premium. Even so low a price as par would look like a slur on the all-conquering might of the Prussians. Have they not overrun and devastated territory enough to be “security” for the debt and warrant for a higher price? As it is all an affair of *legerdemain* there should be no difficulty in “placing” the loan at, say, 105. Did not Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg declare in the course of the debate that “the longer the Allies forced war on Germany the stronger the latter became. Therefore, the more severe would be the peace terms. If Germany’s enemies did not want to see her strength now they must see it later on. France’s terms were reported to be the regaining of Alsace and Lorraine, and England’s terms were said to be the crushing of German militarism. But both these demands were impossible, as the Allies had found already on the battlefields. We stand together, and the terms of Germany’s future must be secured. There was enough food, if not an over supply, plenty of cotton was coming up the Danube, and the supply of copper and rubber were sufficient. Germany was prepared to carry the war into other fields.” So be it; the more “fields” the better, because the more complete will be the ruin of the Prussians. We are glad to know that there is to be no flinching or pause, because it is barbarism against civilisation, and barbarism must be crushed lest we perish. Vaunts like these should be like a trumpet-call for the Allies to self-sacrifice, to loyal comradeship between the upholders of civilisation in unrelenting effort until the day for our peace arrives, be it soon, be it late. How long will the German peoples submit to be the instruments of the brutal and God-abandoned caste now filling Europe with an agony of blood and ruin, because it refuses to believe that righteousness exists and will triumph over the armed assassin? We used to discuss and wonder much; now the problem hardly moves us. The abandoned race, we feel, must be given all possible scope to destroy itself. By all means, then, let it “have another go” at Egypt; that might give time and room for Austrian and Bulgar and Turk to fall out in the rear of the bully or to combine together to stop his return. But at present all that sort of talk is clumsy bluff, designed probably to keep us from reducing our forces in Egypt so as to augment our armies in Macedonia and Mesopotamia.

### Our Foreign Trade in and to November.

It was surely to be expected that some help would be given to our overseas commerce by the stoppage of all German intercourse with foreign nations outside Europe; therefore surprise need not be great at the recovery beginning to be exhibited on our trade returns. The November figures show that imports have risen by £16,129,000, or 29 per cent., that exports are £11,037,547, or 44.8 per cent. up, and that re-exports have increased by £2,670,000, or 47.3 per cent., compared with the same month last year. For the 11 months, however, the exports of British and Irish produce still show a reduction of 13.1 per cent. on the figure for 1914, which means that £53,251,980 less value of our goods was exported; and as our imports show an increase of £153,687,385, or 24.4 per cent., over the same period, it does not require much exposition to enable it to be understood that the balance against the nation remains burdensome; is now, in fact, as our table shows, £350,550,000, or £164,384,000

more than last year’s. Nevertheless, our export trade is on the mend, and we have no doubt whatever that if it were possible to afford the labour necessary to manufacture goods for export, the expansion would be greater still. As it is, the trade of the eleven months has aggregated £1,224,000,000. For the first nine months of the current year, the foreign trade of France has aggregated £321,000,000, and the excess of import values has exceeded £126,000,000.

Furthermore, we must never forget that the rise in prices obscures to a large extent the increase in the volume of goods both out and in, especially that of goods exported. In the import trade, for instance, we have a distinct advance in most articles of consumption, both in quantity and value, but the advance in quantity does not always lag behind that in price, although that is the

#### IMPORTS.

	November.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1914.
	1913.	1914.	1915.	
General Merchandise	£ 68,467,075	£ 55,518,130	£ 71,647,160	+ 16,129,030
Gold .....	4,742,023	704,131	412,691	— 291,440
Silver .....	1,108,600	898,332	977,638	+ 79,306
Total .. ..	74,317,698	57,120,593	73,037,489	+ 15,916,896

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	44,756,188	24,601,619	35,639,166	+ 11,037,547
For. and Col. M'dse..	8,000,619	5,642,977	8,312,703	+ 2,669,726
Gold .. ..	3,805,336	358,362	13,634,610	+ 13,276,248
Silver .. ..	1,042,376	823,056	636,049	— 187,007
Total .. ..	57,604,519	31,426,014	58,222,528	+ 26,796,514

#### IMPORTS.

Eleven Months ended November.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	697,919,935	629,253,552	782,940,937	+ 153,687,385
Gold .. ..	54,588,392	50,067,108	7,999,087	— 42,068,021
Silver .. ..	13,695,206	10,831,251	9,075,884	— 1,755,367
Total .. ..	766,203,533	690,151,911	800,015,908	+ 109,863,997

#### EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	482,134,496	403,951,797	350,699,817	— 53,251,980
For. and Col. M'dse..	99,927,295	89,619,040	91,095,222	+ 1,476,182
Gold .. ..	44,044,028	30,071,352	31,037,749	+ 966,397
Silver .. ..	14,938,464	10,343,094	6,632,799	— 3,710,295
Total .. ..	641,044,283	533,985,283	479,465,587	— 54,519,696

#### VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

November.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports .. ..	74,317,698	57,120,593	73,037,489	+ 15,916,896
Exports .. ..	57,604,519	31,426,014	58,222,528	+ 26,796,514
Excess value of im- ports over exports	16,713,179	25,694,579	14,814,961	— 10,879,618

#### Eleven Months ended November.

	£	£	£	£
Imports .. ..	766,203,533	690,151,911	800,015,908	+ 109,863,997
Exports .. ..	641,044,283	533,985,283	479,465,587	— 54,519,696
Excess value of im- ports over exports	125,159,250	156,166,628	320,550,321	+ 164,383,693

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

rule. Our imports of fresh beef, for example, have increased 7 per cent. in quantity and nearly 20½ per cent. in value, and of bacon the increase is 19.2 per cent. in quantity and 45.2 per cent. in value; but in butter an increase of 32.4 per cent. in quantity is accompanied by an advance of only 36 per cent. in value, and in margarine the excess is only 1.6 per cent. in the rise in price over that in the quantity imported. It is otherwise, however, when we come to a commodity like copper, the receipt of which from abroad fell off last month nearly 18 per cent., while the value rose 132 per cent., and somewhat similar, although less marked, differences are visible in some of the varieties of cereals imported. We have received less barley and oats from abroad, the one being down by almost 60 per cent. and the other by about 44 per cent. in quantity, while the decline in the prices is only 47.8 and 35 per cent. respectively. The decline in the value of raw sugar



imported exceeds that in the quantity received; that is to say, the quantity is 64.5 per cent. down and value 68.4 per cent.; but that is the exception.

Exports are affected in much the same manner, but there is no such rise in the value of cotton piece goods exported as there is in that of the raw cotton that arrived. Raw cotton came in to a quantity 41 per cent. larger last month than in November, 1914, and the increase in value was 100 per cent., just double; whereas the exports of cotton piece goods were only 13.7 per cent. up in quantity last month, and the rise was only 18.4 per cent. in the value. Iron and steel show similar contrasts, our imports being 74 per cent. up in quantity and 125.7 per cent. up in value, while our exports, although showing a welcome increase of 28.1 per cent. in quantity, are only 61.3 per cent. higher in value. The most remarkable change on the month's comparison is the enormous increase of our exports of wool and woollen and worsted yarns. They can hardly be stated in percentages, for a year ago the quantity exported in November was almost too insignificant to count, the value being only £26,245 for wool and £45,536 for woollen and worsted yarns. In the past month, however, £326,122 worth of wool was exported and £370,879 worth of yarn, the expansion in the export of woollen tissues being almost as marked, with quantity up 220 per cent. and value 436 per cent.; that is to say, from £357,000 to £1,917,000. Altogether the exhibit for the month and for the 11 months pleasantly administers hope. Our fleet may win the war in two ways: by starving out the enemy, and by preserving our unrivalled foreign trade.

### American Business Notes.

It does not in the least surprise us that Congress greeted President Wilson's opening address with enthusiastic applause, for in dealing with the treacherous and malignant intruder from Europe he has risen to the dignity and responsibilities of his position. For a long time he hesitated, or appeared to hesitate, to stand up squarely to the German menace, and until the impossible Mr. Bryan was got rid of one often felt that the Administration at Washington was not taking its place amongst the defenders of civilisation in a fashion worthy of its claims and traditions. Now, however, bitter experience has taught both President and Administration that there can be no truce or compact with the barbarian. The Germans have carried their savage war in its vilest form, the war of the suborner and assassin, into the very heart of the peaceful and naturally friendly Republic. "A little while ago," said Mr. Wilson, "such a thing would have seemed incredible, because it was incredible. We made no preparations for such a contingency. We would have been almost ashamed to prepare for it, as if we were suspicious of ourselves and our own comrades and neighbours." Now that the real fiendishness of the skulking enemy has been revealed and is understood, no hesitation or weakness will any more attend the action of the Government, and at once preparations are to be begun to put the Republic in a position to take an active part in the war, if necessary, or at least to acquire the means with which to repel attack. Also laws are to be enacted giving the Government power to inflict prompt and adequate punishment upon citizens who turn traitor, on men who come professing friendship, with the bomb and the explosive concealed upon their persons. The facilities that enable aliens to become American citizens at will will also have to be much diminished.

Happily, the finances of the Republic are satisfactory enough to permit large expenditure to be incurred on war preparations without embarrassment. The necessity for doing so is lamentable, but also unavoidable. We do not like the American fiscal system, because it is based upon a blighting Protectionist tariff, but the proposed new revenue is not to be drawn from increased Customs duties. On the contrary, the proposal is that the income-tax shall be increased and begin to be levied upon incomes as low as £400 a year, and that a tax

shall be put on such products as gasoline, crude and refined oils, horse-power of automobiles, and other internal combustion engines. Whether all these suggestions are in the right direction or valuable for revenue we cannot say, but it is a satisfaction to us to note that the apparent failure of the tariff reductions carried by Mr. Wilson's Administration at an early stage of its existence has not inclined him towards a return to the fierce Protectionist exclusiveness of the old tariff. Last year's Customs receipts were £17,335,000 below those of the preceding year, but still amounted to about £42,500,000, and no new or augmented import duties are mentioned.

For the year ended June 30 last the total available income of the Federal Government was £144,100,000 and the expenditure was £155,600,000, so that the revenue fell short of the expenditure by £11,500,000. It must not, however, be forgotten that the Panama Canal expenditure was met out of revenue, and the shortage did not mean an increase of debt, but only a reduction in the balance in hand, which balance is included in the statement of revenue. It was nearly £32,500,000 at July 1, 1914, and barely £21,000,000 at July 1 last. For the current year the estimate is that, on the basis of existing taxation, the revenue will be £134,100,000, or thereby, including the amount just mentioned brought forward. Expenditure is put at £148,500,000, including £5,000,000 devoted to the Panama Canal. Should that charge again be met out of revenue the end of June next will see the balances of the Treasury brought down to £15,500,000, and for the coming year, commencing July 1, 1916, the outlook is less pleasant still, partly because, in order to meet the wishes of the Government as expressed in President Wilson's emphatic Message, it is proposed to devote about £19,000,000 to an increase in the Army and Navy. Altogether the actual revenue is expected to be £121,000,000 on the basis of existing taxation, and including the balance of £15,000,000 odd brought forward, the total available resources of the Treasury are estimated at £132,000,000 odd. Expenditure, however, including the above-mentioned war outlay and £5,000,000 given for the Panama Canal, is estimated at £172,000,000, so that instead of a surplus at the end of June, 1917, there would be a deficiency of £37,800,000, or thereby. If, however, the emergency taxation now in existence is extended, as it probably will be, including the duty of 1 cent per lb. on raw sugars, the revenue thus obtained would reduce the deficiency to little more than £10,000,000—say, £10,250,000—and should the further taxation now suggested be imposed, and the expenditure on the Panama Canal be paid for by a bond issue, then it may be possible again to expect a surplus. Whatever happens, there seems to be no doubt at all about the wealth of the country in mass, as little that its industries, especially its iron and steel industries, are now in a condition of almost unexampled prosperity, so that fresh taxation of the wisely devised kind ought to be productive. Another proof of the country's strength is found in the stock of gold possessed by it. By last return that was £440,000,000, an increase of about £79,000,000 on the total of 12 months before.

In his Message the President again proclaimed his desire that the Republic should possess a Government-provided mercantile marine, but abstained from reviving his scheme for buying the interned German ships. He did well to be silent on that point.

### MISSOURI, KANSAS AND TEXAS RAILWAY.

In its fiscal year closed June 30 last this company's gross income increased by \$981,000 to \$32,899,000, and working expenses were cut down by \$259,000 to \$22,968,000. This gave an increase of \$1,240,000 in the nett revenue, which was accordingly \$9,931,000, or, including odd receipts, \$10,146,000. Taxes were \$172,000 less and bond and other interest only some \$200,000 up, so that the nett revenue, after meeting interest and rental charges, &c., was \$1,475,000, against \$539,000 for the previous year, when the preferred stock got 2 per cent. For the past year it nevertheless receives nothing, the nett income of \$1,475,000 being carried forward.



### Insurance News.

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that considerable misapprehension appears to exist in regard to the permissibility of British insurance companies communicating particulars of risks on Government work to companies or persons other than British companies or British subjects with whom they may have been in the habit of effecting reinsurances. It is pointed out that anyone so communicating any information that may be of value to the enemy, either by way of reinsurance or otherwise, in connection with insurance upon such work to any other than a registered British company, is liable to prosecution for enabling important information to reach the enemy in regards to works and materials in this country existing or in preparation for the conduct of the war. It should be observed that it has already been found necessary to remove the name of more than one insurance company from the list of companies who may participate in Government insurance on account of failure to take due precautions in regard to the secrecy of particulars of Government work.

The negotiations are still in progress between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and insurance companies concerning the loan to the Government of certain foreign securities owned by the life offices, this being part of the scheme for mobilising holdings of American securities. The scheme for temporary borrowing, which keeps the owners as they were in regard both to dividends and to powers of sale, makes the securities of practical use to the State, while still beneficially in private ownership. There appears to be no excuse for the delay in explaining authoritatively to the public precisely what the Treasury wants done, but the policy of the Government appears to be to get a huge fund of the best American securities into its own hands by a scheme, either for buying or preferably for borrowing them, for future use as collateral for another loan in the United States.

Owing to several rather serious outbreaks of fire last month, it is estimated that the claims to be met by the fire insurance companies in regard to the principal fires which occurred in the United Kingdom during November (only fires being taken into account which caused losses of £1,000 or more) amount to some £366,000, this total comparing with losses of £216,000 in the previous month, and £184,000 in November last year. There were five large fires, which caused damage estimated at £227,000 in all.

The question of the prohibition of life assurance valuations until after the end of the war is still being hotly discussed, and it is clear that those who have expressed themselves as in favour of the arrangement do not speak for the offices as a whole. In fact, there is by no means unanimity in favour of departing from the usual practice, so that it appears probable that those offices which would normally be valuing at the end of this year will follow the usual custom and bring out in due course their valuation figures.

### Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Difficulties have attended the operations of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., in its year ended March 31 last. The very word Persian would lead one to expect this, and shareholders have reason to be glad that the position is no worse. And the profit was £90,431, after deducting interest and the proportion of home expenses as well as depreciation. There was, however, a balance of £26,711 at the debit of profit and loss at the end of the previous year, and this brings down the free revenue to £63,720, out of which the preference share dividend is provided, leaving £7,878 to be carried forward, this including £3,698 received from the Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., under its guarantee. In February last local Persian tribesmen damaged the company's pipe line, with the result that the transport of oil and refining operations had to be suspended for a period of about 4½ months. Also the Turkish Government, before the outbreak of hostilities with Persia,

requisitioned oil and other property of the company to the value of £51,004. The greater part of this is expected to be recovered, but no credit is taken either for that or for the possibility of compensation being obtained from the Persian Government for the pipe line damage. Besides these incidents, the laying of the additional pipe line was considerably delayed by local disturbances, although the refinery works extensions went on and are now nearly completed. The output of crude oil has not been affected by the unsettled conditions prevailing, but progress seems to be arrested in various directions, and owing to the damage to the pipe line, the whole of the production of the flowing wells in excess of storage capacity had to be burnt during the period of stoppage. This refers to the crude output of the First Exploitation and Bakhtiari Oil Companies. During the year £750,000 has been paid up on the £2,000,000 of ordinary £1 shares, and expenditure on the business, refinery tank installations, pipe lines, &c., &c., was £391,364 last year, so the company is obviously doing its utmost to be ready for a larger business when the war devastation plague has been stayed.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining tappers, the Johore Para Rubber Co. failed to realise its estimate in the year ended June 30th, but the crop was still 47,177 lbs. larger than that of the previous 12 months at 140,510 lbs. The gross price showed an improvement of about 2d. at 2s. 2.57d., while, on the other hand, the "all in" cost was reduced by about 4½d. to the very reasonable figure of 1s. 1.80d. After again writing £1,331 off preliminary expenses and providing for depreciation of buildings, &c., the nett profits were £5,295 up at £6,178, making, with £3,524 brought forward, an available total of £9,702, or £6,178 more. Out of this a maiden dividend of 7½ per cent. is paid, and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,303 to £4,828. Expenditure on the upkeep of the immature area was small, amounting to only £1,695, and the total cost of the estates now stands at £63,920, as compared with a paid-up capital of £64,995. Very little of the younger acreage was brought into tapping during the year under review, but trees are now being added as fast as possible, and in the first four months of the current year the crop obtained was 54,100 lbs., as against 39,462 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1914-15.

Although the Tangkah Rubber Estate has not yet reached the dividend-paying stage, it made excellent progress in the year ended September 30. Not only was the crop 99,855 lbs. larger at 289,916 lbs., but the price obtained was 2d. up at 2s. 3.49d., while the all-in cost was reduced by nearly 4d. to 1s. 5.74d. Receipts amounted to £33,197, or an increase of £12,584, and after charging the whole of debenture and other interest instead of only a proportion, £5,248, or £4,858 more, remained as nett profit. Of this one-half belongs to the second mortgage debenture holders and the balance of £2,624 is written off preliminary expenses as against £390 so applied a year ago. Development cost £3,580, making the cost £149,969, but buildings and machinery have been written down by £1,008 and £824 respectively. Stocks of rubber are £3,259 up at £8,838, and cash is £1,066 higher

### THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK

HEAD OFFICE: LIMITED.  
5, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £22,947,804.

PAID UP CAPITAL, £4,780,792. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000.

EVERY KIND OF FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.  
BILLS COLLECTED. COMMERCIAL CREDITS GRANTED.  
CHEQUES AND DRAFTS ISSUED.  
BILLS FOR COLLECTION, ETC., SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH  
THE FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICE, 8, FINCH LANE, LONDON, E.C.



at £2,322, against an increase of only £909 to £16,883 in sundry creditors, loans, &c. Preliminary expenses, before deducting the amount now to be written off, stand at £10,165, so that there is still a fair amount of deadweight to be cleared away. For the current year a crop of 400,000 lbs. is expected.

**DJASINGA RUBBER.**—In the year ended June 30 the rubber crop showed a small decrease of 9,693 lbs. at 118,576 lbs., and the "all-in" cost, owing to the inclusion of .52d. for war risk insurance, was only .84d. lower at 1s. 4.51d. The average gross price was 1.21d. better at 2s. 3.40d., but notwithstanding this the receipts from rubber were £302 down at £13,047. A crop of 147,870 lbs. of tea was obtained, against an estimate of 125,000 lbs., but it cost 1s. 0.73d. per lb. to produce, mainly because the allowance for depreciation was heavy at 2.98d., and 1.76d. was charged for proportion of London expenses, and as the average price obtained was only 10.37d. there was a small loss of about £360. The output of coffee was not much more than half the estimate, and cost 14s. 1d. more at 44s. 10d. per picul, but the nett price rose by 47s. 7d. to 72s. 1d. Nett profits from all sources were £783 down at £5,661, and with a smaller balance of £5,398 brought forward, the available total was £1,328 less at £11,059. Of this £1,722, or the same as a year ago, is written off preliminary and underwriting expenses, and the dividend of 2 per cent. is repeated, leaving £2,161 less at £3,236 to be carried forward. During the year a further 2s. per share was called up, making them 16s. paid, and producing £40,000. Property account was increased by £37,111 to £322,430, stocks were £7,072 up at £11,573, but cash dropped by £12,450 to £1,336, while, on the other hand, current liabilities were reduced by £6,115 to £12,190. The crops for the current year are estimated at 261,000 lbs. rubber, 245,000 lbs. tea, and 750 piculs coffee.

**PILMOOR RUBBER.**—A very good start has been made by this company, which took over a property of 1,036 acres planted between 1907 and 1912, as from July 1, 1914. The crop for the year was 205,930 lbs., of which 7,700 lbs. were lost in the *Troilus*, but the balance realised the satisfactory price of 2s. 4.05d., while the "all-in" cost was comparatively moderate at 1s. 3.96d. Profits amounted to £10,062, out of which £245 is written off for cost of transfer of property and £235 for preliminary expenses, and after payment of a dividend of 15 per cent., £1,755 is carried forward. The purchase price of the property was £50,000 in shares, in addition to which 1,507 shares of £1 each have been issued, and against this property account stands at £50,804. Stocks of rubber are valued at £9,479, debtors owe £1,681, and the company has £3,533 in cash, while it owes £4,591 to sundry creditors. For the current year the crop is estimated at 250,000 lbs., at a cost of 11.1d. f.o.b., compared with 1s. 1.66d., and as the output for the first four months was 93,760 lbs., it looks as if this figure will be easily exceeded. Forward sales have been made of five tons of smoked sheet per month from November to April at about 2s. 4.4d. per lb.

**TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS.**—This company has altered the date of closing its accounts from September 30 to June 30, and the report just issued therefore covers nine months only. During that period attention was chiefly given to testing and developing the Forest Reserve property, on which the number of producing wells was increased from seven to nine, and three further wells are now being put down. The directors say that the success of the wells so far drilled has proved the existence of oil at both extremities of the property on the anticline which runs through its whole length. Owing to the lack of closed tankage accommodation and transport facilities no attempt was made to force the output, but the total production to June 30 was about 17,000 tons, and after allowing for oil used on the field and loss by evaporation and soaking, the open earthen reservoirs contained at that date approximately 13,000 tons. Permission was obtained from the Trinidad Government in March last to lay a pipeline along the railway, and construction work on the line from Forest Reserve to the shipping site at Point-a-Pierre is now being energetically carried out. The option on 100,000 of the 132,500 unissued shares granted to August 19 last was not exercised, but the loan of £60,000 mentioned at the last annual meeting was obtained on January 1 by an agreement which gives the lenders the right until June 30, 1917, to call up to 60,000 shares at par. Since the closing of the accounts it has been found necessary to provide further working capital, and arrangements have been made with the Central Mining and Investment Corporation for advances to be made as and when required up to a total of £75,000 at 6 per cent. per annum, the lenders being given an option on 37,500 shares at par to June 30, 1917.

We learn that the South African contingent now in England has received from the Standard Bank of South Africa one hundred pounds, being a donation to their regimental fund for the purchase of numerous articles not provided by Government. The gift is exceedingly useful and much appreciated.

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having already contributed between 600 and 700 men to the Army, all the remaining men of military age in the London office were attested on the premises on December 1, previous arrangements having been made for the doctors to attend. All men of military age in the various branches of the bank have now received permission to attest under Lord Derby's scheme.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and December 4, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 4, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 5, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	48,900,000	33,411,000	24,056,000
Excise .....	54,850,000	39,605,000	25,758,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	30,000,000	21,633,000	16,772,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,323,000	5,302,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	270,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	116,424,000	21,216,000	11,067,000
Excess Profits Tax .....	6,000,000	—	—
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	62,000	71,000
Post Office .....	34,280,000	20,450,000	18,500,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	350,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	2,100,000	774,312	794,119
Miscellaneous .....	2,430,000	3,891,120	3,995,183
Revenue .....	305,014,000	146,115,432	106,935,302
Total, including Balance .....		229,566,384	117,369,821
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,660,000	2,170,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		224,532,000	48,600,000
For War Loan 1915-1916 .....		35,798,408	9,800,000
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1916 .....		586,316,000	—
For American Loan .....		24,735,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,650,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan: Repayment on account of principal .....		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		292,196,500	96,148,000
Total .....		1,397,220,462	275,867,821
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 4, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 5, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	22,055,000	16,867,507	14,333,520
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,030,000	26,033,012	1,068,201
Road Improvement Fund ....	525,000	694,395	889,225
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,600,000	6,287,053	6,018,526
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,800,000	1,203,208	1,126,693
Supply Services .....	1,510,696,000	925,169,948	229,203,599
Expenditure .....	1,589,706,000	976,255,123	252,639,674
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		2,165,000	2,525,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,300,000	2,350,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		190,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		744,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		104,835	60,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	751,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £197,635,000 in 1915-16) .....		197,635,000	15,020,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Dec. 4.	1914. Dec. 5.	
Bank of England .....	31,428,440	1,613,198	
Bank of Ireland .....	454,055	679,579	
Total .....		31,882,495	2,289,777
Total .....		1,397,220,462	275,867,821

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 344 of 1915, which is subject to revision.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on December 4, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender .. .. .	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. .. .	£325,394,000
Total .. .. .	£335,394,000

\* Includes £197,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.  
Treasury, December 6, 1915.

The Russian and English Bank has opened a London office at 31 and 33, Bishopsgate, E.C., under the management of Mr. A. Kiaer.

Batavia Plantation Investments.—Rubber crops for October, 49,354 lbs., increase 2,025 lbs.; ten months, 550,734 lbs., increase 45,144 lbs.



## IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 3	2,887	+ 119	174,881	+ 9,042
Grand Canal ..	" 3	1,252	+ 287	25,698	+ 1,971
Great Northern ..	" 3	24,290	+ 1,240	1,116,420	+ 23,220
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 3	32,362	+ 348	1,604,300	+ 91,456
Midland Great Western ..	" 3	12,843	+ 410	621,892	+ 10,007

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Sept. *	37,140	+ 8,847	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	Dec. 7	\$1,830,600	+ \$327,900	\$8,044,300	+ \$2735,300
Canadian Pacific ..	Nov. 30a	\$4,104,000	+ \$1796,000	\$53,527,000	+ \$5033,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Dec. 7	154,917	+ 12,297	7,562,687	+ 482,773
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 7	40,993	+ 13,652	1,495,828	+ 118,550
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 7	14,102	+ 4,013	344,258	+ 52,014
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie So ..	Nov. 30a	52,710	+ 30,864	555,769	+ 30,959
Mashonaland ..	Sept. *	52,800	+ 10,539	333,697	+ 154,492
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	5,053	+ 2,359	16,721	+ 9,720
New Cape Central ..	Oct. 30	1,601	+ 89	76,944	+ 670
Rhodesia ..	Sept. *	74,243	+ 4,313	596,013	+ 172,926
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Oct. 7	\$43,239	+ 14,465	\$1,404,667	+ \$333,316

a 9 days.

\* Months.

† July 1.

† Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Nov. 21	880,000	+ 106,000	18,125,000	+ 2,420,000
Chicago G. W. ..	Nov. 21	350,000	+ 48,000	5,917,000	+ 9,000
Colorado & South'n ..	Nov. 7	325,000	+ 2,000	5,446,000	+ 182,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Nov. 21	522,200	+ 94,000	11,000,000	+ 757,400
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 21	1,181,000	+ 203,000	22,489,000	+ 840,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	" 14	881,000	+ 272,000	13,486,000	+ 1,091,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 21	731,000	+ 13,000	12,762,000	+ 607,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 21	1,329,000	+ 172,000	24,709,000	+ 313,000
Southern ..	" 21	1,314,000	+ 150,000	26,252,000	+ 235,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Oct. 30	1,45,000	+ 1,292	5,32,000	+ 14,304
Bengal & N. W. ..	" 30	3,33,630	+ 13,904	12,67,130	+ 6,423
Bengal Nagpur ..	Nov. 6	7,88,000	+ 72,000	2,39,67,562	+ 5,38,428
Bombay, Baroda ..	Dec. 4	13,39,000	+ 1,36,000	1,10,96,000	+ 9,15,000
Burma ..	Oct. 30	3,71,037	+ 32,988	14,04,269	+ 13,964
Delhi Umballa ..	Dec. 4	69,300	+ 5,049	6,74,630	+ 11,641
East Indian ..	" 11	21,42,000	+ 75,000	1,85,87,000	+ 1,74,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	Nov. 27	19,44,900	+ 4,74,600	1,31,17,700	+ 15,46,389
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Oct. 30	31,788	+ 1,713	1,23,069	+ 7,799
Madras and S. ..	" 11	7,55,000	+ 78,573	40,20,000	+ 3,67,499
Mahratta ..	Nov. 6	1,23,883	+ 19,303	4,69,160	+ 22,130
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	Oct. 30	62,964	+ 11,289	2,47,269	+ 18,740
" (Metre) ..	" 30	37,186	+ 3,995	1,40,865	+ 591
Rohilkund and ..	" 30	5,13,891	+ 79,359	27,89,071	+ 5,18,386
Kumaon ..	Nov. 6	7,01,855	+ 2,45,176	21,34,091	+ 2,09,663
South Indian ..	" 30	—	—	—	—
Southern Punjab ..	July 3	—	—	—	—

† April 1.

§ Month.

† October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	Oct.	3,755,000	+ 100,000	4	14,344,000	+ 787,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	600,000	+ 223,000	4	1,364,000	+ 478,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,161,000	+ 1,203,000	4	12,827,000	+ 3,195,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	1,257,000	+ 537,800	1	1,257,000	+ 537,800
Canadian Pacific ..	"	6,579,000	+ 3,258,000	4	17,567,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,391,000	+ 411,000	4	5,645,000	+ 1,451,000
Chicago & N. W. ..	"	2,670,000	+ 568,000	4	9,517,000	+ 376,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Sept.	3,773,000	+ 368,000	3	9,176,000	+ 542,000
Chicago G. W. ..	Oct.	369,000	+ 35,000	4	1,322,000	+ 95,000
Chicago Mil. & S. P. ..	"	3,435,000	+ 751,000	4	12,124,000	+ 1,690,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Sept.	1,401,000	+ 360,000	3	3,323,000	+ 1,052,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	481,000	+ 96,000	3	1,136,000	+ 151,000
Cuba ..	"	411,923	+ 97,247	3	1,248,647	+ 207,939
Do. ..	"	96,989	+ 44,335	3	360,187	+ 155,074
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	833,000	+ 81,000	8	5,338,000	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	840,600	+ 258,603	8	1,477,000	+ 338,000
Erie ..	Oct.	2,591,000	+ 1,215,000	10	15,571,000	+ 4,210,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	2,182,600	+ 1,18,000	10	1,967,850	+ 631,050
Grand Trunk Western ..	"	4,45,100	+ 2,37,300	10	1,176,050	+ 1,134,600
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	1,16,550	+ 1,10,350	10	1,36,650	+ 1,72,050
Gt. Northern ..	Sept.	4,488,000	+ 274,000	3	10,230,000	+ 1,403,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,209,000	+ 130,000	4	4,191,000	+ 144,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	381,000	+ 137,000	4	1,308,000	+ 213,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,370,000	+ 17,000	4	4,639,000	+ 125,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	Sept.	1,019,000	+ 134,000	3	4,000,000	+ 967,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	"	1,267,000	+ 133,000	3	2,850,000	+ 345,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	585,000	+ 35,000	3	1,847,000	+ 208,000
Missouri Pacific ..	"	1,217,000	+ 370,000	3	3,309,000	+ 1,079,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Oct.	5,811,000	+ 2,290,000	10	38,836,000	+ 12,883,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H. ..	Sept.	2,162,000	+ 382,000	3	6,471,000	+ 1,498,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	Oct.	108,000	+ 52,000	4	1,024,000	+ 50,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,064,000	+ 578,000	3	5,702,000	+ 1,735,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,379,000	+ 798,000	4	10,255,000	+ 1,784,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"	10,205,000	+ 3,583,000	11	70,851,000	+ 11,438,000
Reading ..	Sept.	562,276	+ 818	3	1,687,161	+ 18,281
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,194,000	+ 105,000	3	3,500,000	+ 124,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	403,000	+ 100,000	3	1,127,000	+ 27,000
Southern ..	Oct.	1,820,000	+ 820,000	4	6,207,000	+ 1,695,000
Southern Pacific ..	Sept.	4,738,000	+ 829,000	3	13,928,000	+ 3,382,000
Union Pacific ..	"	4,669,000	+ 783,000	4	14,848,000	+ 907,000
Wabash ..	"	933,000	+ 161,000	3	2,346,000	+ 13,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

\* Gross earnings.

† Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 4	Ps. 13,500	—	5	Ps. 599,700	—
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 5	29,960	+ 11,070	11	1,194,835	—
Arauco ..	" Oct. 5	9,225	+ 2,400	11	71,801	—
Argentina N.E. ..	Dec. 4	5,187	+ 113	11	150,553	—
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Nov. *	5,216	+ 1,256	5	55,595	—
Bolivar ..	" *	9,000	+ 4,457	5	39,934	—
Brazil ..	" Sept. *	M3,498,000	+ M107,6517	9	M29,319,000	—
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	M18,337,750	+ M 4,900	9	M272,600	—
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Dec. 4	78,000	+ 4,000	9	1,759,000	—
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 5	118,000	+ 15,000	9	2,048,908	—
Do. Western ..	" 5	54,000	+ 2,000	9	1,038,000	—
Central Argentine ..	" 4	106,600	+ 2,900	9	2,518,600	—
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 4	15,084	+ 1,219	9	259,945	—
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 4	4,565	+ 100	9	82,588	—
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 4	1,997	+ 65	9	42,972	—
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 4	3,080	+ 676	9	41,076	—
Colombian National ..	Nov. *	10,560	—	9	114,802	—
Cordoba Central ..	Dec. 4	27,000	+ 4,670	9	684,100	—
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 16	5,704	+ 646	9	74,943	—
Cuban Central ..	Dec. 4	9,790	+ 3,326	9	178,670	—
Dorada Extension ..	Nov. *	6,900	+ 500	9	85,300	—
Egyptian Delta ..	" 10a	6,641	+ 1,241	9	100,679	—
Entre Rios ..	Dec. 4	10,400	+ 2,200	9	215,600	—
French Santa Fé ..	Oct. 4	81,576	+ 14,083	9	757,768	—
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Nov. 7	Ps. 85,029	+ Ps30,258	9	Ps2,868,950	—
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Dec. 4	14,200	+ 900	9	474,400	—
Havana Central ..	" 4	5,469	+ 301	9	122,331	—
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. 4	4,521	+ 2,373	9	168,843	—
La Guaira and Car. ..	Nov. *	6,750	+ 1,750	9	74,500	—
Leopoldina ..	Dec. 4	28,746	+ 482	9	1,437,086	—
Manila ..	" 4	7,142	+ 1,630	9	416,842	—
Midland Uruguay ..	Nov. *	8,723	+ 999	9	50,743	—
Mogyana ..	Sept. *	M2,395,000	+ M 432,733	9	M174,740,000	—
N. W. of Uruguay ..	Nov. *	\$22,200	+ \$2,810	9	\$114,764	—
Nitrate ..	" 30b	24,680	+ 14,146	9	333,544	—
Paraguay Central ..	Dec. 4	\$483,000	+ \$81,000	9	\$10,459,000	—
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,200,000	+ 947,978	9	M201,50,000	—
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Nov. *	\$757,720	+ \$121,176	9	\$3,857,777	—
Salvador ..	Dec. 4	\$16,280	+ \$1,680	9	\$43,310	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Nov. 28	37,267	+ 887	9	807,853	—
Sorocabana ..	Sept. *	M1,718,000	+ M658,631	9	M124,420,000	—
Taitai ..	Oct. *	17,708	+ 7,538	9	65,461	—
United of Havana ..	Dec. 5	27,405	+ 4,839	9	560,033	—
West'n of Havana ..	" 4	4,886	+ 80	9	108,255	—
Zafra and Huelva ..	Oct. *	11,346	+ 1,694	10	84,319	—

\* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 11 days. § Apl. 1.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Dec. 3	9,776	+ 1,316	460,949	+ 46,965
Dublin United ..	" 3	5,624	+ 93	293,030	+ 10,646
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 2	667	+ 16	43,696	+ 1,82
Lancashire United ..	" 1	1,451	+ 18	83,311	+ 5,143
London Cnty. Cncl. ..	Sept. 22	46,960	+ 4,984	1,095,832	+ 4,285
Provincial ..	Dec. 4	1,867	+ 11	19,056	+ 1,005
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 5	1,372	+ 56	77,133	+ 6,223

a 5 days. † From Jan. 1. \* Oct. 1. § Apl. 1.

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Dec. 2	51,954	—	762	2,449,039	+ 135,179
Auckland Electric ..	Oct. 22b	20,831	—	1,054	83,126	+ 2,001
Bombay Electric ..	Aug. Rs	3,59,089	+ Rs. 7,384	9	Rs27,46,432	+ Rs.67,516
Brazilian Traction ..	Oct. \$	M3,907,000	+ M345,390	9	M37262,420	+ M202668
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	Nov. \$	31,120	—	2,520	338,074	+ 20,853
British Columbia ..	Oct. \$	88,775	— \$	90,348	\$145,167	+ \$470,953
B.A. Lacroze ..	Nov. \$	42,603	—	347	207,402	+ 1,364
Burmah Electric ..	Dec. 4	Rs. 3,611	+ Rs. 16	5	—	+ Rs.5,580
Calcutta ..	" 4	Rs. 67,400	+ Rs. 4,343	*	Rs3,159,523	+ Rs.44,224
Cordoba Light ..						
P. & T. ..	Oct.	13,439	+	535	97,338	+ 2,467
Georgia ..	Sept. \$	334,767	—	\$905	\$276,822	+ \$28
Havana Electric ..	June 20	\$50,050	—	\$2,462	\$1,250,165	+ \$79,907
Hongkong ..	Oct. 30	\$10,804	—	\$1,037	\$483,878	+ \$76,934
La Plata ..	Nov. \$	4,545	—	5	46,836	+ 4,096
Lima ..	Nov. \$	14,661	—	775	149,425	+ 14,748
Madras Electric ..	Oct. 30c	Rs. 25,837	+ Rs. 1,279	10	Rs.644,161	+ Rs.33,427
Manila ..	Oct.	\$59,500	—	\$7,100	\$600,063	+ \$42,404
Melbourne ..	Sept.	\$1,611	—	—	—	—
Mexico ..	Nov. \$	\$215,256	—	\$108,666	\$3,193,106	+ \$107,227
Puebla ..	Dec. \$	\$40,000	—	\$25,600	\$669,500	+ \$44,500
Rangoon ..	" \$	4,886	+	286	39,162	+ 457
Singapore Electric ..	" 23	\$12,052	—	\$2,294	\$496,948	+ \$211
Toronto ..	Oct. \$	\$433,044	—	\$9,944	\$3,948,607	+ \$189,146
United of Monte V.	Nov.	28,407	—	1,326	28,407	+ 1,326
Vera Cruz ..	Aug.	\$82,100	—	\$40,900	\$400,300	+ \$138,800
Winnipeg ..	Oct. \$	\$104,970	—	\$28,127	\$951,570	+ \$471,837



# C. M. & G.

Write for New Pamphlet.

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## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Monotony has been the keynote of the Money market this week, although there were indications that the margin of free credit available was being gradually narrowed down. Each morning it was reported that the demand for credit was a little more pronounced, and borrowers had to pay  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for their day-to-day loans. Balances, however, came out later, which were offered down to 4 per cent., and it may be said that the greater part of the business was done at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Weekly fixtures have been rather harder, and while  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was still quoted in places for such accommodation, lenders showed rather more disposition to hold out for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

The discount market has been very idle, and complaints were rife that with the reduced shipping facilities it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain remitted bills. For two months' paper the general quotation was  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., and for three months  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., but business was done in the shorter-dated bills at an even finer rate. There was a good inquiry for bills maturing early in January, which were in favour owing to the small provision for rebate that will be required when balance-sheets come to be made up at the end of the year, and bank bills of this class changed hands at  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. With ordinary business almost at a standstill, the market has again turned its attention to Treasury bills, January maturities being dealt in at  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{3}{8}$  per cent., and February at  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. A moderate business has been done in Russian at  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. and in French at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. for January and  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. for October. Sales of British Treasuries at the Bank last week were the largest yet recorded, the sales reaching a total of £59,907,000, against £18,325,000 matured, and it was believed that investors who have sold their American securities have been putting the proceeds into these bills. This week the demand has again been good, although the total

will probably not come up to the figure just mentioned.

Among foreign exchanges the most prominent movement was the sharp advance in the French cheque to 27.73 in the beginning of the week, followed by a relapse to 27.68 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Scandinavian exchanges also hardened, but Holland fell back to 11.15 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Spain, after fluctuating between 25.05 $\frac{1}{2}$ -25.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , closed steady at 25.10. The arrangements made in connection with the New York exchange are beginning to have an effect, and combined with the steady selling of American securities has brought about a recovery to 4.72 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Yesterday's Bank return was considered rather disappointing, as in spite of the receipt of £544,000 in gold from abroad the stocks of coin and bullion showed a decrease of £966,000 at £52,273,000. At the same time there was a reduction of £120,000 in the note circulation, so that the reserve was £846,000 down at £34,567,000, and the proportion to liabilities is slightly lower at 24.3 per cent. Government Securities were £3,000,000 up, of which £2,083,000 went to swell Public Deposits, while a reduction of £3,571,000 in "Other" Securities was reflected in a decline of £3,506,000 in "Other" Deposits.

According to the official statement for the week ended December 8, currency notes amounting to £3,879,269 in £1 and £1,287,810 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,067,552 in £1 and £739,826 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £2,377,701 in the amount outstanding at a total of £88,591,700, made up of £65,933,737 in £1 notes and £22,657,763 in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £720,000 were issued and £720,000 were cancelled, leaving £5,700,000 outstanding. There is also an investment reserve account of £734,892 13s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £54,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £11,498,029 11s. 11d. at the Bank of England, while £159,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £249,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

In addition to the demand for silver from the home and Continental Mints, the Indian bazaars have sent large buying orders, and with very moderate supplies available the price advanced sharply to 27 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. The advance, however, induced profit taking on Chinese account, and the quotation relapsed to 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. It improved again yesterday to 26 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. on Continental inquiries, but failed to hold the recovery, as supplies were increased, and the closing price has gone back again to 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 11,50,000 in bills, Rs. 2,10,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,63,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 1,28,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 23,43,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 25,29,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 11 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 7th inst. the total sales were Rs. 10,10,85,435, realising £6,742,299, compared with Rs. 6,36,41,861 for £4,245,093 to December 8 last year.

Mr. H. L. M. Tritton, a director of Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., and a member of the London board of the Bank of New South Wales, has been appointed a director of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 8, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 68,585,765	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	50,135,795
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£68,585,765		£68,585,765

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 32,840,075
Rest .. ..	3,285,537	Other Securities .. ..	92,910,363
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	34,430,405
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	136,983
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,443,879		
Other Deposits .. ..	90,018,941		
Seven Day and other Bills	10,469		
	£160,317,826		£160,317,826

Dated Dec. 9, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Dec. 9.	Dec. 1, 1915.	Dec. 8, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,233,837	Rest .. ..	1,279,501	3,285,537	6,036
45,002,331	Pub. Deposits ..	50,360,517	52,443,879	2,083,362
120,904,048	Other do. ..	93,525,473	90,018,941	3,506,537
17,838	7 Day Bills ..	16,434	16,469	35
	Assets.		Decrease.	Increase.
11,959,187	Gov. Securities.	29,840,118	32,840,075	2,999,957
117,600,464	Other do. ..	96,481,248	92,910,363	3,570,885
54,151,403	Total Reserve ..	35,113,564	34,567,388	846,176
			6,506,494	6,506,494
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
35,751,370	Note Circulation	34,275,105	34,155,360	119,745
71,452,773	Coin and Bullion	51,238,669	50,272,748	965,921
328 p.c.	Proportion ..	24.6 p.c.	24.3 p.c.	.3 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £544,000 in.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January ..	958,887,000	1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,286,990,000	—	308,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,999,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,000,919,000	984,535,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. 3 ..	273,453,000	248,870,000	24,583,000	—
" 10 ..	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17 ..	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
" 24 ..	261,627,000	200,392,000	61,235,000	—
Dec. 1 ..	263,764,000	215,603,000	48,161,000	—
Dec. 8 ..	271,441,000	241,793,000	29,648,000	—
Total ..	12,613,687,000	14,061,565,000	—	1,447,878,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 4.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs .. .. .	National Debt Service ..
Excise .. .. .	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties .. ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps .. .. .	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges .. .. .
Land Values Duties .. ..	Supply Services .. .. .
Post Office .. .. .	Bullion Advances .. .. .
Crown Lands .. .. .	For Advance for Interest
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	on Exchequer Bonds under
Miscellaneous .. .. .	Capital Expenditure
Bullion advances repaid ..	(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)
For Exchequer Bonds under	For Exchequer Bonds issued
the Capital Expenditure	under the War Loan Re-
(Money) Act, 1904 .. ..	demption Act, 1910 .. ..
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	Issues under Section 1 of
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	War Loan Act, 1915 .. ..
American Loan .. .. .	Under Telegraph (Money)
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Act, 1913 .. .. .
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Under Post Office (Lon-
1913 .. .. .	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
Under Military Works Acts,	Under Housing Act, 1914 ..
1897-1903 .. .. .	Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..
Under Housing Act .. .. .	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Under Military Works Acts,
East Africa Protectorate	1897-1903 .. .. .
Loan repayments .. .. .	Under Public Buildings Ex-
Cunard Loan—repayment on	penses Act, 1903 .. ..
account of principal .. ..	E Africa Protectorate Loan
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Deficiency advances repaid
China Indemnity .. .. .	Ways and Means Advances
Ways and Means Advances	repaid .. .. .
Decrease in Exchequer	Increase in Exchequer
balances .. .. .	balances .. .. .
£96,451,383	£96,451,383

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
£	£
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—Japan .. ..
Thursday—Bars .. ..	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Continent .. ..
	Wednesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	" Egypt (set aside) ..
	Thursday—Bars .. ..
	" Canada .. ..
	" Uruguay .. ..
	" South America .. ..
	Friday—U.S.A. .. ..
	Nett Influx .. ..
£1,217,000	£1,217,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 19, 1915.	Nov. 12, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1915.
£	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	49,080,000	46,686,000	46,535,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	246,400	245,400	245,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	13,869,000	12,558,000	12,162,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	6,434,600	6,361,200	6,311,400
Total reserves .. ..	69,630,000	65,850,600	65,256,400
10-day bills and loans ..	920,600	984,800	1,172,600
30-day bills and loans ..	2,464,000	2,233,000	2,087,200
60-day bills and loans ..	3,167,000	2,932,600	3,121,200
90-day bills and loans ..	1,803,600	1,904,200	1,699,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	674,600	575,000	544,800
Total .. ..	9,029,800	8,629,600	8,625,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	2,534,800	2,400,600	2,106,600
Municipal Warrants ..	5,503,800	4,560,200	4,420,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,758,400	3,907,400	3,036,800
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	3,165,400	3,215,000	2,496,600
All other assets .. ..	732,400	655,000	592,400
Total assets .. ..	94,354,600	89,238,400	80,543,800
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,970,800	12,969,200	10,969,600
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	76,999,400	71,863,400	69,212,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,584,600	2,601,400	2,732,200
All other liabilities .. ..	799,800	804,400	629,400
Total liabilities .. ..	94,354,600	89,238,400	86,543,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	79.6%	81.1%	81.4%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	87.7%	88.7%	90.1%

## PROTECTOR



# NORTH BRITISH and MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."

"Low rates a distinctive feature."—The Times.

Funds - £24,000,000.

LONDON - 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.  
EDINBURGH - 64, Princes Street.



## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended December 4 amounted to £59,907,000, or a daily average of nearly £10,000,000. Bills to the amount of £18,325,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £41,582,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£ 10,000,000 *325,394,000	12 months	1916. Feb. 27.	2 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
335,394,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Dec. 5, 1914.
Loans .. .. .	£626,566,000	£627,642,000	£623,626,000	£433,800,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	103,466,000	103,416,000	106,742,000	68,240,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	32,634,000	33,090,000	33,185,000	19,020,000
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	10,928,000	10,626,000	10,124,000	5,720,000
Nett Demand Deposits .. .. .	642,322,000	643,136,000	642,558,000	391,500,000
Nett Time Deposits .. .. .	29,010,000	29,082,000	28,742,000	18,660,000
Circulation .. .. .	7,022,000	7,018,000	6,980,000	14,140,000
Excess Lawful Reserve .. .. .	36,088,000	35,986,000	38,988,000	25,480,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Dec. 5, 1914.
Loans .. .. .	£123,512,000	£123,118,000	£123,472,000	£111,620,000
Specie .. .. .	10,532,000	10,518,000	10,468,000	8,420,000
Deposits .. .. .	128,412,000	128,474,000	129,070,000	110,560,000
Legal Tenders .. .. .	1,974,000	1,906,000	1,894,000	2,460,000

## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 9, 1915.	Dec. 2, 1915.	Nov. 25, 1915.	Nov. 18, 1915.
Gold in hand .. .. .	£197,601,000	£195,100,600	£193,407,720	£192,284,680
Silver in hand .. .. .	14,260,000	14,344,360	14,401,560	14,469,240
Bills discounted .. .. .	12,682,160	12,950,200	11,833,240	11,292,120
Advances .. .. .	25,209,840	23,309,480	22,866,760	22,714,920
Note circulation .. .. .	562,818,840	571,039,760	571,136,060	568,431,520
Public deposits .. .. .	6,233,960	4,072,080	1,713,680	2,250,640
Private deposits .. .. .	117,618,200	107,607,360	106,847,240	104,676,260
Foreign Bills .. .. .	52,200	89,500	48,320	52,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 37% per cent., against 36% per cent. last week. Advances to the State £296,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £35,833,400, decrease £157,280, and at the branches to £38,265,000, decrease £123,360.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1915.	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion .. .. .	£123,628,100	£123,672,450	£123,480,350	£101,778,800
Treasury Notes .. .. .	33,431,050	27,837,250	39,641,800	37,170,250
Bills discounted .. .. .	233,589,500	233,339,700	216,017,500	146,618,200
Advances .. .. .	727,350	632,650	803,550	1,791,200
Note circulation .. .. .	299,970,800	288,243,400	291,647,250	210,268,150
Deposits .. .. .	79,392,350	86,167,350	77,494,050	6,987,215

Clearing House returns during Nov. £222,927,375 against £242,546,610 in Oct.

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 4, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Dec. 5, 1914
Gold .. .. .	£34,755,993	£34,291,515	£34,280,183	£16,957,757
Silver .. .. .	291,152	314,714	280,285	394,443
Bills discounted, &c. .. .. .	13,969,281	13,935,172	14,022,265	25,044,410
Advances .. .. .	727,350	632,650	803,550	1,791,200
Note circulation .. .. .	47,382,130	47,123,440	46,839,563	3,298,048
Deposits .. .. .	3,046,307	2,724,577	2,930,915	1,822,233

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	Oct. 31, 1914
Total cash .. .. .	£54,089,720	£54,275,800	£54,982,880	£49,322,520
Inland Bills .. .. .	20,419,000	19,550,240	20,352,960	32,334,600
Foreign Bills .. .. .	840,160	834,520	835,560	3,179,680
Advances .. .. .	8,049,560	9,365,920	9,283,000	5,667,320
Government securities .. .. .	8,188,360	8,399,000	7,795,880	8,187,960
Circulation .. .. .	115,929,760	114,248,600	113,929,400	85,845,440
Deposits at notice .. .. .	11,920,360	11,445,520	11,360,400	7,401,240
Current accounts .. .. .	27,435,960	16,873,080	16,435,760	11,650,360

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Dec. 5, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£33,737,709	£33,330,147	£32,566,189	£22,614,443
Silver .. .. .	39,113,734	29,764,481	29,547,309	28,121,036
Foreign Bills .. .. .	4,093,578	4,171,607	4,287,654	6,214,618
Discounts and Short Bills .. ..	26,059,467	26,260,872	26,742,781	32,228,469
Treasury Account, &c. .. .. .	26,049,280	28,200,877	28,307,125	28,852,085
Notes in Circulation .. .. .	82,380,394	82,750,385	83,603,694	78,404,531
Current Accounts, Deposits .. ..	27,137,127	26,801,936	26,578,300	23,913,101
Dividends, Interests, &c. .. ..	1,750,105	1,515,216	1,263,045	1,297,924
Government Securities .. .. .	1,991,590	1,962,912	1,270,520	4,909,765

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 5, 1915.	Nov. 21, 1914.
Notes in reserve .. .. .	£7,051,600	£9,346,200	£7,137,800	£9,475,900
Cash in reserve .. .. .	160,518,450	160,316,300	160,366,600	155,003,300
Gold in reserve abroad .. .. .	13,372,700	13,017,300	3,536,200	21,537,500
Circulation note issue .. .. .	518,400,000	513,400,000	512,500,000	290,000,000
Treasury deposits .. .. .	25,061,600	21,137,000	20,672,000	20,862,500

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1914.
Gold and silver .. .. .	£12,113,840	£12,160,141	£12,164,440	£10,329,676
Bills .. .. .	5,605,816	5,234,254	5,198,440	6,844,612
Note circulation .. .. .	17,098,420	16,702,654	17,188,228	16,557,480
Current and deposit accounts .. .. .	2,982,956	2,930,136	2,698,568	2,571,112

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 28, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£6,294,000	£6,295,000	£6,297,000	£5,801,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills .. .. .	7,581,000	7,217,000	6,985,000	2,954,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities .. .. .	2,918,000	2,920,000	2,945,000	1,474,000
Discounts and Loans .. .. .	4,604,000	4,747,000	4,881,000	8,736,000
Notes in circulation .. .. .	15,971,000	16,327,000	16,683,000	15,061,000
Deposits at notice .. .. .	5,296,000	4,760,000	4,319,000	3,787,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 22, 1915.	Nov. 15, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1914.
Gold .. .. .	£3,659,000	£3,693,000	£3,753,000	£2,450,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills .. .. .	3,694,000	3,630,000	3,634,000	1,591,000
Govt. Securities .. .. .	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans .. .. .	4,200,000	4,337,000	4,334,000	6,563,000
Notes in Circulation .. .. .	8,416,000	8,288,000	8,339,000	7,243,000
Deposits at notice .. .. .	1,317,000	1,564,000	1,636,000	1,128,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 7, 1915.		Dec. 9, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	11.34	11.41*	11.33	11.40*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	11.15	11.20	11.14	11.19
Italy .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	31.32	31.42*	31.45	31.63*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	30.87*	30.97*	31.00	31.10
Lisbon & Oporto .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	33*	34*	33*	34*
Do. .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	28.08	28.15*	28.06	28.13*
Paris .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	27.68	27.73	27.66	27.71
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	148*	149*	149	151
Petrograd .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	16.30	17.10	175	185*
Scandinavia .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	16.65	17.50*	175	185*
Do. .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	46	46*	46	46*
Spain (Bnk. ples.) .. ..	Cable transfers .. .. .	25.08	25.18	25.06	25.16
Switzerland .. .. .	Three months' bills .. ..	25.40	25.65*	25.40	25.65*
Do. .. .. .	Cable transfers .. .. .	25.10	25.25	25.10	25.25

Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris .. .. .	chsqs.	27.81	27.45	Antwerp .. .. .	short	—	—
Brussels .. .. .	chsqs.	—	—	Italy .. .. .	sight	30.55	30.75
Amsterdam .. .. .	sight	11.21	11.25	Constantinople .. ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin .. .. .	chsqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro .. ..	90 dys	12.7d.	12.7d.
Hamburg .. .. .	chsqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires .. .. .	90 dys	49d.	49d.
Vienna .. .. .	sight	—	—	Calcutta .. .. .	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd .. .. .	3 mths	145*	148	Bombay .. .. .	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York .. .. .	sight	4.70*	4.71*	Hong Kong .. .. .	T.T.	1/10d.	1/11d.
Lisbon .. .. .	sight	33d.	34d.	Shanghai .. .. .	T.T.	2/6d.	2/7d.
Madrid .. .. .	sight	25.17*	25.00	Singapore .. .. .	T.T.	2 1/4d.	2 1/4d.
				Yokohama .. .. .	4 mths	2 1/4d.	2 1/4d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months .. .. .	5	5
Six months .. .. .	5	5
Nine months .. .. .	5	5
Twelve months .. .. .	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted .. ..	5*	5*
Three months .. .. .	5*	5*
Four months .. .. .	5*	5*
Six months .. .. .	5*	5*
Three months fine inland bills .. ..	5*	5*
Four months .. .. .	5*	5*
Six months .. .. .	5*	5*

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate .. ..	5	5
" " short loan rates .. .. .	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits .. .. .	5*	5*
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) .. .. .	4	4
" " 7 and 14 days' notice .. .. .	4*	4*
Current rates for 7 day loans .. .. .	4-4*	4-4*
" " for call loans .. .. .	4-4*	4-4*



## The Week's Stock Markets.

Such accounts as have come in our way lead to the inference that substantial support is being given by British investors to the French loan. That is as it should be. We hope, indeed, that the support will be not merely substantial, but generous, because the fortunes of France and the United Kingdom are now indissolubly linked together. No misfortune could befall the French armies that did not hurt us, and should our troops be disastrously beaten at any point French interests would be in danger as much as our own. The French War Loan is thus in the nature of a contribution to the war fund common not only to the two countries, but to all four of the big Powers now wrestling with the savage aggressor. And it is an excellent loan on the terms offered. To buy a 5 per cent. security of the Government of the French Republic for 88 per cent. of its nominal value gives an opportunity not likely ever to recur when peace has been restored to the world and the nations who survive have begun to recover from the devastation. We have heard of one subscription of £500,000, and that is welcome, as well as subscriptions for every amount however minute, but even while contributing as largely as may be to our own loan, there must be hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country who could spare £3 4s. to hand over to France. Enough ought to be raised here to relieve the French Government from any anxiety about financing the credits it has obtained here to enable it to purchase war material, and we hope the total will at least make all anxiety on that score superfluous. And look how the French people themselves are standing by their Government, their country. Proof of their patriotism is surely emphatic in the way the gold reserve of the Bank of France has recently been increased. Thanks to the appeal made by the Government, the stock of gold held by the Bank is to-day about £34,000,000 more than it was a week or so before Germany commenced her felonious assault on her peaceful neighbours. There is now almost £200,000,000 sterling of gold in the Bank of France, and in the third week of July, 1914, the total was little more than £164,000,000.

We are glad to see that the Treasury has permitted greater freedom in Stock Exchange dealings with neutral countries. The Committee for General Purposes is authorised to allow transactions for sales in North America of securities which have been in physical possession in Allied or neutral countries since the outbreak of war. This permission is subject to the Committee being satisfied in each case that the sale is an agency transaction between the Allied or neutral country and North America, and that it is carried out through a member of the Stock Exchange, and subject to satisfactory assurances being obtained that the selling order is not on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the enemy, either directly or indirectly. In one sense this relaxation of the rules imposes an additional responsibility upon members of the London Stock Exchange. A certain amount of such securities is almost bound to slip through. On the other hand, the power to carry on an agency business between allied or neutral countries and the United States thus given to our Stock Exchange should help the Allies in wrestling with the exchange difficulty. It may be that a banker, say, in Stockholm, or Copenhagen, or Amsterdam who does not mind the discredit, will smuggle through American securities sold for behalf of a client in Germany or a German bank, but the honesty of the great mass of traders in securities of all kinds may be relied upon to prevent this trick being habitually played, and that honesty must be relied on. Would it not, however, be possible to provide some penalty to be levied upon those who take advantage of the new liberty for the benefit of the enemy? Perhaps the Committee will discuss that.

Business on the Stock Exchange has, on the whole, been reasonably active this week, although the number of transactions has been somewhat below the previous week's total. A disposition to invest is, however, manifesting itself in several directions, and continues fairly pronounced in armament, iron and steel, shipping, and

miscellaneous industrial shares. There is no outstanding display of energy at any point, but the public is obviously keeping a watchful eye on the open markets and is much more ready to buy than to sell. That is as it should be, for no matter to what length the war may drag out, every week should increase, not only the resolution, but the capacity of the Allies to capture, retain, and develop their mutual commerce and their hold over the trade of the world. A time of war, moreover, is a time giving opportunities to make money, as it is called, in a variety of ways. The mere creation of debt and its dispersal of money paid away for goods bought and services rendered tends to enrich certain classes, especially in these days the working classes, and wealth of this kind, however unsubstantial in some respects, should feed stock exchanges with business.

We may note that the Yankee Railroad market has been flabby this week with a downward tendency, never very pronounced, but still definite enough to check selling on British account. And there is no immediate hurry to sell, for the New York exchange is not nailed to a fixed height yet, and further depreciations in it are probable enough, giving rise to spurts in Wall Street prices. The rule is, hold on a flat market, sell on a firm. Nothing at all can be said about other classes of securities worth our space. They are wonderfully firm as a whole, and even the Rubber share market has begun to push up again after the recent weakness.

Except in one or two special sections, Stock markets have been quiet, and in the absence of any inquiry prices have shown a downward tendency. A little demand, however, sprang up for Consols, and as the market is bare of stock, the quotation advanced sharply to 58½, while the 4½ per cent. War Loan improved to 97½ and the 3½ per cent. Loan to 90. Colonial Government securities attracted very little attention, but New South Wales 4½ per cent. stock, 1922-7, was bought, and rose to 96. Amongst Foreign Government securities, the most prominent movements have been in Peruvian Corporation issues, which met with a considerable amount of support, in spite of the poor showing made in the report. The ordinary rose to 4½ and the preference to 24, while the debentures, which were marked down to 80 on the removal of the minimum price, recovered to 85. Brazilian loans were easier, the 4 per cent., 1911, falling to 50, the 5 per cent., 1913, to 60, and the new Funding to 76½, but Chilean 4½ per cent., 1886, was wanted, and improved to 88. San Paulo notes were bought on the scheme for a partial renewal, and touched 99, but dropped again to 98½. Russian stocks, after giving way in the beginning of the week, became steady, but Japanese loans were rather offered.

Home Railway stocks remain in a sluggish condition, but North-Western preference was wanted, and rose to 99½, while the ordinary relapsed to 102½. Midland preferred and deferred were both lower, while Chatham hardened a little, but South-Eastern deferred gave way. Metropolitan and District also fell back, and Underground Electric Income bonds declined to 77. Canadian Pacific shares improved to 195½, and the 6 per cent. notes touched 110½, but finished below the best, in sympathy with the set-back in Wall Street. Grand Trunk stocks, too, failed to retain the advance recorded in the beginning of the week. American Railroad shares were lifted in New York on anticipations of a favourable reference to the requirements of the companies in the President's Message to Congress. The policy outlined proved to be as expected, but it appeared to have been fully discounted, and a moderate decline followed, the only firm spot being Denver common and preferred. Argentine Railways were heavy, and were not helped by the traffic returns, which were regarded as unsatisfactory, except in the case of the B.A. Great Southern. It is reported that drought and locusts are causing damage in the North-West. Leopoldina and San Paulo fluctuated within narrow limits, but United of Havana advanced to 75, and closed near the top.

Bank share continue to meet with good support, but changes in the London group were confined to improvements of 1 in Capital and Counties, ½ in Union of London and Smiths, ½ in Lloyds, and ½ in London Joint Stock. New South Wales rose ½, and African Banking Corporation and Standard of South Africa were both ½ up, but Bank of Australasia relapsed ½, English, Scottish, and Australian and British Bank of South America ½ each, and Anglo-South American ½. Amongst shipping shares, Royal Mail were again strongly supported, and advanced to 105, but closed 1½ below that figure. P. and O. deferred gave way to 290, while Cunard and Furness, Withy hardened. International Mercantile Marine preference fluctuated between 67 and 71, and finished just below the best. Hudson's Bay were quiet and easier at 6½. Forestal Land ordinary and preference were offered, and Duff Development were marked down on the annual report. Otis Steel continued their downward movement, the common touching 42 and the preferred 94, but a sharp rally towards the end carried the common up again to 47, while Canadian Car and Foundry and Dominion Steel were firmer. A fair business was done in Associated Cement, but selling predominated towards the close, and they finished under the best. British Cement debentures were wanted,



and jumped to 90½, and British Aluminium improved to 24s. Aerated Bread touched 3 7-32, but relapsed again to 2½, and Lipton ordinary and preference were offered. Courtaulds rose to 54s. on a revival of the inquiry, and D. H. Evans hardened to 17½. Textiles were quiet, with small declines in Coats and English Sewing Cottons.

The market for Oil shares has been very quiet, but some activity developed in Anglo-Egyptian "B" shares on a cable stating that Hurgada well No. 7 had been brought into production, and the price jumped to 8s. 6d. Shells were steady at 4½, and Royal

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	57½	58½	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	97½	97½
War Loan 3½%.....	89½	90	4½% 1922-7.....	95½	96½
India 3%.....	97½	97½	New Zealand 4%.....	95	95
" 3½%.....	69½	69½	Queensland 4%.....	92	92
Canada 4% 1910-60.....	92	92	4½% new.....	98½	98½
" 4½% 1920-5.....	96½	96½	Union of S. Africa 4½%.....	95½	95½
N.S.W. 4%.....	95½	95½	1920-5.....	98	98
Belgian 3%.....	55	55	Victoria 4½% 1920-5.....	64½	64½
Brazil, 1913.....	61½	60	French Rentes.....	92½	92½
" New Funding.....	76½	76½	Japan 4½% (1st).....	92	92
Chinese 1896.....	95½	93½	" (2nd).....	92	92
" 1913.....	79½	79	Russia 4%.....	70½	70½
Egypt Unified 4%.....	77½	77½	" 4½%.....	77	77
Brighton defd.....	56	55	" 5%.....	80	85
Caledonian defd.....	9	9	London and S.-W. defd.....	24½	24½
Chatham ord.....	8½	8	Do. new pf.....	100½	100½
Gt. Central pf.....	14½	14	Metropolitan.....	24½	24½
" defd.....	7½	7½	Do. 5% New pf.....	95½	95½
Gt. Eastern.....	36½	36½	Met. District.....	16½	15½
Gt. Northern defd.....	39	39½	Midland defd.....	58½	58½
Gt. Western.....	92½	92	Nth. British defd.....	16½	16½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	69	69½	Nth.-Eastern.....	102½	102½
Canadian Pacific.....	194½	195½	Nth.-Western.....	102½	102½
Do. 6% Notes.....	110½	110½	Sth.-Eastern defd.....	25½	24½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.....	93	93	Chesapeake.....	66½	66½
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	11½	Erie.....	45½	46½
Do. 3rd pf.....	28½	27½	Milwaukee.....	99½	100½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes.....	98½	98½	N. Y. Central.....	108½	109½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. ".....	99	98½	Southern.....	248	248
Atchison.....	112½	112½	Southern Pacific.....	107	107½
Baltimore.....	99½	99½	Union Pacific.....	146½	146½
Antofagasta defd.....	124	124	U. S. Steel.....	908	918
Do. 6% Notes.....	100½	100½	Cent. Argentine ord.....	83½	81½
Brazil Common.....	9½	9	Do. 5% Notes.....	98½	98
B. A. & Pacific.....	47½	46½	Do. 6% ".....	101	101
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	83½	81½	Leopoldina.....	37½	37
B. A. Western.....	86½	84½	Mexican ord.....	19	19½
Bank of Australasia.....	108	107½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	180	179
Barclay & Co. "A".....	8½	8½	United of Havana.....	73½	74½
Do. "B".....	11½	11½	London City & Midland.....	72	72
Capital & Counties.....	21½	22½	London County & West.....	16	16½
Chartered of India.....	53½	54	London Joint Stock.....	21	21½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	75½	75½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd).....	25½	25½
Lloyds.....	22½	23½	Do. (£12 pd).....	29½	29½
London & Provincial.....	15½	15½	Parr's.....	29½	29½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½	Standard of S.A.....	10½	10½
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Union & Smiths.....	23	23½
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34½	34½	Forestal Land.....	47½	45½
Associated Cement.....	32	31½	Furness, Withy.....	34½	34½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	37½	37½	Hudson's Bay.....	61½	61½
Borax defd.....	25½	25½	Imperial Tobacco pf.....	22½	22½
Bovril.....	20½	20½	Do. defd. 'A'.....	35½	35½
Brazil Traction.....	55½	55½	Kynochs.....	30½	29½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	69½	69½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20½	21½
Brown (John) & Co.....	27½	28½	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brunner, Mond.....	41½	41½	Marconi.....	18	18
Cammell-Laird.....	41½	41½	Maypole Dairy defd.....	24½	24½
Casner-Kellner.....	58½	60½	Mond Nickel ord.....	3½	3½
Coats.....	5½	5½	National Steam Car.....	11½	12½
Cunard.....	70½	72½	Pears, A. & F.....	2	2
Dennis Bros.....	27½	27½	P. & O. defd.....	29½	29½
Dorman, Long.....	24½	24½	Royal Mail.....	99	103½
Eastmans.....	71½	71½	South Durham Steel.....	25½	26½
English Sewing Cotton.....	34½	33½	Underground Inc. Bds.....	78½	77
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	24½	25½	Vickers.....	33½	33½
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	6½	8½	Mexican Eagle pf.....	18	18
Baku (ros.).....	2½	2½	North Caucasian.....	24½	23½
Burmah.....	4	3½	Roumanian Cons.....	13½	13½
Lobitos.....	32½	33½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	46½	46½
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3½	3½	Shell.....	48	48
Maikop Pipeline.....	4½	4½	Spies (10/-).....	12½	12½
Mexican Eagle.....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian.....	18½	18½
Anglo-Malay.....	10½	10½	Linggi.....	17½	18½
Batu Caves.....	12	12	London Asiatic.....	6½	6½
Bukit Mertajam.....	2½	3	Malacca.....	48	48
Bukit Sembawang.....	2½	2½	Malayalam.....	22½	22½
Damansara.....	3½	3½	Merlimau.....	49½	49½
Gula Kalumpung.....	19	19	Rubber Trust (15 pd.).....	14½	14½
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	10½	10½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	17½	17½	Vallambrosa.....	15½	15½
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	7½	7½	De Beers defd. (£2 ros.).....	11½	11½
Brakpan.....	38	38	East Rand.....	17½	17½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	48½	48½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15½	15½
Cam & Motor.....	14½	14½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	6½	6½
Chartered.....	10½	11½	Do. Deep.....	5½	5½
City Deep.....	38½	38½	New Modder (£4).....	15½	15½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	5½	5½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½	2½

Dutch finished at 46½, after touching 46½. Burmah rose to 4, but closed a fraction lower. Interest in rubber shares showed signs of reviving on the recovery in the price of the commodity, and a good deal of attention was given to the Java undertakings under the lead of Anglo-Java, while Djember, Kaurie Java, Sampang, Soember Ajoe, and Telgoredjo all met with support. United Sumatra, Bukit Sambawang, United Temiang, Kamuning, and Tandjong were also in some demand, but Malacca continued dull.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., has been elected a trustee of the General and Commercial Investment Trust, Ltd.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

Under the exigencies of war and continued difficulty to secure adequate tonnage in certain directions, market movements still show irregularity, though there is a fair amount of business stirring on the whole. With regard to provisions, butter experienced a quieter market, but rates maintain a firm level, especially for the finer qualities, and it is really surprising that the position has not been more affected by the brisk run upon margarine. Common kinds of butter are in plentiful supply, principally of the Russian variety, and so far trade for such has been very difficult to effect, while it is generally anticipated that the bulk will be sold eventually for mixing purposes.

**SUGAR.**—No new feature crept into the situation, a fair amount of trade being concluded, while prices remain at a fixed tendency under Government control. American granulated, spot, found buyers at 32s. 6d., and white Java, as to sample, 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d.

**COFFEE.**—Market keeps very quiet, and moderate supplies submitted to auction encountered a poor demand, so that the bulk of offerings was bought in. Terminal market rather featureless, and trade limited.

**TEA.**—There was quite a steady tone about the market this week the fact of large crops in India being counteracted by fears of shipments being curtailed in the future owing to lack of sufficient tonnage. 50,000 packages Indian, 24,000 packages Ceylon, and 4,600 packages Java were offered.

**COCOA.**—This market developed extreme quietness during the week, and in auction, on Tuesday a fair assortment was bought in under entire lack of support. It would appear that manufacturers have adequately supplied themselves against all contingencies for the time being and were not to be tempted to purchase, even at a substantial reduction.

**RICE.**—Market keeps very firm owing to the position of freights. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, February-March, sold 13s. 3d. to 13s. 4½d., c.f. and i., London.

**FIBRES.**—Jute advanced under stiff Calcutta cables, and fair disposition to operate. Native first marks, January-February, London, sold £27; Daisee No. 2, December-January, Dundee, at £24 5s. to £24 10s. as to mark, and lightning assortment to London £23 to £23 5s. Hemp quietly steady. Coarse, January-March, sold £35; and brown, £33. New Zealand unaltered.

**SHELLAC.**—Market firm, and T.N., December, sold, 76s. to 79s.; March, 79s. to 81s.; and May, at 81s. to 82s.

**RUBBER.**—Irregular movements again governed this market, while at certain periods business proceeded quietly. Plantation, spot, crêpe, sold 3s. 5½d. to 3s. 6½d., and 3s. 6d.; December, ditto, January, 3s. 5d. Ribbed smoked sheet, 3s. 5d. to 3s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, December-January, sold 2s. 11½d.; and February-March, 2s. 11½d.

**COPRA.**—After opening the week quietly at a general decline, a steadier tone ensued.

**WOOL.**—The eighth and final series of public sales for the current year opened on Tuesday before a fair attendance of buyers. A brisk demand prevailed and merinos showed an advance of 7½ to 10 per cent., while crossbred appreciated to the extent of 10 per cent. Total net first-hand stock available amounts to 104,000 bales, also 5,000 Punta Arenas and Falkland Islands, and 600 bales River Plate.

**CORN (Mark Lane).**—Fresh advances were established at market since last Monday, but the volume of business in progress showed no expansion, while many country buyers were attracted by the Islington Cattle Show. Wheat, English: Whites, delivered up, quoted at 56s. 6d. to 59s. 6d.; and reds, 56s. to 59s. per qr. 504 lbs., according to quality. Of imported descriptions: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 62s. 6d., ex ship; and No. 2, ditto, 61s. 6d. Durum, No. 1, 59s. 6d., ex ship. Indian, No. 2 Club Calcutta, about 62s., landed terms. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents up to 48s., and Canadian export patents 47s., landed. Grinding barley: Plate, ex ship, nominal, and 42s., landed. Maize: La Plata (sound), 41s. 3d., ex ship, and 42s. to 42s. 3d., landed. Oats: Plate, 30s. 6d. to 31s. 6d., landed; No. 2 white clipped American, 31s. 6d., ex ship.

**METALS.**—Copper: Sellers were more in evidence since last Monday, while the standard market continued to follow a downward course until the middle of the week, the turnover being on a very moderate scale. Cash delivery declined to £76 10s. and three months' to £77. There was an absence of any further advices of a stimulating character from America. At Thursday's session values of the above positions left off at £77 and £77 12s. 6d. respectively. Tin: An irregular and easier tendency prevailed until the middle of the week, with a scarcity of buyers and fair offerings at intervals, standard, on spot, moving down to £166 and three months' to £166 10s. Dealings were on a limited scale at Thursday's session, and prices of the above, prompt, left off at £166 15s. and £166 respectively. Lead quiet. Foreign, £28 5s. to £27 5s., as to position. Spelter lower. December, g.o.b. officially quoted at £82, and January at £71. Iron lower.

**TALLOW.**—Market quiet. Near parcels, afloat, nominal. At public sale, 317 tons of better coloured and 221 tons of inferior were offered. 11 tons of the former and 53 of the latter sold at 1s. per cwt. decline for inferior sorts. Australian mutton: fine, 53s.; fair to good, 52s. to 52s. 6d.; dark to dull, 46s. 3d. to 49s.; hard, 53s. Beef: sweet, 53s.; fine, 52s. 6d.; fair to good, 50s. to 52s. dark to dull, 47s. to 48s. 6d. Market letter unchanged. Town tallow, 45s. 6d.; melted stuff, 32s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 11½d. per 8 lb.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has presented a decidedly strong appearance throughout the past week, but business has not been active, and in many sections the turnover has been very disappointing. Owing to



the hardening tendency in raw cotton rates, and the high cost of production in both spinning and weaving, producers are forced to hold out for top rates so as to prevent serious losses being entailed. Yarns continue more favourably situated than piece goods. The congestion on the railways is a very serious matter, and no relief appears to be in sight. Certain grades of American cotton are scarce in Liverpool, and owing to high freight charges imports from the United States are not easily arranged. Some rather low estimates of the American crop have been published, and according to the ginning returns it looks as though the yield will only be about 11,500,000 bales. There is no particular development with regard to the Egyptian growth. The general demand in cloth has been disappointing.

## CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 10, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Australian	1 6 2 3	1 3 3 0
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Merino	2 1 10	1 6 2 0 1/2
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	0 6 1 7 1/2	0 7 1 7 1/2
Lytle's granulated	32 3—32 9	32 3—32 9	Greasy Merino	0 7 1 6 1/2	0 6 1 8 1/2
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 0 1 6 1/2	1 0 1 5 1/2
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	1 0 1 1 1 1/2	2 1 2 9
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	1 0 1 6 1/2	1 0 1 5 1/2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 0 1 6 1/2	1 0 1 5 1/2
prompt	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1 6 2 8 1/2	1 6 2 5 1/2
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> —lb		
India	29 3—31 9	29 3—31 9	Plantation	0 3 6	0 3 6
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 3 6	0 3 6
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
1/2 lb.			Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 6 1 1 1/2	0 7 1 1 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 7 1 1 1/2	0 7 1 1 1/2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 7 1 1 1/2	0 7 1 1 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 8 1 1 1/2	0 10 1 1/2	Stearns, best	19 3—19 6	20 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 6 0 10 3	0 6 0 10 3	Seconds	16 0—17 0	17 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 7 0 11 3	0 7 0 11 3	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 7 1 0 3	0 8 1 0 3	English Pig	29 0 0	28 10 0
Orange	0 7 1 0 3	0 8 1 0 3	Foreign soft	28 0 0	27 15 0
Broken	0 8 1 0 3	0 9 1 0 3	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per		
Pekoe Souchong	0 7 0 10 0	0 7 0 9 2	bottle firsthand	£168—£168	£168—£168
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.			<b>Tin</b> —per ton		
duty 1 1/2 per lb.	s. s. s.	s. s. s.	English Ingots	£168—£168	£168—£168
Trinidad—per cwt.	90 0—97 0	90 0—96 0	Do. bars	£168—£168	£168—£168
Grenada	84 0—92 0	83 0—91 0	Standard cash	£168 10 0	£166 15 0
West Africa	79 0	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	22/	23/
Ceylon Plantation	78 0—92 0	77 0—91 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Guayaquil Arica	92 0—95 0	90 0—94 0	English, Tough	£98—£99	£97—£98
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			per ton	£97—£98	£96—£97
duty 2 1/2 per cwt.			Best Selected	£112	£112
East India	56 0—94 0	56 0—94 0	Sheets	£78 10 0	£76 12 6
Jamaica	53 6—120 6	52 0—120 6	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Costa Rica	53 0—78 0	53 0—76 0	Native firsts for	£26 15 0	£27 2 6
<b>Provisions</b> —			sh'pmt. Dec.-Jan.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Butter</b> , per cwt.			Linseed, per ton.	£322—£332	£342—£352
Australian finest	160/—168/	160/—164/	Rape, ref. English	£43 10 0	£44 10 0
Irish Creameries	160/—168/	156/—168/	barrels	£40	£40
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Brown English	£35 10 0	£37
Russian finest	130/—140/	130/—140/	naked	£35 10 0	£37
Normandy baskets	150/—154/	150/—154/	Cott'n Seed, crude	£36 1/2—£43	£37 1/2—£43
Danish finest	180/—182/	174/—178/	Ditto, refined	rod.	rod.
Brittany rolls	15 0—18 0	14 6—18 0	Petroleum Oil, per	rod.	rod.
doz. lb.			8 lbs.	rod.	rod.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Water White	rod.	rod.
Irish	96 0—103 0	94 0—103 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	rod.	rod.
Continental	94 0—103 0	94 0—103 0	Calcutta—per 41	3 6 6	3 10 0
Canadian	86 0—95 0	86 0—93 0	lbs., Oct.-Nov.	3 7 6	3 7 6
American	80 0—90 0	81 0—87 0	Rape, Guzerat	3 12 3	3 14 2
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Irish	126/—144/	128/—144/	Cleveland Cash	3 12 3	3 14 2
Canadian	102/—106/	100/—104/	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty,		
American	56 0—102 0	68 0—102 0	unmanufactured	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			5/6 to 6/2 1/2 per lb.	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
Edam	nom.	nom.	Maryland & Ohio	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
Canadian	90 0—92 0	91 0—93 0	per lb. bond	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
English Cheddar	92 0—102 0	92 0—102 0	Kentucky leaf	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
New Zealand	78 0—84 0	90/	Havana	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
Garden Siam	14 6	14 6	Cigars, duty 10/6	2 0	2 0
spot	14 6	14 6	per lb.		
Rangoon 2 stars	14 9—15 0	14 9—15 0	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Danish	130/—150/	130/—150/
Dutch	28 0—32 0	27 0—30 0	Memel Fir, per	280/—600/	280/—600/
Russian	15 6—19 0	16 0—19 0	load		
Danish	27 6—29 0	27 6—30 0	Indian Teak	47	48/
<b>Copra</b> —			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Malabar, London	31 17 6	31 10 0	Town household	up to 48/6	up to 48/6
Ceylon, London	31 15 0	30 10 0	official		
South Sea	29 10 0	28 0	American, 1st pat.	2 6 0	2 5 9
M.F.S. Straits	30 15 0	29 0	tents		
			<b>Spelter</b> —		
			G.O.B. as to posi-	£89—£79	£78—£68
			tion		

Buyers and sellers of grey staples for India show few signs of getting any nearer together for lots of any quantity, and in some cases the bids are more impracticable than a week ago. Further buying in light fabrics has occurred in some quarters, and Madras has given rather increased support in jaconettes and mulls. At the end of last week a little more activity showed itself for China, owing to certain needy sellers accepting low figures, but further buying has been checked by the hardening in rates during the last few days. The business passing for most of the minor outlets has been featureless. Manufacturers have met with few opportunities of booking fresh orders, but here and there stock lots of fair dimensions have changed hands.

Some producers of printing cloths continue fairly well under contract. No freer movement can be recorded in T-cloths and Mexicans. The home trade continues rather quieter. Prices in American yarns are on a higher level than at any time since the beginning of the war, and users hesitate to purchase freely under the circumstances. Small lots, however, have been sold for quick delivery at top rates, and some re-selling has occurred at prices which show a good profit. Stocks in first hands are practically unknown in the finer numbers of wefts. There has not been any particular activity in shipping counts. Bolton spinnings have been firm, with fair sales from day to day.

## The Week in Mines.

The tone of the mining markets this week has again been quite cheerful on the whole, and a fair amount of business has been transacted. As was the case last week, Far Eastern Rand and Broken Hill shares have attracted the bulk of attention, but profit-taking has checked the advance in a number of these shares. There have been several other interesting movements, particularly in Tanganyikas, Ashanti Goldfields, and Canadian Minings and the Alaska group, but the base metal shares have reacted somewhat on the relapse in the price of copper and tin.

## SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Further buying on Cape account has kept the South African market fairly busy and quite cheerful, especially as the dividends to be announced this month are expected to make a good showing. About the middle of this week, however, profit-taking caused a reaction in prices, and Springs Mines are back to 35s. 6d., and the options to 16s. Daggafonteins, after rising to 9s. 10 1/2 d., reacted to 8s. 9d., and Henderson's to 3s. 6d. On the other hand, City Deeps and Brakpans have been largely bought, partly on Cape account, and close 7-32 and 1-32 higher respectively at 3 21-32 and 3 1/2. Rand Mines have risen 1/2 to 4 1/2, Central Minings to 6 1/2, Gedulds to 36s., Randfontein Estates to 16s., Knight Centrals to 12s. 3d., Consolidated Mines Selections to 13s. 6d., East Rand Mining Estates to 8s. 6d., Van Ryn Deeps to 2 1/2, and Rand Klips to 5s. 9d. Village Main Reefs, however, fell 5-32 to 1 on the passing of the final dividend. Diamonds have been firmer, with De Beers deferreds at 11 1/2, and Premier deferreds at 4 7/8. Marked activity developed in Tanganyikas on Cape and American buying; the price rose from 1 7/8 to 1 1/2, but then reacted to 1 25-32 on sales to secure profits. Cam and Motors advanced from 14s. 3d. to 14s. 9d. on the report, which states that there has been an advance on previous results due to the reorganised plant. Developments at depth are encouraging, and the only requirement for considerably increased profits is a sufficient supply of white labour. Charteredds have improved to 11s. 6d. Among the colliery companies, Welgedachts have been in steady request, and are up to 16s. 6d.; a satisfactory impression was produced by the statements at the meeting as to the position of the company's interests. In the West African market Ashanti Goldfields rose to 18s. 6d., being well supported on the report.

## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have moved irregularly in sympathy with American advices. Anacondas touched 18 1/2, but relapsed to 18 1/2, and Utahs fell from 16 1/2 to 16 1/2. Rio Tintos have fallen further to 54 1/2. Mount Lyells were bought, and advanced to 25s. 9d., and Hampdens hardened to 28s. 9d. on the report. Tin shares have been quietly dull. The Alaska group has been strong on renewed talk of amalgamation; Treadwells have risen to 6 1/2, Mexicans to 1 1/2, and Uniteds to 3 1/2. St. John del Reys strengthened to 16s. 9d. on the report, and Colonial buying caused a fresh advance in Canadian Minings to 11s. 6d. In the Australasian section Lake View and Stars were dull at 4s. on the reduction in the final dividend from 6 to 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. against 16 for the whole year. The decrease is attributed to higher expenses, and to a serious loss of gold by theft in September. Kalgurllis were also dull at 25-32 on the report, but Cock's Pioneers jumped 4s. to 16s. on the declaration of a



maiden dividend. Mexican mines have been neglected, and in the Indian group Champion Reefs declined to 9s. 6d. on the unfavourable references to developments on the report.

Broken Hill shares have been active and strong. Proprietarys have changed hands up to 50s., and close at 49s. 6d.; Norths have risen  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $2\frac{1}{8}$ , and Block Tins to 20s. Zinc Corporations are better at 14s.

### MINING NEWS.

**ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS.**—The income for the year ended June 30 rose by £4,851 to £452,799, expenses declined by £9,073, notwithstanding that 13,369 more tons were crushed, the result being that the profit was £13,924 higher at £159,656. Three dividends, amounting to 68s. per cent. (2s. 9d. per share), have again been paid, and £70,199 is carried forward. Despite the enhanced cost of stores, freight, and insurance, due to the war, the reduction in working costs and charges was equal to 4s. 10d. per ton treated. Reserves of ore at September 30 were estimated at 433,900 tons, of a gross value of £1,986,000 and a profit value of £829,700. These figures show increases of 1,400 tons, £189,000, and £176,600 respectively. The programme of output recommended for the coming year provides for profit-earning at the accustomed rate of £150,000 per annum.

**CAM AND MOTOR.**—The accounts for the year ended June 30 show a working profit of £45,086, from which are deducted various charges, including depreciation, leaving a nett profit of £15,513, which, added to the amount brought in, makes £16,210, which is to be carried forward. During the period 142,702 tons were treated for a yield of £222,067. Reserves of ore at the Motor mine on June 30 were estimated at 739,844 tons, as against 867,032 tons at June 30, 1914. Working costs declined from 26s. 3d. per ton to 24s. 9d. per ton, and since the new plant began working, much better extraction results have been obtained.

**IDA H.**—In the year ended June 30 the gold production increased from £53,559 to £57,637. Working costs, however, rose from 40s. 3d. to 45s. 2d. per ton, but they are now expected to decline. The sum of £3,557 is written off plant and machinery account, expenditure on shaft sinking to June 30, 1914, £3,216, has been debited to profit and loss account, and the year's development expenditure, £7,431, has also been written off. Thus the nett profit is lower by £4,473 at £4,701, which, added to the sum brought in, makes £9,059. A dividend of 3d. per share is proposed, against 6d. last year, but the market was pleasantly surprised to learn that there was to be any distribution at all.

**ST. JOHN DEL REY.**—The report for the half-year ended August 31 states that the tonnage crushed was approximately the same as that for the preceding six months, but the produce showed an increase of £3,872 at £236,520, in consequence of a slight improvement in the bullion contents of the mineral treated. The profit for the half-year was £79,718, as compared with £60,074 in the same period of 1914. It is proposed to pay the same interim dividend as was paid in December last, namely, 9d. per share, less tax; £25,000 is transferred to capital works account, and the amount carried forward is raised from £8,174 to £24,252, out of which the excess profits tax will have to be met.

**YUANMI GOLD.**—The profit and loss account for the year ended June 30, after charging £13,046 for depreciation, £4,568 for expenditure on abandoned options, £11,894 for development expenditure, and £2,871 for income-tax, shows a debit balance of £6,379, as compared with a credit of £11,880 last year. Deducting the credit balance of £2,738 brought forward, there is a debit of £3,640 to be carried forward. No dividend is paid, whereas last year 1s. per share was paid. At the Yuanmi Mine costs were no less than 7s. 6d. per ton higher at 27s. per ton, owing mainly to the large proportion of sulphide ore treated and a falling-off in the supply of oxidised ore.

**CENTRAL CHILI COPPER.**—The report for 1914 states that the price realised fell from £68 5s. to £59 10s. per ton, and operations resulted in a loss of £5,599. After deducting the credit of £4,734 brought in, and allowing for depreciation, &c., a total debit of £8,442 is shown, to which is added £19,432, the balance written off extraordinary exploration account.

**DOLCOATH TIN.**—The company's position shows signs of improving. The return for the four weeks to November 20 shows that the management apparently took advantage of the increased price of tin to raise the output, which amounted to 69 tons of block tin, which realised £7,240, the average prices realised being £97 13s. for block tin and £63 10s. for slimes. All these figures show an appreciable increase on those for the preceding three months.

**MORDEY, CARNEY AND CO., LTD.**—Profits for the year ended September 30 were £6,183 up at £9,551, and with £1,062 brought in gave an available total of £10,613, or £6,482 more. Out of this a dividend of 5 per cent., tax free, is paid, compared with nothing for the previous 12 months, and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,604 to £2,665. Expenditure on the property only amounted to £1,026, making the total £126,928, while the Windsor slipway account has been reduced by £3,742 to £15,000. Stocks and work in progress, less £2,000 received on account, are £1,449 higher at £0,553, debtors owe £2,545 more at £11,746, against an increase of £2,216 to £7,977 in sundry creditors, while cash and bills have risen by £6,166 to £14,423.

### MINING RETURNS.

**Abosso.**—9,464 tons, producing £13,597, or 28s. 8.8d. per ton crushed (Oct. profit, £3,773).

**Balaghat.**—2,900 tons, 1,210 ozs. bar gold; tailings, 261 ozs.; total, 1,471 ozs., equal to 1,342 ozs. fine gold (Oct. 1,339 ozs.).

**Brakpan.**—60,900 tons, £87,862; profit, £52,330.

**Bullfinch Proprietary.**—6,100 tons, yielding £8,025; profits, £3,000.

**Bantjes Consolidated.**—20,780 tons, £22,120; profit, £130 (Oct., £759).

**Crown.**—211,000 tons, £266,153; profit, £81,776 (Oct., £97,331).

**City and Suburban.**—27,100 tons, £47,840; profit, £20,110 (Oct., £20,538).

**Cam and Motor.**—Total gold recovered, £19,273; profit, £2,973; increase in costs due to reduced roasting plant tonnage and increased treatment costs.

**Champion Reef.**—17,053 tons, 9,408 ozs.; sand and slimes, 1,917 ozs.; total, 11,325 ozs., equal to 10,366 ozs. fine gold.

**City Deep.**—61,000 tons, £121,408; profit, £60,440 (Oct., £60,501).

**Durban Roodepoort Deep.**—25,700 tons, £34,361; profit, £4,462 (Oct., £5,664).

**East Rand Proprietary.**—187,700 tons, 54,126 ozs. fine gold, £224,603; profit, £53,046 (Oct., £57,023).

**Foldal Copper.**—Ore produced, 5,153 tons; ore shipped, 6,522 tons.

**Ferreira Deep.**—54,430 tons, £97,465; profit, £39,161 (Oct., £43,031).

**Forum River.**—Output 37 tons.

**Geldenhuis Deep.**—58,000 tons, £73,821; profit, £14,517 (Oct., £13,830).

**Giant of Rhodesia.**—9,000 tons, £4,826; profit, £1,026.

**Glynn's Lydenburg.**—4,010 tons, £6,770; profit, £2,988 (Oct., £2,754).

**Globe and Phoenix.**—6,492 tons, 7,795 ozs.; profit, £17,405; to reserve, 1,475 ozs.

**Great Boulder Perseverance.**—20,342 tons; value, £20,296.

**Ivanhoe.**—20,525 tons, 1,921 ozs.; sands, 1,269 ozs.; slimes, 2,604 ozs.; concentrates, 1,710 ozs.; value, £31,888; profit, £9,008.

**Jupiter.**—20,400 tons, £21,735; profit, £2,468.

**Jibutit (Anantapur).**—2,900 tons, 801 ozs. fine gold, against 800 ozs. for Oct.

**Langlaagte Estate.**—30,038 tons, 7,740 ozs.; cyanide, 6,036 ozs.; profit, £13,503.

**Lonely Reef.**—4,230 tons, 2,613 ozs., £10,988; profit, £2,988.

**Mount Cuthbert.**—To Nov. 30 3,404 tons of ore treated, producing 251 tons blister copper, containing 249 tons copper, 74 ozs. gold, and 759 ozs. silver.

**Mount Elliott.**—In addition to Mount Cuthbert ore the smelters treated 1,190 tons Mount Elliott ore, produced 113 tons blister copper, containing 127 ozs. gold and 278 ozs. silver.

**Modderfontein B.**—44,800 tons, £93,033; profit, £56,589 (Oct., £64,182).

**Mount Boppy.**—5,555 tons; £10,530.

**Mysore.**—25,715 tons, 14,066 ozs.; sands, 2,217 ozs.; slimes, 2,164 ozs.; total, 18,447 ozs., equivalent to fine gold, 16,874 ozs.

**Nundydroog.**—8,000 tons, 5,735 ozs. bar gold; tailings and slimes, 1,474 ozs., equal to 6,416 ozs. fine gold (Oct., 6,416 ozs.).

**New Kleinfontein.**—52,400 tons, 16,386 ozs., £68,217; profit, £22,304 (Oct., £23,024).

**New Heriot.**—27,100 tons, £49,840; profit, £20,110.

**North Anantapur.**—2,600 tons, 987 ozs. fine gold; tailings, 74 ozs.; total, 1,061 ozs. (Oct., 1,054 ozs.).

**Naraguta Extended (Nigeria) Tin.**—Output, 27 tons; shipped, 35 tons.

**Nigel.**—Crushed 11,300, £14,791; profit, £432.

**New Modderfontein.**—52,000 tons, £104,091; profit, £59,119 (Oct., £50,431).

**Nourse.**—57,800 tons, £67,064; profit, £10,269 (Oct., £13,289).

**Ooregum.**—12,450 tons, 6,377 ozs.; 18,469 tons tailings and slimes, 1,224 ozs.; total equal to 6,911 ozs. fine gold.

**Pahang Consolidated.**—13,500 tons; black tin produced, 210 tons.

**Robinson.**—58,000 tons, £74,700; profit, £35,047 (Oct., £37,197).

**Randfontein Central.**—213,647 tons, 31,322 ozs.; cyanide, 29,792 ozs.; profit, £56,757.

**Rose Deep.**—69,300 tons, £83,356; profit, £24,235 (Oct., £21,814).

**Rayfield.**—Output, 60 tons; shipped, 55½ tons.

**Simmer Deep.**—66,400 tons, £54,860; profit, £3,145.

**Sheba.**—7,717 tons, £2,154; profit, £200.

**Sons of Gwalia.**—13,455 tons, £20,173.

**Sudan.**—1,550 tons; cyanide, 1,990 tons; value, £4,050.

**Sub Nigel.**—7,480 tons, £13,805; profit, £3,145.

**Transvaal Estates.**—13,655 tons, £28,868; profit, £11,333 (Oct., £11,894).

**Taqua Mining.**—5,712 tons, £17,062 (Oct. profit, £5,174).

**Village Deep.**—52,200 tons, £73,947; profit, £25,521 (Oct., £25,197).

**Wanderer (Selukwe).**—12,315 tons; costs, £4,107; profit, £1,074.

As the result of the war, the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for November amounted to 94,323 tons, while the imports were 22,380 tons.



## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Adelaide Electric Supply.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for year, and a bonus of 2 per cent., both free tax, in respect of year ended Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

Assam Railways and Trading.—For half-year ending Dec. 31 on the pre-preference at 8 per cent. per annum, and on the new 6 per cent. preference at 6 per cent. per annum; on the A stock of 4 per cent. for half-year ended June 30 last.

Attaree Khat Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst.

Borbheel Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Brewers' Sugar.—14s. per share, free of tax, on the ordinary for the year.

Bargang Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Borelli Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst.

Bernam-Perak Rubber.—Interim on both the preference and ordinary of 3 per cent. on account of season ending June 30, 1916, payable Dec. 31, less tax, on preference at 3s. 3d., and on the ordinary at 3s. The preceding dividend on the ordinary shares was 6 per cent. for 1911-12.

British Tobacco Co. (Australia).—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary, payable 31st inst.

Bordubi Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

British Indian Tea.—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax on the ordinary, payable Jan. 6, same as a year ago.

Blackwater Mines.—1s. per share (5 per cent.), payable, tax free, 31st inst.

Cairn Line of Steamships.—Third interim of 5 per cent., free tax, on Jan. 1, making 20 per cent. so far this year; for the whole of last year 10 per cent. was paid.

Chicago Breweries.—At the rate of 4 per cent., less tax, for year ended Nov. 30, against 5 per cent.

City and Suburban Gold.—(6½ per cent.) 5s. per share, payable Dec. 31; European shareholders may expect to receive their warrants about the end of January, 1916.

Cock's Pioneer Gold and Tin Mines.—1s. per share less tax, payable Dec. 22; this is the company's first dividend.

Dhendai Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Dooars Tea.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share, equal to 6½ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—Interim of 9d. per share, equal to 3½ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Edward and John Burke.—The directors have decided to defer consideration of interim dividend until they have before them the complete year's accounts. They state that the profits for the half-year ended Oct. 31 last compare favourably with the same period of last year, though freights and all costs and expenses have increased and show a tendency to further advance.

East Indian Railway.—19s. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and deferred annuity Class "D," in respect of the company's share of surplus profits for half-year ended Sept. 30, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for half-year ending Jan. 31, 1916. Last year the excess dividend was £1 per cent.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended Sept. 30 of 2s. 6d. per share, free tax, payable 15th prox., same as a year ago.

Eastern Telegraph.—Third quarterly interim of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, in respect of profits for year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—Interim of 5d. per share, equal to 3½ per cent. per annum, against 9d. per share.

Ghoir Allie Tea.—Interim of 40 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary.

Harpenden (Selangor) Rubber.—Third interim of 25 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending Dec. 31, 1915, against 15 per cent.

Imperial Colonial Finance and Agency.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ending Jan. 1 next, payable on that date, less tax, against 6 per cent.

Ingersoll-Rand.—Cash of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Dec. 29.

Java Para Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., payable 22nd inst.

Kacharigaon Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Lankapara Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., free tax, on the ordinary.

Lungla (Sylhet) Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, at 2s. 8d. for current season, payable Dec. 21, same as a year ago.

Lake View and Star.—The directors state that the reduction of the final dividend from 6 to 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year instead of 16 per cent., is due to the largely increased cost of explosives and other supplies, attributable to the war conditions, to the heavy taxation imposed in Australia and England, and to a serious loss of gold in September, attributed to theft.

London and Lancashire Life and General Assurance.—Dividend and bonus for half-year ending Dec. 31, at the rate of 1s. 6d. per share, payable Jan. 1, equal to 15 per cent., same as last year.

Lake View and Star.—Interim (No. 12) of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 29, against 6 per cent.

Majuli Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst.

Moabund Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst.

Molson's Bank, Montreal.—2½ per cent. (being at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum) for current quarter, payable by Parr's Bank Jan. 3, same as a year ago.

Melbourne Electric Supply.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, free tax, in respect of year ended Aug. 31. For the preceding year the dividend was the same.

New Investment.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ending Jan. 1, payable on that date, less tax, against 6 per cent.

Neddeem Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. less tax, at the rate of 2s. 8d. in the £, payable Dec. 21. A year ago the dividend was 7½ per cent.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.—The directors have decided to pay on Jan. 1 the interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary—postponed in July last.

New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.—At the rate of 5 per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary for year to June 30, same as last year.

Oregon Mortgage.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

Oriental Rubber.—Interim of 1s. per share, equal to 5 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Paquin.—The directors announce that the preference dividend due on January 1, 1916, will not be paid for the present. For 1914 only the preference dividend was paid, but for 1913 the ordinary shares received 12½ per cent.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—Regular quarterly of 1 per cent., or at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, on the common, payable Jan. 1.

Rupajuli Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Rajmai Tea.—Interim of 12 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable 21st inst.

Rio Claro Railway and Investment.—Final of 2½ per cent., making 4½ per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent.

Romai Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Scottish Malay Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent., making 20 per cent., less tax, for year to date. In the corresponding period of last year two interim dividends of 5 per cent. each were paid.

Sungei Krian Rubber.—Second interim of 6 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, on account of year ending Dec. 31.

Sephinjuri Bheel Tea.—Second quarterly of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable 20th inst.

South Australian Land Mortgage and Agency.—Interim of 2½ per cent., free tax, payable 22nd inst., same as a year ago. The directors point out that the delay in declaring this dividend has been occasioned by the apprehension of drought on one of the company's stations, which has now, it is believed, been allayed.

Scottish American Mortgage.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Singlo Tea.—Interim of 5s. per share, equal to 2½ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

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**Talisman Consolidated.**—Quarterly of 1s. per share, free taxes, payable Jan. 8.

**Village Main Reef Gold.**—No further dividend will be paid in respect of the operations for the current year; last December 7s. per share was paid.

**Western Telegraph.**—First quarterly interim of 3s. per share, free of tax, for year ending June 30, 1916, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable Dec. 20, same as a year ago.

**Zinc Corporation.**—2s. per share on the preference, less tax at 2s. 8d., payable Jan. 1; this dividend, equivalent to 10 per cent., is the first instalment of the cumulative dividend of 20 per cent. on account of the current year.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

### BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY CO.

In its year closed March 31 last, this company did well enough, all things considered, its available nett revenue having enabled the directors to give the shareholders a total dividend of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., including the guaranteed interest. This compares with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. paid for 1913-14,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for 1912, 4 per cent. for 1911, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for each of the preceding five years. To have come down by only  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the past year is an encouraging fact, leading us to infer that India has so far stood the strain of the war remarkably well. This company owns and works altogether 3,724 miles of line, of which 2,859 miles are its own, 1,828 of them being metre gauge. It also works H.H. the Gaekwar of Baroda's railways and other small State railways, the total of the lines worked for native States and for a few small companies being 865 miles long, of which 394 miles are metre gauge and 247 miles  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. gauge. The utmost confusion of gauges, in fact, prevails in this company's region. At the end of March last the total capital sunk in the company's own undertaking was Rs. 4,11,65,571, or £27,444,000. Particulars with regard to the traffic need not be entered into, they being of the usual order—coaching traffic fairly good, especially on the broad gauge, thanks to the movement of troops, and goods traffic rather poorer. For the half-year ended September 30 last the figures show a further expansion in both gross and nett earnings, so that the nett income of Rs. 1,39,88,000 is Rs. 6,25,000 better than that of the corresponding half-year. This encourages the directors to promise an interim dividend of 10s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest payable next month.

### BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY CO., LTD.

The board of this company is to be congratulated on having renewed £2,150,000 of its floating debt in short-term debentures on terms practically the same as those under which the expiring bonds were issued. Altogether, this company's capital expenditure has risen to £28,682,406, an increase of £1,025,965 on the figure of March 31, 1914. The accounts covering the past year to that date show that, all things considered, the results were not unsatisfactory. Gross earnings fell Rs. 4,16,769 and expenses rose Rs. 5,36,890, so that the nett income of Rs. 2,02,86,795 was down Rs. 9,53,659. Consequently, as the interest on the capital sunk in lines open increased by Rs. 13,26,178, the excess of nett earnings over interest was lessened by Rs. 22,79,837, bringing it down to Rs. 53,95,879, and when turned into sterling the nett profits belonging to the company, less income-tax, were only £49,774. English income-tax having absorbed £4,525. Adding in the amount brought forward and interest and dividend received, there was altogether £245,102 available, or just £18,496 less than a year ago, and out of this the dividend is made up to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the year by a final distribution at the rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for the half-year ended March 31 last, in addition to the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. guaranteed interest. A year ago the shareholders got a bonus of 1 per cent., but there is no bonus this time, and income-tax takes away 7s. out of the £2 10s. distributable on January 1. The balance left to carry forward will be about £201,780, or £13,180 better.

### MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY CO., LTD.

This old Indian railway company works lines in all 3,132 miles long. The company's own and the State-owned lines embrace 1,520 miles of metre gauge and 1,032 miles of broad gauge, while the Mysore State lines have less than 10 miles of broad gauge, but 401 miles of metre gauge. Then there are 169 miles of small railways, including the West of India Portuguese Railway, of metre gauge. This mixture, as we always say, does not conduce to economy in working, but in the half-year closed March 31 last the management contrived to keep down the working expenses to such an extent that the nett revenue was actually Rs. 12,620 larger, in spite of the fact that the gross earnings declined Rs. 4,98,243. All descriptions of traffic suffered, but the decline in the passenger earnings was the greatest. Surplus profits remitted gave the company £108,089 from its own and the State lines and £2,416 from the Mysore lines. For the whole year 1914-15 these Mysore State lines gave the company £4,908, and out of the free balances the board is able to make up the dividend to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., subject to English income-tax. This is provided by 15s. per cent. from the stockholders' revenue account and 35s. per cent. received from the Government under terms of the company's contract. For the half-year ended September 30 last the nett earnings show a substantial increase, so that the company's share, after meeting all liabilities, is Rs. 14,37,000, compared with Rs. 7,62,000.

### BURMA RAILWAYS CO., LTD.

This company began well in the year ended March 31, its revenue for the first six months having been higher than in

any previous corresponding half-year, but the outbreak of war so completely changed the conditions that the nett earnings for the full year were Rs. 10,01,359 down. Practically the whole of this was in coaching traffic, which showed a decrease of 938,964 in the number of passengers carried and of Rs. 11,37,948 in receipts. Goods earnings only fell by Rs. 8,287, as decreases in paddy, European piece goods, manufactured iron and steel, earth nuts, provisions, sugar, timber, and stone were offset by substantial increases in rice, coal, bran, metallic ores, certain metals, chillies, and salt. Other earnings, including electric telegraph and steamboat receipts, improved by Rs. 3,24,821, and the total income was, therefore, only Rs. 8,21,414 down at Rs. 2,16,56,550, but working expenses were Rs. 1,79,945 heavier at Rs. 1,21,00,679, with the result that the nett revenue fell off as above stated. The company's share of the surplus profits was Rs. 17,10,069, or Rs. 4,80,911 less, and of this Rs. 17,10,700, or Rs. 4,81,300 less, was remitted to England at 1s.  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., compared with 1s. 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a year ago, giving £113,156, or £32,602 less. To this were added the balance brought forward and subsequent nett receipts to March 31 of £2,046, making altogether £192,458, or a decrease of £40,642. Out of this two dividends of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. each and a bonus of 1 per cent. are again paid, making a total return, including guaranteed interest, of 6 per cent., but nothing is transferred to reserve, compared with £53,031 set aside a year ago, and the balance carried forward is, therefore, £3,562 up at £80,819.

### ARGENTINE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

This company's system, 752 miles in length, is now worked under the same manager as the Entre Rios Railways Co.'s lines, and we hope the result will be satisfactory to all concerned. Already since July 1 last the increase in gross traffic has been £46,279, or 46.71 per cent., on the figure of a year ago. For the past year, closed June 30, there is nothing good to report, nett revenue having declined £36,108 to £74,920. Then the balance brought forward was £14,840 down, to a mere £59, and altogether the available balance, in spite of £1,124 gain in exchange, was only £78,007. On the other hand, interest on loans increased £14,985 to £21,935, and although expenditure on renewals was reduced by £11,851 to £5,624, the charges none the less amount altogether to £139,220, so that the result for the year was a deficiency of £61,213, as compared with a surplus of £23,809 a year back. Gross receipts of £259,627 fell off £88,861, and working expenses were cut down by £52,753. The large reduction in working expenses is mainly due to the efforts of the managing director, who returned home last May, after being some 14 months in Argentina. He well deserves the thanks offered to him for his work. Debenture-holders of the company understand only too well that the interest on the "B" debentures and debenture stock has had to be paid in scrip, and this arrangement holds up to September 1, 1917. The amount paid is to represent 4 per cent. All such interest scrip unredeemed at the date given, together with all interest thereon not previously paid in cash, will be satisfied by the issue of further "B" debenture stock at par to an extent of £165,063. We hope this full issue will not be necessary, any more than a continued piling up of debt for behoof of the "C" debentures and debenture stock, holders of which also go without cash.

### BLAENAVON CO., LTD.

Government work came to the rescue of this undertaking of good purpose in the year ended September 30. Scarcity of labour prevented the completion of the extensions, while "war bonuses" and other awards sent up the cost of production to high levels; but in spite of these adverse conditions, the operations resulted in a nett profit of £10,494, compared with a loss of £9,401 in the preceding 12 months. Of this sum, £20,000, as against nothing, is written off for depreciation, and after providing for the preference dividend, the balance carried forward is increased by £7,494 to £27,091. Capital expenditure exceeded the depreciation allowance by £13,256, making a total of £616,523, against which the reserve and renewal funds are £15,764 up at £32,303. Stocks are £94,915 larger at £186,757, and debtors owe £100,166 more at £163,864, while, on the other hand, creditors are £95,004 up at £178,244, and in addition to an increase of £38,130 to £50,971 in bank loans, the company has a secured loan on hire purchase of wagons and advance against work in progress for munitions amounting to £57,850.

### VULCAN MOTOR AND ENGINEERING CO. (1906), LTD.

In common with similar undertakings, this company shows a very substantial increase of £25,140 at £45,837 in its nett profits for the year ended September 30. A rather smaller balance of £5,551 was brought forward, making a total of £51,388 to be dealt with, and in addition to paying the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the directors give a bonus of a further 20 per cent. Nothing, however, is transferred to reserve, compared with £15,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is therefore increased by £22,491 to £28,044. Property account is £1,719 up at £33,650, and machinery, plant, &c., £6,190 up at £41,825. Stocks are £13,941 larger at £80,744, but debtors owe £1,108 less at £7,455, against an increase of £7,852 to £27,855 in current liabilities. The company has invested £10,000 in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. War Loan, but notwithstanding that, the bank overdraft of £3,720 has given place to a cash balance of £6,142.

### MALLEY'S INDUSTRIAL MOTORS, LTD.

This company became a "controlled establishment" on October 2, and the accounts now presented, therefore, cover a period of nine months to that date, as against a full year. Close comparison is impossible, but the company has done remarkably well, its profit for the period being £67,444, as compared with



£53,255 for 1914. Adding £12,030 brought forward, there was £79,474 available, of which £10,000 is transferred to reserve and £25,000 to a special reserve against Finance Act legislation and other contingencies, compared with £15,000 put to reserve a year ago, and £7,428 is written off for depreciation. Out of the balance, dividends and a bonus aggregating 15 per cent. for the nine months are paid, compared with 20 per cent. for the year, and the balance carried forward is increased to £21,206, subject to directors' fees and bonus to employees. Buildings have been increased by £3,697 to £43,905, and machinery, &c., by £2,992 to £42,252, against which the general reserve stands at £74,528. Stock and work in progress are valued at £83,071, or £17,418 more, but debtors owe £10,477 less at £16,757, against an increase of £5,410 to £21,308 in the amount due to sundry creditors. Cash is £4,195 lower at £40,330, but the company has invested £30,000 in the War Loan.

#### KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRAVING DOCK CO., LTD.

During the greater part of the year ended June 30 most of this company's regular services had to be suspended, owing to the war with Turkey. Many of the steamers thus rendered idle, however, were requisitioned for Government work, and others were profitably employed in home waters, with the result that the trading profits showed a small increase of £1,312 at £53,384. Deducting interest and other charges, and adding £8,902, or £8,018 more, brought forward, the disposable total was £8,735 better at £28,633, and the ordinary shares re-enter the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 5 per cent., leaving the surplus carried forward £3,735 up at £12,637. Two of the company's vessels have been purchased by the Admiralty, while a third was sunk by a submarine off Ramsgate on June 1. Property account shows a reduction of £37,412 at £414,806, but there is a new item of £19,977 for balances on steamship realisations awaiting settlement. Debtors have risen by £27,350 to £41,302, agents owe £6,094 more at £13,865, and cash is £18,011 up at £24,998, while £8,509 more at £44,114 is due to sundry creditors.

#### NORTHERN AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.

A further reduction of £6,101 to £126,094 in the revenue for the 12 months ended November 1 was partly offset by a decrease of £2,881 in the interest paid, but income-tax required nearly double last year's amount, so that the nett profit was £11,405 smaller at £69,981. The directors maintain the dividend on the ordinary stock at 13 per cent., but they make no special provision, compared with £9,916 written off securities a year ago, and carry forward £5,043 less at £23,478. Investments are £47,862 down at £2,592,954, while the amount due by New York correspondents has been reduced by £10,485 to £2,778. These decreases, together with an increase of £4,656 to £8,282 in sundry creditors, have enabled the company to pay off temporary loans of £50,645, and to reduce the bank overdraft by £14,501 to £1,017. According to the summary of the securities held, which is all the information vouchsafed to the shareholders, the American holdings have been reduced by £135,435 to £1,740,207, bonds being £152,470 down and common shares £11,423 down, and preference and guaranteed shares £28,459 up. Interests in other countries are £87,573 up at £852,747, thanks to a new item of £93,108 in British Government securities.

#### LONDON AND NEW YORK INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.

After meeting fixed charges the nett revenue for the year ended October 30 showed a decrease of £4,136 at £25,819, but as £2,722 more at £7,803 was brought forward, the available surplus was only £1,414 down at £33,622. Out of this the ordinary stock again gets a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, and £2,000 is written off investments, compared with £1,456 transferred to general reserve a year ago, leaving £7,210, or £593 less, to be carried forward. In addition to the appropriation from revenue, a profit of £5,006 on realisation of securities was written off the investments, which now stand in the books at £764,747, or a reduction of £8,146. A full list of securities accompanies the report, and although no reliable valuation can be made, the directors remind shareholders that there is considerable depreciation as compared with the period anterior to the war. Loans have been reduced by £2,172 to £5,030, and cash is £1,267 down at £3,568, against which liabilities on loans are £14,601 smaller at £11,124, and sundry creditors have risen by £2,647 to £4,115.

#### ARMY AND NAVY INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LTD.

Gross receipts for the year ended November 30 were £7,705 smaller at £50,487, but £4,433 more at £5,350 was brought in, and after meeting fixed charges, the divisible surplus was only £1,972 down at £38,610. The dividend on the deferred stock is cut down from 9½ per cent. to 8½, but £2,000, or double last year's appropriation, is transferred to reserve, raising that fund to £82,885, and the balance carried forward is increased by £706 to £6,057. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable quotations for many of the securities, investments are again taken at cost, less the amounts written off, and show a decrease of £28,880 at £1,199,393, but cash is £15,711 up at £24,189. A profit of £4,784 from sales of securities was added to the capital reserve, but £17,962 was written off the investments out of this fund, so that on balance it is £13,177 down at £150,553.

#### INVESTORS' MORTGAGE SECURITY CO., LTD.

A shrinkage of £5,219 to £111,607 in the nett revenue for the year ended September 30 was accompanied by an increase of £2,573 to £32,632 in the interest paid on borrowed money, &c., with the result that nett profits were £7,792 down at £78,975. The balance brought forward, however, was £7,592 larger at £9,497, giving a total of £88,472, or only £200 less to be dealt with, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 10½ per cent. Of the surplus, £7,742, including the

profit on exchange, which was exceptionally large owing to the abnormal condition of the market, is transferred to contingent fund, compared with £5,838 to that account and £2,913 to reserve last year, and the balance carried forward is increased by £7,558 to £17,055. No provision is made for excess profits tax, so that this amount is subject to such sum as may be found to be payable in respect of that tax. Investments, after deducting the contingent fund, are £41,916 down at £2,096,102, while, on the other hand, liabilities for temporary loans have been reduced by £48,071 to £2,700.

#### THIRD EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.

Receipts from interest, dividends, &c., in the 12 months ended November 5 were £2,268 larger at £30,935, but debenture interest required an extra £1,423, and after providing for management expenses the nett balance was only £833 up at £17,716. To this is added £5,634, or £4,441 more, brought forward, but the directors have decided to utilise £6,715, or £6,437 more, together with £2,284 profit on sales of securities, to extinguish the cost of the debenture issue. Out of the balance a dividend of 4 per cent. is again paid on the deferred stock, leaving £5,336, or £299 less, to be carried forward. Investments have been reduced by £4,884 to £602,587, but the cash has gone to swell bank balances, which are £4,631 up at £7,254. On the other hand, short loans of £9,880 have been repaid, while there is an increase of £1,336 to £1,963 in sundry creditors. The investments include £20,000 4½ per cent. War Loan, but apart from that the directors give no indication of the class of security held.

#### GUATRACHE LAND CO., LTD.

In spite of the general depression in Argentina, this company did a little better in the year ended June 30, owing largely to the harvest in its districts having been about an average one. Rents, which are largely paid in kind, were less than anticipated, because a great part of the grain received was of an inferior quality, but they exceeded the previous year's total by £9,615 at £11,558. The cattle business also did better, yielding a profit of £8,831, as against £5,615, and the nett surplus, after providing for London office expenses, was £12,344 better at £23,094. Deducting the debit balance of £3,928 brought in, and £17,500, or £2,500 more, required for debenture stock service, there was a surplus of £1,665 to be carried forward. Conditions were not favourable to land sales, and only 775 hectares were sold at a small profit of £600, while certain sales made in preceding years were cancelled owing to non-payment of instalments. The land account shows a small reduction of £3,529 at £558,020, an increase of £43,153 in the book value of town lands being neutralised by a reduction of £46,747 in the farm lands. Loans and investments are £49,159 down at £123,065, and cash shows an increase of £41,436 at £52,630, these two changes being due to the fact that certain loans had been repaid at the date of the balance-sheet. The directors say that since the closing of the accounts £5,456 has been invested in the purchase of 6,178 acres of land situated near the other properties, and that the remainder of the cash in Argentina has been re-lent on good security.

#### ST. LOUIS BREWERIES, LTD.

Profits of the American undertaking for the year ended September 30 fell off by £41,564 to £193,482, partly because of unfavourable climatic conditions and the unsatisfactory industrial position, and partly because of the additional tax imposed by the U.S. Government. The expenditure on repairs and the depreciation allowance were both reduced by substantial amounts, but the nett profits still showed a decrease of £21,978 at £88,081, while £41,450 less at £16,425 was brought forward. Including a special payment of £10,000 to enable the holding company to carry the \$50,000 bonds lodged as additional security for the English debenture issue, the dividends paid over were only £97,670, or £53,797 less. The interest on the special investment in St. Louis Brewing Association bonds, however, was £20,637 larger, and the total income from all sources showed a decrease of £33,121 at £125,976. Debenture interest absorbed £17,925 more, but nothing is written off, compared with £50,288 for discounts and expenses on the debenture issue, and after meeting administration charges, the ordinary shares get a dividend of 1 per cent., as against 2½ per cent. last year, and £10,206 more at £18,523 is carried forward. During the year £20,000 debentures were paid off, leaving £430,000 outstanding, while the bonds held by the English company were reduced by £10,000 to £440,000, and the American company's indebtedness by £17,496 to £43,009, while cash has risen by £9,777 to £10,178.

#### BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

BENTLEY'S YORKSHIRE BREWERIES, LTD.—Trading profits for the year ended September 30 declined £3,250 to £109,480, but as working expenses came to £1,973 less at £39,073, and smaller amounts were deducted for repairs, renewals, &c., the divisible total, including a slightly larger balance of £9,479 brought forward, shows an increase of £464 at £69,004. Of this £5,000, as before, is placed to the reserve fund, and a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, as against 6 per cent. last year and 5½ per cent. for 1913. In view of the present high price of materials and the anticipated further serious decline in trade owing to the recent drastic regulations, the directors warn shareholders that there may be a considerable diminution of profit at the end of the current year. Property account shows a decline of £3,326 at £1,006,163, while, on the other hand, mortgages, loans and deposits are £8,400 lower at £18,459.



Cash is £16,015 up at £18,874, and debtors owe £9,778 more at £58,238, against an increase of £7,679 to £43,593 in sundry creditors.

GOEBEL BREWING CO., LTD.—For the year ended August 31 the American undertaking declared a dividend of 20 per cent., or the same as for the previous 12 months, the whole of which was paid to this company. Adding £7,388, or £1,084 less, brought forward, the available balance was £400 up at £32,920, and out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 20 per cent., tax free, but nothing is transferred to dividend equalisation fund, compared with £5,000, and the balance carried forward is increased by £2,792 to £11,230. A year ago only 15 per cent. of the 20 per cent. dividend paid was free of tax. The balance-sheet shows that sundry creditors have risen by £3,601 to £6,656, against increases of £1,484 to £25,532 in the amount due by the American company for the dividend, £1,705 to £4,705 in investments and £3,195 to £5,515 in cash.

LADY'S PICTORIAL AND SPORTING AND DRAMATIC PUBLISHING CO., LTD.—Owing to the war, this company's revenue from advertisements in the year ended September 30 showed a considerable falling off, and the nett result for the year's working was a loss of £2,997, as against a profit of £8,772 for the preceding 12 months. After deducting the balance brought forward, there was a debit of £601, to which is added £8,750 for the dividend on the preference shares, making a total of £9,351, which it is proposed to write off out of the reserve of £23,900. Debtors owe £7,174, or £7,408 less, stocks of paper, &c., have been reduced by £1,066 to £3,951, and cash is £3,040 down at £5,926, while £3,987 is due to sundry creditors. The purchase of the business and copyrights account, which represents goodwill, is unchanged at £329,847, against which the reserve seems much too small. Investments representing this fund stand in the books at £23,756, and the auditors state that the value at the date of the balance-sheet is estimated at £18,500.

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.—Three of this company's vessels, including the latest addition to the fleet, were requisitioned by the Government early in March, and it was therefore impossible to conduct the usual passenger service between Liverpool and the Menai Straits. The service from Colwyn Bay and Llandudno, however, was carried on, and the arrangement with the Government appears to have been satisfactory, as, after writing off £2,074 more at £6,255 for depreciation, the nett profits, including £725 brought in, were £594 larger at £5,485. Out of this a dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, is paid, compared with 5 per cent. for the previous year, leaving the balance carried forward only £43 down at £1,663. During the year the cost of the fleet, less depreciation, was increased by £5,742 to £71,950, and as sundry debtors, principally because of the amount due by the Admiralty, were £7,290 up at £10,333, while cash balances were reduced by £6,566 to £41, the bank overdraft had to be increased by £11,771 to £18,421. Of the 500 first mortgage debentures of £50 each which fell due for redemption on January 1, 422 were reissued, and the directors asked the shareholders to take up the remaining 78.

MASSEY'S BURNLEY BREWERY, LTD.—In the year ended October 31 this company suffered from the increased duties, restricted hours, the local conditions of trade, and the depletion of the manhood of the district for training at military centres elsewhere. As the result of all these drawbacks, the nett profits, including £720 brought forward, showed a decrease of £5,761 at £13,740, and for the first time in the company's history it was unable to pay even the preference dividend. Last year the ordinary shares only received 1½ per cent., as against 3 per cent. for 1912-13. After providing for debenture and other interest and setting aside the usual £3,400 for redemption of "A" debentures and mortgage, £2,182, or £1,462 more, is carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are too small to be worth detailed mention.

MAYNARDS, LTD.—This company would seem to have found compensation for the high price of sugar in the greatly increased business with, and for, the troops, as its trading profits for the year ended June 30 rose by no less than £11,199 to £36,104, while the expenditure was only £269 larger at £8,759. In addition to writing off £6,611, or £2,398 more, for depreciation, £7,000 is set aside to create a contingencies reserve, leaving with £14,551, or £10,541 more, brought forward, an available total of £28,284. The dividend on the ordinary shares, however, is maintained at 10 per cent, and the amount carried forward is increased by £12,309 to £23,042. Except for an increase of £13,342 to £53,427 in stocks, there is nothing in the balance-sheet requiring special mention.

NEW YORK BREWERIES CO., LTD.—During the year ended August 31 the sales of beer in the United States declined by about 10 per cent. owing mainly to the increased taxation of 50 cents per barrel, business conditions and unseasonable weather. The American undertaking through which this company works did not escape this decline altogether, but the directors say that the proportional decrease in its sales compared favourably with these figures, while in the bottling department there was a small increase. Its nett profits, nevertheless, were \$7,604 down at \$32,822, and after providing for the usual dividend of 3 per cent. and transferring \$18,000 or \$7,000 less to sinking fund, the balance carried forward was reduced to \$1,090. Receipts of the English company, including £251 for profit on exchange, compared with a loss of £375 last year, were only a trifle smaller at £2,377, and the balance carried forward after meeting debenture interest and London office charges was increased by £411 to £697. During the year debentures and debenture stock aggregating £9,500 were paid off,

leaving £340,093 outstanding, and the property account shows a corresponding reduction at £716,754.

WM. FISON AND CO., LTD.—War conditions completely changed the fortunes of this business of spinners and manufacturers in the 12 months ended October 31. The total revenue amounted to £24,502, or an increase of no less than £22,881, and whereas a year ago £2,000 had to be taken from reserve and £509 from the appropriation account in order to meet the interim dividend on the preference shares, the directors are this time able to transfer £3,000 to the first-named fund. In addition £500 is written off investments, and after meeting the preference dividend, together with the arrears, the ordinary shares get a dividend of 4 per cent., leaving £3,009, or £2,931 more, to be carried forward. Stocks show a reduction of £6,827 at £147,155, but debtors owe £10,316 more at £52,034, and cash has risen by £2,355 to £2,577, while current liabilities have been reduced by £2,734 to £36,590, and the bank overdraft of £12,943 has been repaid.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY BREWERIES, LTD.—Nett profits for the year ended September 30, after providing for repairs, depreciation, and bad debts, and meeting fixed charges, amounted to £30,770, or a decrease of £3,116. A much larger balance of £27,986, however, was brought forward, so that the disposable total was £3,770 up at £58,756, out of which an extra £5,000 at £10,000 is transferred to general reserve. The capital reserve again gets £5,000, raising the aggregate of these two funds to £90,000, and the dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, leaving £26,756, or £1,230 less, to be carried forward. Liabilities on mortgages and loans show the substantial reduction of £33,861 at £64,256, but sundry creditors are £23,013 up at £53,521. Property account it £4,166 down at £648,759, and debtors owe £5,886 less at £27,298, but cash is £6,223 better at £7,727, and, in addition, the company holds £6,922 in Treasury bills.

## Answers to Correspondents.

\* \* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

L. W. J.—(1) We think you might buy a little more. There will come a spurt some day. (2) Profits are rare these days, and we incline to think you should take yours. (3) This is a puzzle, but British Portland Cement ordinary might do. There is still 6s. to your credit.

W. G.—Have nothing to do with this "fake." The money would probably be all called up against nothing. Thanks. You have still 6s. 6d. to your credit.

Tarn.—No, the risk is not so great, and you should not cut your loss.

H. J. N.—(1) At 11 or so, yes, although the par is 5. Still, the yield is high, and free of income-tax. (2) You can do nothing, and should attempt to do nothing. When order is restored the bonds may come to have a sportive value.

J. L. C.—They are quite a good bond, and we see no reason to sell.

Conor.—No doubt the company has done well, but a good profit is always worth taking, so you might sell.

R. N. R.—We can learn nothing definite, but the activity suggests that some settlement may be in prospect.

P. B. M.—They will be paid at the exchange of the day, and can be collected by your bank like any other coupon.

D. R.—No doubt many are worth picking up, but not on the plan you suggest. The risks are many, and the possible advantages might be long in arriving.

## THE CAPE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of this Company will be held at the CANNON STREET HOTEL, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915, at 2.30 o'clock p.m. :—

To receive the Reports and Accounts for the year ending August 31st, 1915;

To elect Directors and Auditors in the places of those retiring;

And for other General Business.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 8th to the 15th December, 1915, both days inclusive.

Holders of Share Warrants wishing to attend this meeting must deposit same at the offices of the Company or at the office of the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32, Rue Taitbout, Paris, three clear days before such meeting.

Dated this 6th day of December, 1915.

By order of the Board,

P. J. FRANKS,

Secretary.

Registered Offices :

9, Queen Street Place,  
London, E.C.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

The seventy-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. was held on Wednesday at the head office, Leadenhall Street, the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Frederick John Abbott) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, who was warmly greeted, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—We meet to-day under exceptional circumstances. Sir Thomas Sutherland, who occupied the chair at our last meeting, and who had directed the affairs of the P. and O. Company for four-and-thirty years, retired a year ago. He brought the company out of what might be described as a "slough of despond," and by his energy and ability he left it a sound and prosperous concern. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him long life and happiness in his retirement—(hear, hear, and cheers), and if the P. and O. Company has any success in the future, it will never be forgotten that it was owing to the masterful management of Sir Thomas Sutherland in its days of depression. (Hear, hear.) He has left us a splendid legacy. Its maintenance and development involve strenuous industry and application, and when the time comes for the board as now constituted to resign their charge, they hope they will leave it in no worse position than it was when they took over its destinies. With the loyal assistance of our staff, it will be our earnest endeavour to carry on the administration of the P. and O. Company not only to your satisfaction, but to the satisfaction of the Government and the public. The year under review has been quite abnormal, owing to the war. No less than 42 steamers of the P. and O. fleet have been taken from their usual work from time to time, and 31 are still being made use of by the Government. The board have in consequence had a considerable strain put upon them to maintain the regular mail services, but you will be glad to know that so far they have not been obliged to cancel a single departure. Something like 480 of the P. and O. and British India officers and engineers have gallantly joined his Majesty's service, mostly afloat, and are fighting for their country—(hear, hear)—16 have been wounded; 27 have been killed. You will be glad to hear that one—a P. and O. cadet—the son of Mr. Drewry, our works superintendent, a boy of 18—has won the V.C. ("Bravo" and cheers.) His father tells me the boy says he intends to return to the P. and O. Company when the war is over. Let us hope that he will win through, and rise eventually to be Commodore of the P. and O. fleet. The positions of our men for the most part remain open for them after the war, and meantime, as a rule, they don't suffer pecuniarily. The directors desire to express their appreciation publicly of the manner in which those who remain with us, who are doing good public service and running great risks, have responded loyally to the work, though the ships have in almost every instance been obliged to go to sea with less than their usual complement of officers and engineers. Their only complaint has been that they have not had an opportunity of doing more for their country, but when you consider that 42 ships out of our fleet of 60 have been engaged in Government service at one time or another, and that the ships which have remained to us have been carrying the mails and keeping up communications, I am satisfied that you will consider the men in the P. and O. vessels engaged in the company's ordinary work have been doing good service for the country. I hope all our commanders, officers, and engineers will view the matter in this light. The directors certainly do. The cost of operating the ships has increased by leaps and bounds, wages have risen—the suppliers of stores of all descriptions have raised their prices, in some cases by 50 per cent., and in some cases a good deal more—while the cost of supplying coal at Port Said is nearly three times what it was before the outbreak of the war. Some six months ago we raised our passage rates two or three pounds to help, to some extent, to meet the increased cost of working, and reluctant as we shall be to make any further increase, I am afraid this may be forced upon us. The Budget will take something out of the company's earnings, and what is left of the surplus over the average of the two or three preceding years will in all probability be to a great extent swallowed up in the impending overhauls of the ships through being hard driven, and through difficulty in getting labour to do the repairs. We do not know—nobody does know—what the future has in store in the shape of additional levies which will be made on you to meet the expenditure involved by the war. Whatever these may be, they have to be met, and as our men of a fighting age are giving their lives, so must we give our property to the nation. No sacrifice is too great to secure that victory without which life would be intolerable. There is no doubt that most shipping companies have made money during the last 12 months owing to the rise in freights, brought about by so many ships belonging to ourselves and to our Allies having been engaged for the purposes of war, and through the German and Austrian mercantile marine being driven from the sea. The aftermath of the war has to be reckoned with, and the future of the shipping industry of Great Britain will doubtless have much to contend with,

especially as neutral and some other shipowners who have been reaping a far richer harvest than British shipping, will find themselves in a much better position to develop than will be the case with British shipowners, but, speaking for myself and for the P. and O. and British India Companies, I have no fear for the future. It may be an anticipation of coming bad times that is inducing some shipowners in this country to take advantage of the present inflated prices of ships to dispose of them and to retire from business. For the P. and O. and British India Companies there is no such *dolce far niente*. They are carrying on a national work, and they could not, if they would, wind up and go into retirement. On the contrary, they must and will continue to develop; they must endeavour, and they will endeavour, to maintain their services to the satisfaction of the Government and of the public. They must make provision for their employees when the time comes for them to coil up their ropes ashore, they must lay by ample depreciation for reinvestment in up-to-date vessels, and they must set aside a good margin of surplus profits in fat years to provide for the contingency of lean periods; and you, ladies and gentlemen, must rest content with a return in the way of dividend which can only be described as moderate for the risks you run and for the capital you employ in your undertakings. The steamers which have been commandeered by Government as armed cruisers, transports, and hospital ships are being paid for at rates leaving but a very moderate margin when everything is taken into consideration. The shipowners have met the Government fairly and reasonably, their disposition having been to aid the country in this national emergency. Only the other day a suggestion was made by the Admiralty to reduce rates for certain classes of ships which had been under charter for a considerable time, and despite the fact that freights in ordinary trades had advanced considerably, the shipowners agreed to the suggestion of the Admiralty. Without the British mercantile marine where would the country have been in this war? The British Government did not possess a single transport, a single vessel adapted for the conveyance of munitions or stores or horses or mules or camels, or a single hospital ship. Why did the Admiralty not possess a fleet capable of doing that magnificent work of which Mr. Asquith spoke in such glowing terms the other night? I will tell you why, ladies and gentlemen. The Admiralty had far more sense. They had the plans and they knew the dimensions, the capacity, the equipment, the speed of every British ship afloat, and her whereabouts. They had been scheduling these in their own quiet way for years. They recognised that the most economical—in fact, the only possible plan, was to let the shipowners go on building vessels on their own account, running them in their ordinary trades without a farthing of expense to the country, because they knew when the hour struck and the Admiralty required their services, the ships would be at the disposal of the nation on perfectly reasonable terms, and in this they were right. There has long been a curious disposition on the part of some politicians and others to be what I might call, in homely parlance, "down" on the British shipowner. I do not know why, unless it is because a certain amount of success has attended his efforts, his energies, and his enterprise. Unaided by Government favour, in spite of obstructions and difficulties which he has constantly had to encounter, he has built up a fleet and an organisation which is the envy of the world, and which the German Emperor was always urging Herr Ballin and other German shipowners to follow and surpass. Between the months of November, 1914, and February, 1915, there were a few delays in the transit of steamers through the Suez Canal, caused by the action of the enemy, but thanks to our naval and military forces and to the resource and energy of the Canal Company's officials, the delays were infinitesimal. The president and directors of the Canal Company invest their officials in Egypt with wide discretionary powers, unfettered by red tape, and these powers are invariably exercised for the benefit and convenience of the ships using the Canal, the attitude of the officials being invariably courteous and helpful. The advance of the Suez Canal Company's receipts has been checked by the war. In that company's prosperity the shipowners hitherto have shared, advances in the rate of dividend having been accompanied by reductions in dues. For the year 1914 the Suez Canal dividend had to be reduced by 45 francs per share, but the shareholders accepted the reduction uncomplainingly, and the dues were not increased. For 1915 the reduced dividend will again operate, and it can only be maintained at the 1914 rate by wiping out the reserve set aside in the previous year. For 1916 the outlook is not bright, and the Canal Company propose to raise their charge by 50 centimes per ton from April 1 next—that is, from 6.25 to 6.75 francs per ton. This will involve the P. and O. and British India Companies in a considerably larger expenditure for passing through the Canal. But I do not think we can reasonably raise any objection. The expenses of operating the Canal have increased considerably owing to the rise in cost of coal and stores, the standing charges can only be slightly reduced, while the franc is worth a good deal less in sterling than it was before the war, and the dues, as you know, are paid in francs. If the traffic decreases further we may have to face another rise, but if the traffic does not further decrease, or improves, as we hope it may, the 6.75-franc rate should remain. When normal conditions return we hope the Canal Company will be able to revert to the 6.25-franc rate, and we look forward to a gradual reduction from that figure to the 5



francs which we trust may be ultimately established. The Suez Canal Company has dealt reasonably and fairly with the shipowners in the past, and I feel satisfied that the shipowners will be disposed to meet the company in the same spirit in the unfortunate position in which the company finds itself placed owing to the war. The gallant French nation is making great sacrifices in blood and treasure to secure that victory on which we are all determined, and which will come to us in due time. A dividend of 120 fr. per share will yield something under 3 per cent. on the value at which the shares have been bought by the great majority of the present shareholders, and this, I am sure, no one on this side of the Channel will grudge.

I have mentioned that over 50 per cent. of our steamers are in Government service. The bulk of the remainder of our fleet has been hard run maintaining our onerous mail contract, and the demands on the limited space of our fast ships for the carriage of mails have been altogether unprecedented. Owing to dislocations in other quarters, and for other reasons, our ordinary mails have greatly increased in bulk, while the letter and parcel mail to the Mediterranean and Egypt is ten times greater than it was some six or eight months ago. Our vessels have now to find accommodation for mails frequently occupying 1,200 to 1,800 tons of space, which leaves, as you will readily understand, very little room for cargo, and we are obliged under our contract to carry all mails that are offered to us. We find ourselves in consequence under a considerable disability, but I make these remarks in no spirit of complaint; on the contrary, we have the satisfaction of feeling that we are doing our duty by the Post Office, which we have served now for an unbroken period of 78 years. I am sure the proprietors will support the board in the attitude of reasonableness which they have adopted towards his Majesty's Government at the present time, even at some very considerable loss to themselves. To use the formula which was wont to appear in the good old days in the gracious speeches from the Throne, the P. and O. Company is at peace with all with whom it does business—the Admiralty, the Post Office, its fellow-shipowners, its cargo constituents, its passengers, and its employees. In carrying on a great and intricate business such as that of the P. and O. Company, with its mass of detail, questions, and even complaints, must necessarily sometimes arise, but it is the endeavour of the board, and it will continue to be its endeavour, to maintain a satisfactory service, to do its work efficiently, and to retain a loyal and contented staff. The war has made it impossible to lay down any new ships with a prospect of early delivery in the past 12 months, all the yards being for the most part occupied with Government work, and the only vessels we have under construction are two high-class mail steamers. The board, however, have an extensive building programme in view, and as soon as circumstances permit, we shall arrange for the construction of a number of vessels, the plans and arrangements of which are being carefully considered, and the directors hope that before long circumstances may permit of their being able to place contracts for a number of vessels, which will enable the company to carry on its mail, passenger, and cargo services to the satisfaction of the Government and the public, and to meet developments. The prices we shall have to pay will be high, but the directors feel that this should not deter them from keeping the fleet up to concert pitch. I regret to say that our cargo steamer "Socotra" has been wrecked in the English Channel since the issue of our report. She was homeward bound from Australia, had no passengers on board, and there was no loss of life. Being 18 years old, she stands at a low value in the company's books, but she was a very useful ship, and can ill be spared at the present time. I am also sorry to say that a fine new British India steamer of 5,312 tons, the "Umeta," of which we only got delivery from the builders a year ago, and which was engaged in Government service, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean within the last few hours. The loss of this vessel falls upon the Government, but she cannot be replaced for many months. The fate of half the crew, or nearly half, is not yet ascertained, and they are reported as missing, while the other half has been landed at a Mediterranean port. You will realise that with vessels constantly in the danger zone—no day ever passes in which we do not have at least three or four ships within it—the past year has been an extremely anxious one for the directors, and their anxieties do not grow less as time goes on and the danger zone enlarges. But, ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to say that week after week, with unfailing regularity, without exception, all through these 16 months of war, the P. and O. mail steamers have started on their voyages from this country to the far ends of the earth with their usual complement of passengers, just as in times of peace. We cannot be too grateful to the Admiralty and to the Navy for the complete immunity from casualty from enemy ships with which the P. and O. vessels, their passengers, and their ships' companies have been able to sail the seas all through this war.

You will be glad to know that the amalgamation of the P. and O. and British India Companies, which was completed about 15 months ago, is working in every respect satisfactorily, and that considerable advantages have already been realised by the complete fusion of interests, and as time goes on these should be increased. After a year's experience of the administration of the two companies, I am glad to say that the anticipations of 18 months ago, which led the directors to bring about the amalgamation, are being realised. Our basis has been broadened, our interests are now in all respects identical, the combined experience of our staffs is a most valuable asset, while the financial assistance which one company can render to the other has material advantages. It may be that in some

years the P. and O. section of the combine will be good and the British India section will be poor, while the reverse may possibly happen, but we are sanguine enough to hope that, taken together, we shall be able to average out a modest return to the proprietors on what is, considering the intrinsic value and earning power of our joint assets, a very small capital. When paying the interim dividend on our deferred stock in the spring, the board gave it—perhaps you may think too generously—free of income-tax. The tax was then 2s. 6d. in the £. Now it is considerably more, but having started on what you may regard as a rake's progress, we propose, with your approval, to apply it to the final dividend and bonus—at least, for this year. If any stockholder objects to our proposal, I need scarcely say we shall have no hesitation in supporting a resolution which will throw the income-tax on him. In speaking of income-tax there is one small matter, personal to the board, which I must bring to your notice. Ever since the company was established or income-tax introduced, the remuneration of the directors has been paid free of the tax, but though there is probably a resolution by the proprietors to this effect in the dark ages, so far I have failed to find it. As the tax has gradually gone up from 2d. in the £ to the figure at which it stands to-day, the directors think the matter should be brought to your notice and regularised. A resolution will therefore be submitted to you to this effect from the other side of the table, and it will be for you to accept or reject it as you may think fit. It is not for us to recommend it. If you accept it, we shall be grateful; if you reject it we shall not complain. All that we want is to have the matter put on a proper footing, one way or the other. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I think I ought to tell you that the directors have made ample provision for depreciation, both in our ships and in our securities. Every penny not required in the business of both companies has been lent to the Government to assist in financing the war, and on this course it is our intention to continue. In submitting our accounts to you to-day, I hope you will accept them in the form in which they are presented by the board. I will forestall any criticism as to the absence of detail by saying at once that we have adopted this plan deliberately, because we conceive it to be in the best interests of the proprietors. Were the accounts to be seen by our stockholders alone, we should have no hesitation in presenting them in a much more detailed form, but in view of the keen competition which we may expect in the near future from neutral shipowners who have been coining money during the war, free from Budget levies, and in view of the renewed attacks upon our trade which we may anticipate not only from Germany and from Austria, but from others when the war is over, we see no advantage, but very much the reverse, in publishing your private affairs to the world. (Cheers.) I feel satisfied that you will approve of the course we have adopted. So long as the directors have the confidence of the proprietors, nothing more is required. No matter what the dividend may be, whether it is increased or whether it is reduced, you may feel perfectly satisfied that not a penny will ever be distributed beyond the amount which the company, after making ample allowance for depreciation and all contingencies, can well afford to pay. I now beg to propose: "That the report and statement of accounts, which have been circulated amongst the proprietors, be taken as read, and that they be adopted."

Sir William Adamson, C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### A CORDIAL VOTE OF THANKS.

Sir Alexander Pedler, C.I.E., F.R.S.: Ladies and gentlemen,—I think there is one duty, a very pleasant one, which we should discharge before we leave to-day. We have heard a very masterly account of the year's doings from Lord Inchcape. He has shown us the great difficulties there have been in carrying on the manifold work of this company for the year, due, of course, mainly to the stress and strain of the war. It is, therefore, more than ever incumbent upon us to thank those who have brought the company into the present very satisfactory position. (Hear, hear.) The results, as shown in the report, and as detailed by Lord Inchcape, are most satisfactory, and perhaps we might say that we only hope that in future years similar satisfactory results will be put before us. It is therefore our bounden duty to thank Lord Inchcape and the directors for the work which they have done during the past year. They have not only had, as I have just remarked, the stress and strain of the war to bear, but, coming as they have done—Lord Inchcape, at all events—new to the work, it must have been a difficult matter for him to have shaken down properly into the saddle. That he has done so, and the other directors also, is shown by the results which we have seen.

Another body to whom the thanks of the proprietors are due is the staff, and we should perhaps divide the staff into those who do their work ashore and those who are afloat. We know that the difficulties of the staff ashore are great. Every individual stockholder must know the difficulties that the war has thrown upon them, for in the conduct of such a business as this great difficulties are bound to crop up. But it is rather in reference to the staff afloat—to our commanders, officers, and men of the fleet, who have been working throughout the year under the greatest difficulties that it is possible to conceive—that we owe, perhaps, a still greater debt of gratitude than we do to those whose work has been confined ashore. (Hear, hear.) I have been on many voyages on P. and O. steamers, and I know the great amount of anxiety and strain which fall in normal times on every commander, every officer, and every man on board. What, then, must be the additional anxiety when they are employed in war work, when they may have at any moment to encounter a submarine, with its shells or torpedoes, when,



perhaps, they may unfortunately come in contact with a floating mine, or have bombs dropped on them from a hostile aeroplane or Zeppelin? I think, therefore, that the difficulties which our officers and men on the steamers have had to encounter have really been excessive, and in giving a vote of thanks to the directors and to the staff I think we ought to keep in mind very much those who have served us so well afloat (hear, hear)—as shown by Lord Inchcape's speech—in helping to carry on this great war. (Hear, hear.) I do not wish to occupy more of your time—we have heard so much from our chairman that any words from me are superfluous—but I should like to propose "That the cordial thanks of the proprietors are due to the chairman, Lord Inchcape, to the directors, and to the staff for their continued successful management of the company's business." (Hear, hear.)

I should like to add to this, if I may, a recommendation to regularise the procedure which has been followed with regard to the directors' fees since, practically, the establishment of the company. With your permission, therefore, I should like to add to the vote of thanks which I have proposed, "Resolved that the remuneration of the directors be paid free of income-tax for the time being in force, and that the payment of such tax by the company in the past be and is hereby confirmed." Lord Inchcape has explained fully why this resolution is necessary, and I think, looking at the record of our directors, every one will agree that the past should be made regular, and that in future the same procedure should be adopted. (Cheers.)

Mr. Arthur Pitt: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

### JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO.

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the members of John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. John E. Thornycroft, M.Inst.N.A. (managing director), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Maughling) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The nett profits of the company for the period covered by the accounts amounted to £244,826, and although our proposed method of dealing with these profits is clearly shown in the directors' report, I think some further explanation is necessary. Ordinary shareholders may rightly say that only a small proportion of the profits goes to them in the shape of dividends, although they are undoubtedly entitled to great consideration in consequence of the very lean years through which they have passed, when frequently they have received no dividends at all. Last May I referred to the fact that £90,000 had been spent in additions to buildings, plant, &c., since 1911. The necessary cash for this expenditure has been provided by the writing down of such items as debenture issue expenses, patterns, drawings, patent rights, &c., out of profits, so that it may be said fairly that the whole outlay has been made at the expense of the ordinary shareholders. The effect of this and further outlay during the war period has been to put the company in a position to deal with an enormously increased output on a profitable basis. I want also to emphasise the fact that on all our work we are getting no better prices than our competitors. Within a month or two of the outbreak of war, and when we had been able to estimate to some extent the future prospects of business, we took the risk of placing very large contracts for material, and the period covered by the accounts now before you has benefited greatly by such contracts. Our turnover, as mentioned in the report, has been about four times the normal average, and this has been done and is still being carried on without any increase of issued capital or borrowed money. If you turn to the balance-sheet, you will see that our capital in the business—that is to say, the assets, less the liabilities—is, roughly, £900,000 at July 11, 1915, being an increase over the 1913 figure of over £250,000, and this sum is provided out of profits, which means that such profits cannot be distributed, but must be kept in the business by writing down assets such as goodwill or creating reserve funds. A large working capital is necessary at the present moment, but after the war it will be still more necessary, so that we may have a good fighting fund to win back our commercial vehicle connection in particular, which has been built up with so much hard work and at such great expense, and now very largely lost by reason of American competition at a time when we are unable to supply by reason of Government work. Our works are in first-class condition to enable us to produce economically, and we shall have no fear of competition after the war, if only we are allowed to retain sufficient funds in the business. The last and most serious point which arises is the question of war taxation. We mention in the report that no special provision has been made for income-tax or excess profits tax. Income-tax could, of course, have been estimated fairly closely, but we felt that, the excess profits tax being so much the greater liability, it was useless to set apart any particular sum. In fact, we could not work out any reliable estimate of the probable amount. The excess profits clauses of the Finance Bill are very complicated, and a basis of taxation can be arrived at only by negotiations in our case. Under those circumstances, it was felt that a very large amount must be transferred to a reserve fund, in addition to the carrying forward of about £78,000. For the various reasons which I have referred to, we did not consider it advisable to recommend payment of a larger dividend, and I hope that the shareholders will accept that view. Since the accounts were made up, the turnover of the business has tended to increase still further, but there is very little likelihood that the profits will be on the same scale as during the first six months of this year. I have explained that we were in an especially

advantageous position as regards contracts for purchase of material. This alone will make a very considerable difference to the results. In the report it is mentioned that royalties, previous to the period covered by the accounts, have been included, and there will consequently be a falling off in this respect during the current year. There is every prospect of good profits being made while the present turnover continues, and although the position as regards taxation under the income-tax, excess profits tax, and controlled tax is by no means certain, shareholders may rely upon our doing our best to retain sufficient funds in the business to enable reasonable dividends to be paid, and to enable us to build up a reserve to meet exceptional difficulties which will arise after the war by reason of heavy, and, perhaps, to some extent unsaleable, stocks. The balance-sheet shows an appropriation of £20,000 to a benevolent fund. It has been mentioned in the report that a large turnover has been successfully carried out without a corresponding increase in staff. This has entailed heavy work and responsibility, and although, fortunately, we have had practically no breakdown in health up to the present, a long period of overwork is bound to have its effect in some cases. We therefore decided that it was only a fair thing to charge against our profits the sum of £20,000 for the creation of a benevolent fund, out of which to make grants to members of the staff and employees in certain cases of ill-health, termination of service, &c. I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors now produced, together with the annexed statement of accounts at July 11, 1915, duly audited, be and they are hereby received, approved, and adopted."

Mr. Alexander Glegg, J.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares was declared.

### WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY.

The 18th ordinary general meeting of the White Pass and Yukon Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. C. Macrae (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. A. Robertson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: As you will recollect, all our anticipations of the beneficial results that we had been led to believe would follow on the purchase of the undertaking of the Northern Navigation Co., and through that purchase the carriage of the goods of the Northern Commercial Co., were entirely upset by the outbreak of the war, which caught us just at the commencement of August, August and September being the two heaviest and busiest months of the four working months of this company's operations on the Yukon, and all the estimates were completely upset, depriving us of the greater part of the tonnage which we should undoubtedly have received had it not been for the outbreak of war, the stoppage of credit on the Pacific Coast, and so on. The result, as you know, was that we were compelled to go to the debenture-holders and ask their forbearance to our funding their coupons for the following year—that is the year to June 30, 1915. I regret more than I can express to tell you that it would have been wise if, instead of asking merely that the interest on the debentures should be dealt with for one year, we had then asked and endeavoured to obtain from the debenture-holders forbearance for a longer period. The reason we did not do so was that which has so often proved a broken reed to me—the estimates and anticipations of the experts, and of our advisers in the Yukon, as to what would be the probable result of the trading in 1915. Unfortunately, as has so often happened in recent years, those estimates have been completely upset, owing again, probably, to the fact of the continuance of the war preventing the natural flow of the traffic on which this company depends going into the Yukon. Naturally, so far as that traffic consists of machinery and supplies for large mining operations, which depend very largely upon being financed, the absence of all credit and the means of obtaining credit, and the uncertainty under prevailing war conditions have prevented anything of that kind taking place, and we have lost all that class of traffic from which much had been anticipated, and from which in normal times I believe a large revenue would have been obtained. There is only one thing in the report and accounts to which I wish to draw your particular attention. If you look at the first item on the credit side of the profit and loss account for the year you will see a credit given for £52,944, stated to be "By interest on securities of the local companies accrued to date." Now, I do not know whether it has occurred to any of you that there is something wanting in that statement. There is, indeed, gentlemen. What we have happily been able to set against the corresponding item in every previous account presented to you has been, "By interest on securities of the local companies paid and accrued to date." This year we are not able to insert the words "paid and," because it has not been paid; not one farthing of that £52,944 credited there has been received on this side. Well, gentlemen, that state of things brings you face to face with disaster, and there is nothing for us but again to go to the debenture-holders. We went to them last year, and, not with ease, obtained their consent to their funding the coupons upon their debentures for one year. It is obvious that if we are going to them again it is no good going on a half-and-half measure. We must not risk, so far as humanity can be avoided, again having within a short period to ask the debenture-holders to meet and consider fresh proposals. Anything that is done now should be, at any rate, sufficient to tide us over a reasonable period to allow the ship to get into smooth water again. I had hoped that I might have been able to-day to outline to you the proposal that we intend to



make to the debenture-holders, but unfortunately I am not able to do so, because, although we have been in constant negotiation with representatives of the debenture-holders during the last three weeks, we have not yet been able to arrive at what I may call a formulated proposal. I trust I am not over-sanguine in my belief that in principle we are agreed, but the proposal has not yet passed the formal stages which would justify me in making any statement to you at this meeting; I should only do harm instead of good. Therefore, all I can tell you is that it is absolutely necessary to go to the debenture-holders and ask their forbearance, and in doing so, as obviously occurs to you, it is necessary to ask for sacrifices from the shareholders, because they can hope for nothing from the debenture-holders without at least something being done in that direction. I do not dare to say more on that than that in the exceedingly difficult position in which my colleagues and I find ourselves, we must ask you to trust us to do our best. I am not conscious of myself, my board, or the managers being in any way responsible for the state of things which has befallen this company; they have been entirely beyond the control of any man here, but I am perfectly willing, if desired by the shareholders, to become the scapegoat, and if they desire that I should retire from the chair of this company as being the person responsible at a time of disaster, I can only assent. To conclude, the position is this: We stand face to face with financial trouble of a most acute kind. On the other side, we have an undertaking which all whose advice we must take and rely on in these matters believe to be one that should be prosperous in normal times, and if we can come to a satisfactory arrangement with the debenture-holders no trouble will arise from those who were formerly our competitors in the Yukon, for their interests are, to a large extent, ours. It is as much to their interest that the traffic should be of the largest possible proportions as to ours, and that they should put every ton that they can into the Northern Commercial Company's stores, and I have no doubt whatever that no effort on their part will be wanting to do it. You cannot reasonably expect a change for the better while the war goes on, and during that time we may not be in a position to obtain the wherewithal to meet our debenture interest.

Mr. Edward F. North seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### PEKIN SYNDICATE.

The ordinary general meeting of the members of the Pekin Syndicate, Ltd., was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Thomas A. Barson presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Gilbert) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after dealing with the balance-sheet, said: Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see the London expenditure has been segregated under three headings instead of being lumped together as formerly. The total expenses have been reduced by £1,800, which I think you will regard as satisfactory if you consider the important negotiations which have been brought to a successful issue and the difficult conditions under which the business has been conducted. I am hopeful that in time it will be possible to reduce administration expenses still further, but our motto must be efficiency first, economy afterwards, and as business men you will understand that it is generally futile to attempt to reverse that order. I must now revert to the Honan Concession item, which remains at £133,733. There is an addition to the description in the accounts, which reads as follows:—"Part of the rights under this concession have been transferred to the Fu Chung Corporation, in which the syndicate holds a half interest, the remainder being represented by the coalfields at Ja-Hei-Sen." The agreement with the Fu Chung Corporation was announced in the circular issued last June, and it is also dealt with in the report now submitted, but you may wonder why, as we have disposed of certain interests to this corporation, the concession should still figure in the balance-sheet at the same valuation. You must remember that in the past the amount represented a proposition that was to a large extent unworkable, whereas now we shall share the benefit of the natural wealth of the whole of the concession; therefore it is safe to consider the amount apportioned as being now more approximately its value than it was under the old conditions. Among the advantages of the new arrangement, arrived at with the support and sanction of both the Central and Provincial Governments and the British Minister at Peking, we abolish at a stroke the cut-throat competition we have had to face for the past few years from the native producers. Certain railway rates are reduced to an extent that will allow us to considerably extend our marketable area—a most important factor—and a definite agreement that no permits to mine in the Province of Honan will be granted to any other person or corporation during the 60 years' term of this agreement. The syndicate's concession is extended ten years beyond the original date of expiration. We also have the right to select and work an extra five square miles of territory adjoining our red and yellow permits. These are substantial benefits to set off against the rights transferred. So far we have every reason to be satisfied with the arrangement. Everything is working smoothly, and although during the transition stage the results cannot be taken as a criterion of the future, you will be pleased to hear that Mr. Kenrick, our agent-general, writes in one of his last letters home: "The result of the first two months' working augurs well for the future, and I am perfectly satisfied." I may mention that the very last results to hand are even more favourable than those I have just referred to, but, as I said before, these early results cannot be

taken as a basis. As you are aware, the negotiations which have resulted in the deal with the Fu Chung Corporation have been as delicate as they have been protracted. The syndicate in the past has had to face a great deal of friction and opposition, which has had the effect of seriously obstructing the development of its resources, the disposal of its output, and the extension of its energies. All this is now changed by the creation of the Fu Chung Corporation, analogous to the Kailan Administration of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., which has proved eminently successful, and we are now assured of the hearty co-operation of all the influential people who count in Chinese political and commercial affairs. As to the past, mistakes have been made, sometimes costly ones, and I am afraid that a proportion of the expenditure on exploitation, prospecting, and development may ultimately have to be written off if the coal properties are to show an adequate profit on the capital involved. But the transition stage between the old policy and the new renders it impossible to make even an approximate valuation of present and future prospects. When the Fu Chung Corporation is in proper working order we shall be able to do so. Our standing with the Chinese authorities is excellent, and we are thankful for the support we are receiving from the British Minister at Peking. The President of the Republic is proving himself a most able and just administrator. We are hopeful that he will solve the present political tangle, and that under his guidance the country will make rapid progress. Moreover, the close alliance between Britain and France smooths away the little jealousies which, with all due respect to my French colleagues, might possibly have interfered with the energetic prosecution of the company's business. China is gradually waking up, and there should be magnificent opportunities for a company like ours with abundant cash resources to obtain concessions for railways and other public utilities as soon as world conditions right themselves. I cannot attempt, for obvious reasons, while negotiations are still pending, to enlarge on the hint given in the report as to the fresh businesses we are studying, but I may say that if they materialise they should prove of a remunerative nature. In these projects we are favoured by the fact that not only has German competition received a severe check, but because of the excellent relations established with the Governments and also our late competitors. We have sufficient cash, or its equivalent, to finance any likely project until, in the future, conditions again become normal. For these and other reasons I think we may justifiably consider the syndicate's prospects as most encouraging.

Mr. André Berthelot (managing director) seconded the resolution.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Bagster and cordially seconded by Mr. Perks, and the proceedings then terminated.

### JOHORE PARA RUBBER.

The ordinary general meeting of the Johore Para Rubber Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at 139, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. R. Arnold (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Morton Flavell) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In the first place, I have to congratulate the shareholders on re-entering the dividend list. We paid you a small dividend when rubber stood much higher than it did during the year under review. After that, although profits were earned, we had to go slowly, as we had opened a considerable acreage and our working capital was none too large. This means that we put by each year a large sum for the improvement and extension of our estate, of which we shall now reap the benefit. Since the inception of the company we have planted 418 acres, the oldest of which fresh planting is now in bearing, besides the original planted acreage taken over by the company. In the future I think we shall earn much larger dividends, dependent, of course, on the price of rubber. Just at the moment, with the high price of rubber, things look particularly rosy, as our working costs, which you will see decreased about 4½d. during the year under review, are quite low—in fact, very low for the comparatively small crops we harvested. I cannot foreshadow any great reduction in costs during the current year, as we have a large number of young trees coming into bearing, and these, on account of their initial smaller yield than older trees, are rather more expensive to tap. On the other hand, as our yield increases, so our standing charges per lb. decrease, so that we still look for some reduction this year, if not a large one. You will, however, agree that under 1s. 2d. "all in" is very good for a crop of 140,500 lbs. Our trees are yielding very well. We are already averaging over 300 lbs. of rubber per acre, old and young trees. When in full bearing we confidently look for a crop of over 400 lbs. per acre. We are opening about 120 acres this financial year—partly because we would like to have some further rubber to come in later on, but mainly because there is a patch of good jungle land encroaching into our planted area which harbours deer and pig, and we think when once this is cleared there will be less trouble from this source. Thanks to an elaborate system of fencing, we have not suffered much lately, but our manager has to be for ever on the watch, and in spite of all precautions they still at times break through the fencing. We hope when the further land is planted that these pests will go elsewhere. To sum up our last year's work, our crop was 140,500 lbs. of rubber, which realised 2s. 2½d. gross, and we earned just over 1s. 0½d. per lb., or, to be exact, £7,508, which is about 11½ per cent. on our capital of £65,000. We are writing off £1,330 19s. 7d. preliminary expenses. This is the fourth time we have



written off a like sum, and leaves one more similar amount to be written off, when this vexed item will be extinguished. By paying you a dividend of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. we carry forward a sum of £4,827, which is £1,300 larger than our carry forward last year. Of course, you realise that the sum of £1,695 spent on our immature rubber last year has to be provided, and must be looked on as reinvested by you gentlemen in your estate, which has been improved to a much larger extent, inasmuch as it will bring into tapping considerable additional land during the coming year on which we had already spent working capital and our previous carry forward. The coming year's crop, estimated at 190,000 lbs., is expected to cost  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. f.o.b., which means just over 1s. all in. What it will realise it is quite impossible to forecast. At present prices of rubber it would give us over £20,000 profit. Whatever it is, however, it should put our shares considerably over par.

Mr. T. Ritchie seconded the motion, and it was carried.

### MASHONALAND AGENCY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Mashonaland Agency, Ltd., was held at Salisbury House, London Wall, on the 3rd inst., Mr. H. L. Stokes (chairman and managing director) presiding, when a resolution was proposed to reduce the capital of the company from £400,000 to £150,000, and to distribute one Wankie share in respect of every three shares held, and 6d. in cash.

The Chairman referred to the reconstruction proposals brought forward by the directors last August, and stated that they thought that the proposition would have placed the company in an excellent and strong position, and with a fair amount of working capital available for the further development of the company's assets. However, the conditions in the depressed markets prevailing were peculiar, and a small section of shareholders dissented from the proposals. In the opinion of the board the cost to the company to settle with those dissentients would have been too great a drain upon the company's cash resources, and detrimental to the interest of the general body of shareholders. Further, it would have restricted the development of the company's important land assets, for which a large amount of capital would be required. In these circumstances the board had no option but to abandon their proposals, which was done with great regret. The board, however, appreciating the position, had realised that the capital of the company could not remain at its present amount in the permanently altered circumstances, and appreciated that the only way to meet the situation was to reduce the capital in the manner now proposed, namely, by a distribution of a proportion of the company's shareholding in the Wankie Colliery Co., Ltd., and by cancelling lost capital. Such a proposal was considered by the board before the reconstruction proposition was arrived at, and had, indeed, been advocated by Mr. Oakley before the last extraordinary meeting, but for reasons of which the shareholders were familiar, the board could not see its way to parting with this asset. The large bulk of the shareholdings represented properties acquired in the ordinary way, and turned over to subsidiary concerns after a certain amount of expenditure on their development, the shares being the consideration for sale and the cost thereof representing expenditure borne by the company in the original acquisition of the properties and in the exploiting work carried out before flotation. The Mashonaland Agency was, he believed, the only Rhodesian company that had never been obliged to ask for more money or to reconstruct; further, they had never issued debentures, and the present proposal for reduction of capital was only a convenience and not a necessity, the financial position being absolutely sound. Coming to the distribution of one 10s. Wankie Colliery share, now quoted at 17s. each, for every three Mashonaland Agency £1 share, the Chairman stated that the Wankie share at 17s. divided amongst three Mashonaland Agency shares meant 5s. 8d. a share, to which was to be added the 6d. cash distribution per share which was proposed, making 6s. 2d. distributed in respect of each Mashonaland Agency share now held. The Wankie Co. paid last year 25 per cent. dividend on its old capital, or equal to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on its present increased capital. If the company continued to make similar distribution by way of dividends (and it had already paid two 5 per cent. interim dividends this year) it would mean that the shareholders would receive regular dividends of 5d. for every one Mashonaland Agency share now held, and the dividends accruing should be looked upon as coming from their investment in the Mashonaland Agency. With regard to the distribution of 6d. per share in cash, equal to the sum, roundly, of £10,000, as their available cash was, roundly, some £50,000, they would have left a balance of, say, £40,000, to carry on the business of the company, and for this amount of working capital they had ample necessity for developing their many valuable assets. He concluded by proposing the resolution.

After a long discussion, the suggestion of Mr Edmund Davis to form a committee to confer with the board was agreed to in the form of an amendment, Mr. Austen, Mr. Snell, Mr. Oakley, Mr. Foster-Melliar, and Mr. Edmund Davis being appointed to confer with the directors and to report to the adjourned meeting on the 10th inst.

At the adjourned meeting yesterday Mr. Stokes again presided, and stated that in the best interests of the shareholders the directors had kept in view the importance of unanimity, and this policy had directed them throughout.

Mr. Edmund Davis stated that the committee were satisfied, now that they had looked into the position of the company and had had an opportunity of discussing the position with the

board, that the past operations had been carried on in accordance with the general run of similar development undertakings, and the expenditure under the circumstances which had prevailed had not been and was not exorbitant. The London and South African expenses had shown a steady decrease since 1911, and the committee thought that the shareholders might rest assured that the directors would continue to devote their attention to cutting down expenditure wherever possible, provided such action did not tend to injure the business of the company. The reconstruction scheme now proposed in agreement with the board would mean, if carried out, a distribution in cash and a holding in the Wankie shares, which should bring in a steady income in the future to those who retained them. The committee suggested, by way of final recommendation, that a new company be formed and that the necessary meetings be called forthwith. The arrangement came to in agreement with the board was as follows:—(1) The distribution in cash of 1s. per share. (2) The distribution of 132,992 fully-paid Wankie shares—that was, at the rate of one Wankie Colliery Company share for every three Mashonaland Agency shares. (3) The reduction of each member of the board's fees from £200 to £150 per annum. (4) The reduction of managing director's remuneration from £500 to £350 per annum. (5) The reduction of secretarial and office charges to £750, inclusive, instead of £1,500 per annum, subject to varying deductions for work done for other companies. (6) The reduction of £250 per annum in African expenditure, so soon as feasible, bearing in mind existing arrangements. (7) The formation of a new company with a capital of £150,000, divided into 400,000 shares of 7s. 6d. each, one such share fully paid to be allotted in exchange for each fully paid share now issued in the Mashonaland Agency.

A long discussion followed, generally in favour of the scheme outlined by Mr. Davis, but some shareholders thought that it would be more advisable if the cash distribution originally proposed by the directors had not been increased, as more money would have remained in the hands of the company.

The Chairman afterwards took the sense of the meeting by a show of hands as to carrying out the committee's proposal, which he declared to be carried "by a very large majority." He added that due notice would be given of the further extraordinary meetings, which would be convened within a reasonable time.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the committee and the board.

### To the Holders of the

## £4,200,000 STATE OF SAN PAULO FIVE PER CENT. TWO-YEAR TREASURY NOTES,

DUE 1st JANUARY, 1916.

Under existing circumstances it is impossible for the State of San Paulo to issue a New Loan in London to repay its Two-Year Notes falling due on the 1st January, 1916.

The State has, however, sufficient funds in London, accumulated out of the Revenue derived from the surtax charged in favour of the Notes to repay 30 per cent. thereof, and has agreed to the renewal of the remaining 70 per cent. at the price of £95 per £100.

The renewed Notes will bear interest, as before, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Holders are requested to present their Notes at our Counting-House on or after 15th December for payment on the 1st January next of £33 10s. in cash for every £100 of Notes, made up as follows:—

1. £30 in respect of repayment;
2. £3 10s. in respect of the renewal of the remaining £70 at 95 per cent.

The Coupon for £2 10s. per cent. due 1st January, 1916, will be paid on the same date.

The Notes will be endorsed with a statement that 30 per cent. has been repaid, and that the date of repayment of the remaining 70 per cent. has been extended to the 1st January, 1918. There will be affixed to the Notes four new Coupons to represent the half-yearly interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the renewed amount.

The General Bond of the State securing the Notes will be extended by a Supplemental Deed to 1st January, 1918.

Notes must be left for 14 clear days and must be accompanied by the usual Declaration that they are not presented on behalf of an Alien Enemy.

J. HENRY SCHRÖDER & CO.

145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.,  
7th December, 1915.

### HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY requires the following Note to be appended:—

His Majesty's Treasury have been consulted under the Notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raise no objection to this renewal. It must be distinctly understood that in considering whether they have or have not any objections to new issues, the Treasury do not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes, or for the correctness of any of the statement made or opinions expressed with regard to them.



["LONDON ISSUE."]

# NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN

## Of the GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

### ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic.

Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1916.

### PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. PER FCS. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL

(Being the equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88, the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Seven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal capital (i.e., Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz.:—

	s.	d.
On application ... ..	7	0
On, or before, Monday, the 31st January, 1916	19	0
On, or before, Tuesday, the 29th February, 1916	19	0
On, or before, Friday, the 31st March, 1916 ...	19	0
Total	£3	4 0

@ Fcs. 27.50 per £ = Fcs. 88

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 3s. 6d. in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The French Government undertake that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931; but they reserve to themselves the right to redeem the issue, in whole or in part, at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

The issue will be made in the form of Bonds to Bearer, which may, if desired, be registered or inscribed in the "Grand Livre de la Dette Publique" at the Ministry of Finance in Paris, without payment of any fee.

#### CONVERSION OF

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills due 16th January, 1916.
  2. French Government 3½ per cent. Rentes (Redeemable).
  3. French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable).
1. **French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 16th January, 1916**, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 3s. 3d. cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5 % from the 16th November, 1915 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 16th January, 1916.
2. **French Government 3½ % Rentes (Redeemable)** may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £3 6s. 4d. cash for each Fcs. 100 nominal capital (i.e., Fcs. 3.50 of Rente) surrendered.

3. **French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable)** may be tendered in lieu of cash, to the extent of not more than one-third of the total amount payable in respect of any allotment of this issue, where payment in full for such allotment is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the bonds will be accepted at the rate of £2 8s. cash for each Fcs. 100 Nominal Capital (i.e., Fcs. 3 of Rente) surrendered. The Coupon due 1st January, 1916, must be detached before Bonds are lodged for Conversion.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of all securities lodged for Conversion, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the outbreak of War, or, where issued subsequently, since the date of issue.

Applications for the Loan may be paid up

1. Entirely in cash;
2. Partly in cash and partly by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options; or
3. Entirely by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options;

provided always that in no case may the sterling value of 3% Rentes surrendered exceed one-third of the whole sterling amount payable in respect of any allotment. In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Securities to be converted does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of two pence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of Cash applications, and applications for the Conversion of French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, made on forms bearing their Stamp. No commission will be paid in respect of allotments resulting from the conversion of French Government 3½ % and 3 % Rentes.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London Stock Exchange of Bonds of the "LONDON ISSUE." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz.:—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Securities, or both,
  2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments,
- may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., and at the Branches of that Bank; and at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915.

BANK OF ENGLAND, E.C.,

29th November, 1915.



# The Investors' Review.

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## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**One Reply to One Question — One Shilling.** Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

## Passing Events.

It is natural no doubt, but none the less to be regretted, that such a fuss should have been made in Parliament and out of it about our agreement with Denmark. Unable to deny the expediency of it, the assault of the disgruntled has been directed against the secrecy maintained about its terms. This is conduct both mean and unpatriotic, the noisy hostility a mere pretext for onslaughts designed to weaken the authority of the Ministry before the country at the very moment when all parties should be leagued together to support it. "But we are perhaps giving away some of our powers and rights under the blockade," so the cavillers allege, and in alleging say what is not true. Is it likely that the Government would do such a thing, "insult" our fleet by curtailing its liberties of research and capture? It is not at all likely, and we may be quite sure that it has not happened. The enemy amongst us choose to ignore our difficulty in dealing with the commerce of neutrals. Practically it gave us the choice of but two courses towards Denmark and Holland, either to try to make a bargain with them, or to treat them as allies of the enemy. We have taken the better course, and through our agreements, first with Holland and next with Denmark, have not only much increased our power to starve out Germany, but materially reduced the strain upon our by no means underworked fleet. Scenes in Parliament are never agreeable to witness, but the country, we are convinced, would be pleased to learn that the yappings of a band of irreconcilables, for the most part as ignorant of politics as of sheep-stealing, were drowned in cries of "Shame, shame!"

Another friendly "neutral" has been taking up his parable in the *Times*, and in a succession of letters tells us a good many facts, and retails a good many valuable opinions with regard to German conditions and sentiments. Amongst other things, he has been arguing with Germans whom he encountered about the wisdom of their attitude towards Great Britain, pointing out that it would be unreasonable to expect the English to admit Germans to social intercourse within a generation or two after the war. The reply was:—"The English will have to do what we tell them, so far as

commerce is concerned. The power of our great Customs Union will be such as to compel England to trade with us. We were her best customers before the war. During the war we are developing all the trades which England had. We are storing up cotton in America, wool and hides in South America, and iron ore in Sweden. We shall be independent of Great Britain, but she will not be independent of us. Our aniline dyes alone will be a sufficient lever to prise open the commercial gates of England."

Here we have an example of the impregnability of German conceit, and it should make our manufacturers and merchants wake up to the danger which may threaten them. Evidently the Germans imagine that after their triumphs in the war they can force us to buy their goods whether we will or no, and to receive them as "friends" because they are able to clap a revolver to our heads. That is quite the Junker conception of social amenities, and we need not be too much disturbed in mind by vapourings of this description. They are the expressions of baffled rage more than of anything else. At the same time, the attitude displayed should warn us that we must be up and doing, so as to be able to take care of our own interests when the time comes for competition to be renewed. We also must be active in good company. Any organisations formed in this country, such as the British Manufacturers' Association, now massing its forces with such vigour, with the object of protecting and extending our trade, must take into account the position of our Allies, and strive to work in ever-increasing harmony with them. Isolation will have to cease, and cordial, intimate trade relations be established between all the Allies. This is a subject on which we harp because it is of such extreme importance. Any idea of combating the Germans by means of Protectionist tariffs set up by each of the four entente Powers independently must be abandoned, and every effort made to work in complete unity of design with France, Russia, and Italy. United in purpose, it should be a matter of no serious difficulty for these Powers to create a "tolls union" which, while securing the trade and industry of all of us from the unscrupulous competition of the Teutons, would at the same time enable us effectually to bar the gates against German competition to whatever



extent was thought necessary. "The world must take our dyes," these fury-charged Germans told the *Times* "neutral." There is no must in it, as they will presently discover, but such an attitude of mind on mere questions of business is one more piece of evidence that should help to convince even the pacifists and pro-Germans in this country that there can be no peace or reconciliation with such a people until they are beaten to impotence. They will be that, sure enough, we must every day reiterate, if only we stand up determinedly to the hard task set before us. Hunger will bring them to their senses. Consider the meaning of the fact that nearly one-fourth of the population the German Empire possessed before the war would have died of starvation had they depended on home-grown foods. No supply now available to them can make good such a deficiency, because nearly all the world is shut out from Germany by the British fleet and the fleets of our Allies. To talk of winning the war when this is the position is only to exhibit a welcome insanity, welcome for our purpose if only we keep sane and unflinchingly do our duty.

Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, has resigned his office, and will succeed Mr. J. H. Turner as Agent General for the province in London on February 1, 1916. Mr. Turner has held the office for 14 years, having been appointed for life in 1901. No man among all those in positions similar to that occupied by Mr. Turner is more respected or more worthy of respect, and his supercession will be regretted by all who know him or who have come in contact with him.

In some respects the report of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., covering its year ended November 1 last, is one of the most satisfactory of all the Scotch bank statements yet issued. After providing for all bad and doubtful debts, the nett profit of £250,980 shows an increase of £13,936 over the previous year. The balance of £88,413 brought forward was also £52,975 higher, so that the available £339,393 shows an increase of £66,911, a really fine result. Unhappily the directors have had to write off a large amount of money against the depreciation of the bank's investments, and £120,000 of the year's profits is thus set aside, while £100,000 is taken from the reserve, so that £220,000 in all has been in this way swallowed up, and the reserve is now brought down to £800,000. Although the dividend is raised by 1 per cent. to 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, there is no bonus of 3 per cent., or any per cent., added as there was a year ago. This is not pleasant, but the shareholders ought to submit thankfully, and rather insist upon a continuance of their privations than grumble. After all, money set aside against book loss unrealised is not necessarily money really lost. After placing the usual £5,000 to real estate and £10,000 to the officers' pension fund, the balance of £63,847 left to carry forward is £24,566 down. It should always be remembered that this bank declares its dividend payable forward—that is to say, the £140,546 required to pay the 16 per cent. will be distributed half on January 11 and half on July 11 next. It is explained that the bank's investments, with the exception of its holdings of 4½ per cent. of War Stock, which is entered at nett cost, have been taken into the balance-sheet at prices ruling on November 1. Said balance-sheet shows an increase of £433,080 in the note circulation, bringing it up to £1,531,532. The liability on deposit, current account, and other credit balances has expanded £2,325,711 to £20,442,025, but acceptances are down £446,606 to £763,774. The mixture of cash, notes and bank balances foots up at £2,468,555, an increase of £432,445, but call and short notice loans in London, &c., are at £2,997,935, £623,762 down, and there is a decrease of £446,326 in the bank's miscellaneous investments, which stand at £1,860,272. Against this, however, the holdings of British Government securities, including £5,582,543 of the 4½ per cent. War Stock taken at nett cost, are up £4,957,587 to £5,885,850. Bills discounted show a small decline of £81,517 at £2,216,422, and loans on Stock Exchange securities are £1,213,034 lower at

£2,672,362, while advances have declined £420,429 to £5,315,656. The changes in the value of bank buildings and real estate owned are quite insignificant, and the total of the balance-sheet is £2,156,359 higher at £24,785,429. The gross profit of £423,564 was £17,571 higher, and expenses rose £3,635 to £172,584.

The business of Cox and Co., the well-known bankers of Charing Cross, is a business which extends all over India, the firm having branches in Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Rawal Pindi, Murree, and Srinagar (Kashmir). Its resources are therefore larger than those of all but two of our other remaining private banks, and the liability on deposit, current, and other accounts was at October 8, the date of the balance-sheet, £10,303,958. There were also acceptances outstanding for £287,330. Of the large total of £11,338,965 to which the balance-sheet adds up—this including £450,000 of paid-up capital, of which £150,000 is in 4 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £100 each and a reserve fund of £80,000—no less than £3,757,529 is cash and short credit in the market, cash at bankers and on hand being £2,126,744 of the total. Another £2,531,247 is invested in British, Indian, and colonial securities, £1,954,020 of it being in British stocks. Then advances to customers amount to £2,340,327, and the bills of exchange held to £1,939,338.

It astonished us, we flatly confess, to find the decrease in the nett profits of the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., for the year closed October 31 last only £2,436. When one takes into account not only the adverse influence of the war upon the production of newspapers and even of some of the forms of the light literature popular in times of peace, but likewise the steady increase in the cost of everything required to produce this literature, there would have been nothing astonishing in finding the profits down at least 10 per cent. As it is, the decline is little above ¼ per cent., the total profit being £326,836. Sales and advertisements, in fact, brought in a revenue of £1,270,594, and with the addition of £28,815 from interest and dividends received on investments and of £106 from transfer fees, the gross income of £1,299,515 was actually £76,071 larger than that of the previous year, but paper and printing cost £19,741 more, and the increase in trade expenses, advertising, postage and carriage was £55,104. Last year, by the by, advertising was stated separately at £102,415. This time it is hid, and we are curious to know whether the hiding is motived by a saving in that item or to its increase. —In spite of these increases, which were offset in part by a reduction of £21,311 in the editorial and commercial salaries and literary expenses, the nett profit would still have been upwards of £20,000 larger than that of the preceding year had not the directors written an additional £25,000, or £65,000 in all, off goodwill and copyright. The year was consequently really one of the most prosperous in the company's history, and the directors had no difficulty whatever in making up the dividend on the ordinary shares to the usual 40 per cent., while adding £25,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £250,000, at the same time that £65,000 was written off as above-mentioned, bringing down the goodwill and copyright asset to £355,000. Against that, however, the outlay upon buildings, plant and machinery is up £19,674 on the year to £225,354, notwithstanding the £25,000 written off for depreciation. That is to say, altogether about £45,000 was spent as capital on the company's property last year. Its investments, however, which were increased £25,566 during the year, now amount to £994,482, taken at or under cost, and the cash, including £39,372 of Treasury bills held, shows an increase of £69,198, and now amounts to £199,354, of which £130,000 is out on short loan. The Amalgamated Press is thus a company bursting with riches, and we are glad to see that the interests of the employees are not neglected; but, on the whole, that has always been a point in favour of the Harmsworths. They are not particular



in dismissing employees whom they do not like, or who do not serve their purpose; but when the individual has been received into favour he is well treated and generally stuck by. The pensions and allowances fund was increased by £15,000 last year, and now stands at £100,000. For some reason undiscoverable from a study of the wealth shown, creditors and credit balances are owed £102,027 more than a year ago, making the total work-a-day debts of the company £293,618. On the other hand, it has £86,437 more owing to it by sundry debtors, making the total of that asset £279,990. As already announced, the two chiefs of the Harmsworth family, Lords Northcliffe and Rothermere, have resigned their directorships, their agreement with the company having expired many years ago. They will still, however, remain available for consultation and advice, and doubtless they continue to be the controlling shareholders in what is the most prosperous business of its kind in this country. Within the past year another 277 employees of the company have enlisted, making a total of 477 now serving in the various branches of His Majesty's Forces. This withdrawal no doubt helps to account for the decrease in the editorial and commercial expenses.

It would not have been surprising if the profit of the Imperial Tobacco Co. of Canada, Ltd., for its year closed September 30 last had shown a greater diminution than the figures disclose. As it is, the decline of £54,783 still leaves a nett income of £475,361, and as the amount of £77,940 brought forward was £42,753 larger the real free total of £553,302 is only £12,031 down. The shareholders have had 5 per cent. during the year, which contrasts with 5½ per cent. paid for the previous year, and leaves £43,454 more at £121,394 to be carried forward. The figures on which this distribution is based do not include the associated companies' proportion of undivided profits upon which it has not been thought fit to declare dividends. All is plain sailing in the accounts, which are impressive owing to the magnitude of the amounts involved, the total of the balance-sheet being £7,845,118. The total issued capital is £7,198,459. There is no debenture debt, and the reserve funds amount to £320,000, or £24,473 more than a year back, and the small current liabilities due to creditors are a mere £17,177 higher at £79,399. Among the assets the heaviest item is goodwill, trade marks, and patents entered at £5,510,301, neither up nor down on the year. Next we have stock-in-trade and leaf funds, which are £235,268 down at £1,268,233. Cash is £59,012 up at £106,946. We hope the current year will show up even better still.

Meetings of the holders of the 4½ per cent. second debenture stock and of the income stock of the Cordoba Central Railway Co., Ltd., have been called for next Tuesday to sanction a scheme permitting the issue of £650,000 6 per cent. debenture stock, which will take precedence of these securities and enable the board to withdraw the outstanding £248,600 of three-year notes which were created under authority to the amount of £500,000, but the balance of which has never been issued. Another £250,000 of the proposed loan will be issued at 96 per cent., leaving £151,400 nominal as reserve to meet further liabilities already incurred. Prospects are better for this company, as we stated in dealing with its annual report, so that there ought not to be any hesitation in agreeing to these proposals, disagreeable though they are from the point of view of the holders of securities which must be pushed back. Apparently the lines are going to be worked with greater economy in future, at any rate additional locomotives and rolling stock have been provided, and the proprietors and creditors ought soon to see the income swelling to much higher aggregates. The sum to be provided is "absolutely necessary to liquidate the company's liabilities, and thus maintain the stability of the undertaking upon which the security of the 4½ per cent. second debenture stock is based." The income stockholders are asked to be present at the meeting of the

second debenture holders in order to speed up the necessary formalities.

Austrian official figures tell us that during the first five months of the war the public debt was increased by £201,760,000, of which only £80,440,000 was "War Loans." Yes, but how about the next eight months, and how about the Hungarian share of the total war waste debt? Do the Austrian officials really think that they can get the outside world to believe their garbled story? They have had millions of men under arms; they must have furnished the men with hundreds of million pounds' worth of ammunition with which to carry on the strife; they are warring now in Galicia, in the Italian Alps, in the Balkans, and still would have us believe that the cost of all this expenditure of wealth is a bagatelle. In reality Austria is more bankrupt than even Germany, and both are in the ditch together.

A summary of the Japanese Budget has been transmitted to the Japanese Financial Commission in Europe, and given to Reuter for distribution. It states that the total revenue is estimated at about £55,350,000, of which £52,302,000 will be ordinary revenue and £3,047,000 extraordinary. Expenditure is made to balance this total, the ordinary being put at £39,745,000 and the extraordinary at £15,605,000. So far, however, as the ordinary expenditure is concerned, a surplus of £12,557,000 is looked for, in spite of the fact that £4,532,000 additional is to be laid out on the navy, spread over four years. In 1916-17 the instalment used of this extra money will only be £588,000, consequently as the trade balance is highly favourable, thanks partly to the disappearance of German competition, and still more to the energy with which Japan has been helping Russia to guns and ammunition, the expectation is that a reduction in the external debt will be possible, and we hope that expectation will be fulfilled.



## ALTERATION OF SERVICE

Route No. 54.

### EARLS COURT & CAMDEN TOWN

On and after Monday December 20th, 1915, the above Service will be diverted and extended from Earls Court (Royal Arms), Warwick Road, to Walham Green (Red Lion), and run as follows on weekdays and Sundays:—

Camden Town (Britannia)      Walham Green (Red Lion)

Via:—

North End Road, Lillie Road, Richmond Road, Earls Court Road, Cromwell Road, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, Park Lane, Oxford Street, Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Great Portland Street, Albany Street, Park Street.

From Camden Town      From Walham Green  
Times of Buses.

Weekdays	Sundays	First Bus	Weekdays	Sundays
7.20 a.m.	10.0 a.m.	7.20 a.m.	10.0 a.m.	
11.15 p.m.	9.58 p.m.	Last Bus	11.15 p.m.	9.50 p.m.

Buses every 10 minutes. Through Fare, 3d.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,  
Electric Railway House,  
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



After many years of abstinence from such luxuries as dividends, the Cargo Fleet Iron Co. was able 12 months ago to resume payment with a small distribution of 2½ per cent. It has been confidently asserted recently that the results for the year ended September 30 would show a marked improvement as the company's works were fully employed, and the profits should consequently be large. The report has therefore been awaited with interest; but the directors now announce that owing to the change involved by the iron and steel works having been declared a controlled establishment on November 8, and to the uncertainty as to how profits will be affected by the Finance Act, it has been impossible to get the accounts ready in time for the meeting on December 22. It would appear, however, either that the anticipations of a substantial improvement had not been realised, or that a very conservative policy had been adopted in dealing with the additional earnings, as the dividend now declared is only 3 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Further substantial extensions to its system were made by the Melbourne Electric Supply Co. in the year ended August 31, and sales of current by the Melbourne undertaking increased by 3,523,000 units to 17,486,300 units, while the Geelong branch sales increased by 18,363 units to 1,270,516 units. Apparently the adverse influences of war and the recent drought on the company's business were more than offset by the demand for light and power from firms engaged in the manufacture of war munitions and requisites. Gross profits improved by £13,337 to £117,677, the increase following one of £27,247, and after providing for the service of the debenture stocks, £5,000 is again transferred to general reserve, raising that fund to £70,000, £1,800 is set aside for income certificates service fund, and £516 is written off cost of increase of capital, compared with £10,561 for cost of debenture stock issues last year. No further appropriations, however, are made compared with £5,000 to suspense account and £10,000 to dividend equalisation fund, so that the nett surplus, including £7,819, or £3,304 more brought in, is £36,708 up at £85,028. The directors merely repeat the dividend of 10 per cent. on the consolidated ordinary stock and pay 5 per cent. on the additional stock issued on March 1, leaving the balance carried forward £32,958 up at £40,778. Against the increase in the capital the cost of the Melbourne undertaking is £91,024 up at £939,547, and that of the Geelong property £9,827 up at £172,086. Current liabilities have been reduced by £11,570 to £20,223, but other changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant. To provide for essential capital expenditure the directors recently applied to the Treasury for permission to issue the balance of 125,000 £1 shares at par to the holders of the existing ordinary stock, as nearly as possible in the proportion of one to three. Permission was granted subject to the issue being made in Australia to Australian stockholders only, and a circular will shortly be issued offering them their proportion to the above basis, the rights of stockholders on the London register being reserved until Treasury permission is granted or has ceased to be necessary.

The Adelaide Electric Supply Co. also made good progress in the year ended August 31, the number of consumers being increased by 16 per cent., the sales by 5 per cent., and the gross revenue by 7 per cent. Sales amounted to 7,055,015 units, or 314,024 units more, and the total income from all sources was £7,912 up at £19,897. Of this £42,068, or £1,575 more, was retained as nett profit, and with £10,815 brought in, gave a total of £52,883. Dividends on the preference shares required more, so that after repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, £7,920, or £2,895 less, was carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £79,198, making a total of £817,547, and in order to provide for this outlay the company issued 10,365 £5 preference shares and

£25,000 debenture stock. Further capital will be required to enable the company to fulfil its statutory obligations, and in October last the capital was increased by the creation of 50,000 £1 shares, which can be issued either as preference or ordinary shares at the discretion of the directors. Application was made to the Treasury for permission to issue 20,000 of these as ordinary shares, and to offer them at a premium of 30s. per share to the holders of the existing ordinary shares in the proportion of four for every 10 held, but, as in the case of the Melbourne Co., the permission was granted on the understanding that the issue will only be made to shareholders residing in Australia.

The works of the Alby United Carbide Factories, Ltd., were shut down on the outbreak of hostilities, but the directors do not say how long they remained closed, and, in any case, the increased demand for carbide has provided compensation for any loss which may have been caused. Gross trading profits for the year ended June 30 were £14,819 up at £76,590, and as the receipts from the Meraker and North-Western Cyanamide Cos. were again satisfactory the revenue was £18,955 better at £98,475. After meeting London office charges and writing off £12,293, or £1,737 less, for depreciation the nett profits showed an increase of £8,247 at £60,469, making with £42,316 brought forward a total of £102,785, or £34,165 more. Investments, however, have been taken into the accounts at cost, and although the directors believe that the present market value of some is considerably above the book figures, others are certainly below it, and, as a matter of precaution, £62,500 is set aside to create a reserve. A dividend of 5 per cent. is then paid, or the same as for the previous year, and £35,065 less at £7,251 is carried forward. In addition to the appropriation from revenue, a sum of £87,520 received a premium on the new shares issued in 1913-14 is transferred to the new reserve, making it £150,000 in all. A further £32,536 was received on account of the new shares, making the paid-up capital £707,605, and bank loans have been reduced by £7,012 to £103,779, but current liabilities are £41,559 higher at £78,138. On the other hand, stocks are £45,563 larger at £133,905, trade debtors owe £53,477 more at £113,351, and cash is £46,524 up at £47,772, while dividends due from the subsidiary undertakings come to £21,404, or £16,479 more. Investments in these companies have been increased by £56,924 to £491,672, but loans and advances show very little change at £30,751. The demand for carbide has increased to such an extent that it has been found necessary to extend the factory, and an additional 7,500 horse-power will be available about the end of March, when the output should be increased to nearly 90,000 tons per annum. The Merchu works are also being extended to about three times their present capacity to cope with the growing business in ferro-alloys.

The India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Co. was able to retrieve its position in the year ended September 30, in spite of the fact that the works at Persan remained closed till after the beginning of the financial year, and that labour was exceedingly scarce in France owing to the war. Gross profits showed an improvement of no less than £105,153 at £207,117, and after providing for administration charges, interest, &c., and writing off £24,199 for depreciation, there was a profit of £80,404, compared with a loss of £18,922 for the preceding 12 months. A year ago £50,000 was withdrawn from reserve to pay the preference dividend and a distribution of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which left £1,034 to be carried forward. Including this, the distributable balance is now £81,437, out of which the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 10 per cent., or double last year's amount, and the balance carried out is raised by £17,904 to £18,937, this large increase being necessary owing to the liability for the excess profits tax. Premises show a decrease of £11,111 at £554,945, and the assets at Persan and agencies have been reduced by £24,942 to £532,138, while shares in



other companies are £6,629 down at £93,123. Stocks, however, are £52,725 larger at £357,933, debtors owe £162,595, or £53,170 more, against an increase of £24,910 to £183,652 in liabilities to creditors and on bank loan, &c., while cash and bills are £4,168 up at £39,458.

A loss of £53,693 shown in the accounts published by Harrods (Buenos Aires), Ltd., for its first period of working ended August 31, 1914, has been turned into a nett profit of £2,346 for the past year. All of it seems to have been made in the second half of the company's year, for the report says that the profits made during that time were sufficient, not only to cover a loss of about £10,000 incurred during the first six months, but to leave the surplus stated. That promises well for the revival of business generally throughout Argentina, and since the close of the financial year, August 31, the increase in the trade done by the company has been about 77 per cent., so it is to be inferred that Harrods (Buenos Aires), Ltd., is on the high road to prosperity akin to that of the parent company in London. It has premises containing a floor space of nearly three acres in the finest business street of Buenos Aires, and should therefore have every chance. Actually after paying salaries and other working expenses, the profit was £8,813, but £6,467 was written off for depreciation, replacements, &c., leaving the nett figure as above. From the balance-sheet we see that £330,480 nett was paid up on the share capital during the year, being the last 5s. due on both the preference and ordinary shares. This money has enabled the board to pay off a bank loan of £20,856, and to reduce the mortgages on certain of the properties at Buenos Aires by £20,801 to £82,514, but it owes £46,161 more to sundry creditors at £74,728. Among the assets, on the other hand, the new capital has enabled the board to meet £80,413 laid out upon the freehold property, and the fixtures, plant, &c., making the cost of the land and buildings £615,930, and of the plant, &c., £176,425. Stocks are also £119,517 up at £407,005, but sundry debtors owe only £4,285 more at £13,983. The weak part of the balance-sheet is the amount still unliquidated on account of premises, formation, and other expenses and goodwill. This item was increased last year by £3,258 to £144,589, and there are still £90,000 of underwriting commissions waiting to be liquidated, so that altogether this entry on the assets side stands at £234,589, and badly want to be written off when profits expand.

During the past two years the course of events has run adversely to Bieckert's Brewery (1900), Ltd. In the two years ended June 30 last profits of this Argentine brewery have shrunk by nearly £48,000. For the past year they dropped £29,022 to £51,005, so that had not £10,536 more at £25,377 been brought forward the position would have been irksome. As it is, the available total of £76,382 is only £18,486 down, but that reduction compels the board again to reduce the dividend, which is only 3 per cent. upon the ordinary stock for the past year. It was 9 per cent. two years ago, having dropped a first 3 per cent. for the year closed June 30, 1914. A little more, seemingly, might have been paid, only £7,500 had to be set aside as special provision for bad debts, and income-tax requires £1,500 more at £7,500. The amount left to carry forward will then be only £550 less at £24,827. A year ago, however, the reserve got £15,000 and two years ago £35,000, so that the situation approaches one of strain. However, £10,550 of debt was redeemed last year, and the outstanding liabilities of the company on debentures is now only £198,080. There is a general reserve, too, of £190,000, and the only obscure point in the accounts relates to the San Carlos Brewery, whose final liquidation has brought some shares to Bieckert's, the value of which is included in the balance-sheet under the head of investments. These show an increase of £11,456 at £116,199 taken at cost, which may not mean so much. The company is fairly strong in cash, an increase of £7,732 during the year bringing the total up to £20,246, and when business revives its profits may revive. We hope it will be so.

Waterlow Bros. and Layton, Ltd., tell their shareholders in the report covering the year ended September 30 last that the new building in Birch Lane has been completed during the year, and only a portion of the ground floor and the lower ground floor remains unlet. But they add that the full benefit of the lettings was not derived during the year. As for profits they show a reduction of £1,373, after allowing for £1,505 more at £3,077 brought forward. In other words, the actual profit of £15,151 is down £2,878, but the larger balance forward, which brings up the available balance to £18,228, reduces the aggregate by only £1,373. Out of the total the directors place £2,000 instead of £5,000 to the general reserve, and again make up the dividend on the ordinary shares to 6 per cent. for the year. This leaves £1,627 more at £5,228 to be carried forward. No special provision has been made in the accounts for the Excess Profits Tax. In these accounts the changes are of no great moment at any point, and we need not say more than that goodwill remains at £87,714, and that the cost of the freehold and leasehold properties has risen by £7,896 to £62,728. Cash is £1,671 lower at £8,279.

The report of the Champion Reef Gold Mining Co. of India for the year ended September 30 would have been a very cheery document but for the "sting in the tail." The production amounted to £545,339, and the total revenue was £520,178. The profit rose by £8,474 to £210,108, making, with the sum brought in, £4,115, a total of £215,337. The sum of £15,000 is again written off for depreciation, the same amount is again placed to reserve, and expenditure on the Gifford shaft written off is reduced from £21,927 to £19,010. A final dividend of 8d. per share, against 7d. per share, is recommended, making the total dividend 56½ per cent., as against 53½ per cent. last year. As a result of the developments underground, a substantial addition has been made to the reserves of ore, the total being computed at 495,015 tons, an increase of 17,631 tons. But the directors add that the decrease in values which has taken place quite recently in the Glen section indicates that in the immediate future the monthly returns of gold will show a reduction. The extent to which the output will be affected will, however, depend upon the developments during the next few months.

The reports of three of the principal Mexican mining companies have been issued this week, and they demonstrate very clearly the varying degrees in which the revolutionary disturbances have affected the operations of concerns situated in different parts of the country at different periods. The El Oro Mining and Railway Co., which earned a nett profit of £103,690 in the year ended June 30, 1914, sustained a loss in the succeeding 12 months of £78,397, owing to the suspension of operations again in March. After making the usual provision of £25,000 in each year for depreciation, and writing off £23,242 and £21,343 respectively for loss on exchange, besides writing down the company's investment in the Suchi Timber Co. to 10s. per share, there remains a credit balance of £77,240, which is carried forward. The directors are still unable to indicate when full operations may be resumed, for the El Oro district is still disturbed. On the other hand, the Camp Bird increased its profits in the year ended June 30 last from £70,292 to £117,899, to which has to be added £5,392 brought in. A dividend of 1s. per share on the ordinary is paid, against nil for 1913-14 and 2s. for 1912-13, and £6,590 is carried forward. But the life of the Camp Bird mine is nearing its end, the ore reserves being estimated to yield a profit of only £56,000. With regard to the repudiated loan and the contemplated legal proceedings referred to last year, a compromise has been arrived at whereby the securities for the loan have been taken over by the Camp Bird and Santa Gertrudis companies, and half of any loss on realisation up to £15,000 is to be contributed by the firm in question. In addition, it is considered advisable to write off a further £8,141 on account of the deposit with the late bankers—Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co. The accounts of the Santa



Gertrudis Co., which is controlled by the Camp Bird, show an available profit of £29,159, against £94,453, but adding £101,526 brought in the total is £130,685. A dividend of 1s. per share, against nil last year, is paid, and £55,394 is carried forward. The ore reserves are estimated at 1,287,000 tons, an increase of 93,000 tons. Operations of both these companies have been less affected by the revolution than in the case of the El Oro, and regular profits continue to be earned. The fact that no dividends were paid last year was due to the serious losses sustained by the Grenfell failures, which involved the writing off of substantial sums.

### **"Quit You Like Men and Be Strong."**

Only too true is it that the events of the past six weeks have put a more severe strain than usual upon the moral courage and self-abnegation of the nation and the Empire. The skilfully devised and executed surprise invasion of Serbia by the Austro-Germans, aided by Bulgaria, carried our foes on from triumph to triumph, until now Serbia is prostrate and "Macedonia is free," as the Bulgars boast. Too late, much too late, the French and ourselves awoke to the danger, and hurried to the rescue. Our armies that pushed forward to try to help the Serbians were too weak, and the Serbians themselves too outnumbered, to render the effort fruitful of good. Disaster, in a word, threatened the Anglo-French forces, and only the fine courage and discipline of the troops—above all, at the most critical moment of our retreat, the heroism of the Irish regiments—averted what might have been a grave disaster, the separating of our forces, and their defeat in detail. By our hesitation and delays, by our fumbling goody-goodyism over Greek treachery, by our mismanagement of the Dardanelles campaign, we have given the enemy many opportunities to boast of which he has not been slow to avail himself to the full, as witness the messages from German, Bulgarian, Turkish, and Austrian official sources sown broadcast every day. No greater scope has been afforded in the whole course of the war to the German despots to mislead their dupes at home, and to pose as world-conquerors before the inhabitants of neutral and belligerent lands, than they have had in this Balkan campaign. That the vauntings and assertions are always exaggerated and often false—as witness the two English divisions "practically annihilated"—makes but little difference to the immediate effect on the unthinking mob everywhere.

It is all most lamentable and to be regretted; but are we, therefore, to despair, or, if foolishly despairing, to turn and rend our ministers, generals, and functionaries who have had to bear, and must now bear the brunt of the worry and anxieties involved in a more determined organisation of victory? We should hope not. It would be a—perhaps fatal—mistake to substitute new men for men tried, and, we believe, chastened, by the bitter experience, and to do it at this present critical juncture. Upbraid them with measure if need be, remonstrate with them, nay scold them if necessary, and give them advice, but the sum of all that is said must be: "Do your duty, and do it with an energetic promptitude hitherto too little visible." This war is not a war of doubts and hesitations, but of swift decision and action equally swift.

A time of pause or of reverse like that we have been passing through since September is always the most trying to a population at war, and the grumblers then multiply like midges in the twilight. Those who are the most forward usually know nothing of the actualities of war, or of the enormous responsibilities in new and unfamiliar directions which have to be faced and dealt with—know nothing either of the stupendous work involved—and so they carp and sneer, insinuate, backbite, suggest everything derogatory, and are equally busy in acclaiming new heroes, just as inexperienced, and often more incompetent, but, because untried, held capable of saving the State. There are those among us also who appear to be ready always to put more faith in the enemy's assertions than in those of their own Government. At no time, therefore, has pro-

Germanism been more rife and rampant in certain strata of our society than now, and we dread lest here also German gold may not be altogether wanting to stimulate the zeal and faith. German boasting certainly has had a most powerful influence in helping public opinion to incline to a betrayal of their country. And the arrogance of mere tools of the master, like von Bethmann-Hollweg, appears to have had almost as much power over unthinking minds here as hunger is having over the mobs of Germany. All this is true, and as lamentable as true, but are we to give way to enervating influences of that kind? Shall we abandon the cause of civilisation and human progress, our birth-right and liberty, and bow the knee to the enslaver merely in the hope of saving our wealth, as some weak-kneed publicists are not ashamed to urge us to do? No, we must fight on, and fight without regard to material consequences, fight for liberty until the hydra that would enslave has been slain, and peace, a real peace, brought back to the world. Those who would advise us to seek peace with a foe who puts forth claims and assumes the attitude von Bethmann-Hollweg did last week in the Reichstag, are either incapable of understanding the great issues involved or little or no better than cowardly traitors to all that gives mankind hope on earth for the future of his kind.

Let us try, then, to rise above the petty vexations—for petty they are compared with the great, unselfish ambition that animates the Allies—and the transient anxieties which now oppress us, and look abroad over the whole field to try to penetrate the darkness and take stock of the position. Look first at the Balkans. Is the "triumph" there really all that the invaders of Serbia make out? Not altogether, not by any means all. They have overrun Serbia and most of Macedonia and will invade Greece—and have gone far to ruin themselves in their fury. Bulgaria is penniless now and wants a "credit" of £22,000,000, it is said. Can Germany furnish her with the money, give "Ferdinand and Felon," as the French call him, such a hold on what may remain of their means? We know not for certain, but, no matter what German bankers may promise, we do know that they have not the means with which to meet such a demand with honest money, and are certain, too, that nowhere else in the world can Bulgaria now raise £100. Finance is master of nations, and of war, in the long run, as we always keep repeating, and the Bulgarians stand a good chance of finding out the truth of that statement during the whole course of the next hundred years. Bulgaria is to-day absolutely bankrupt, and therefore unable to maintain an army in the field except at the cost of her beguiler, and how long can Germany meet that cost? We shall presently see.

But money apart, what the allies in infamy have won in Balkania already promises them nothing but sorrow, endless sorrow and vexation. Turk and Bulgar, Austrian and German, having all irreconcilable lusts and ambitions in that Balkan country, possess therefore fertile sources of quarrel. Moreover, the Serbian people and the Serbian army remain unsubmissive and unsubdued. Serbia still has troops in large numbers waiting only to be refitted for the conflict, when the re-equipped army will be in a position to strike across Austro-German lines of communication. Italy, moreover, is coming to the rescue, and her intervention may have a decisive effect on the fortunes of the enemy on the Western part of the Balkan field of war, and help most effectively to complete Austria's ruin. And Russia is gathering her hosts to be ready to intervene from the North—whether Rumania likes it or not—when her troops can move without danger of destruction by the winter climate. Meantime, the French and ourselves must hold Salonika, will do so; and must also get ready for the spring, when powerful armies under able and well-proved French leadership should be in a position, with the assistance just outlined, to sweep every obstacle out of the way and end Bulgaria's fell ambitions for ever. Thus all the toil, all the furious drive forward, and all the risks remain for the Kaiser and his evil-odoured allies greater than they were before they entered upon this last adventure of despair, penniless and hungry.



They are certain also to quarrel amongst themselves—although we must not count on that to help us—so that the Prussians are soon to find that some triumphs may be infinitely more disaster-laden to the victor than the loss of a dozen pitched battles.

The very bounce and insolence of the Germans disclose to us the presence of dread in their minds. They are, their Press liars would have us believe, making themselves cosy on the, for them, wrong side of the Dvinsk, in Courland; they are intriguing and murdering in Persia; their Turk dupe is falsely alleged to be carrying all before him in Mesopotamia; a new army of 350,000 Turkish troops is getting ready to invade Egypt, assisted by German officers and, perhaps, by German troops, after the fashion so minutely sketched out for their guidance by Mr. Lovat Fraser, and they are declared to be about to begin once more their effort to break through our lines in the West. The besieged Empires, the Prussians, in short, are feverishly dashing hither and thither, trying to find some way of escape. In every quarter, except on the seas, their talk is of great deeds doing or to be done; of immense supplies ready for the murderers; of arms, and troops too, going to Constantinople, which, of course, the awfully rich Turk is sure to pay for. A German army is to be sent to Galipoli, and the Austrians are triumphing—no, the Germans are careful not to make any reference to Austria and her special running sore, do not even allude to the renewed forcing back of the Austro-Hungarian troops in Galicia, they are as silent about such things as about their submarine blockade of British commerce on the sea—but German agents are busy in Rumania, offering bribes, payable with other people's property, if only the Rumanians will join them, and they still hope to be able to coerce, or at least intimidate, Greece. Thus everywhere it is a fever of movement and of intrigue, redolent all of a growing consciousness that if they are not to be overwhelmed the Germans must either win soon or so bluff and brag and browbeat that their opponents may be persuaded or frightened into the belief that there is still strength enough left in them to make victory possible, and thus be persuaded to assent to terms of peace far better than the Prussian could now dream of enforcing.

In vain is the net spread in the sight of the bird. Suppressed hunger wails in the Reichstag, women in revolt, hunger moved, mown down like vermin in the streets of Berlin, official proclamation, through the food-ticket system and its continued extension to new commodities, of shortage of supplies, and, above all, the admission that a sufficiency of German gun fodder is now beginning to fail. All these symptoms point to a very different state of affairs than the Germans would have us suppose. A new offensive, as we said, is about to be developed against the Belgian front, and all the cracked war-trumpets of *les Bosches* proclaim the approaching onslaught. Therefore quiet prevails on the Russian frontier and even from Serbia German troops are said to have been sent scurrying to the West in order to swell the numbers required to face our guns. What can that rushing about imply if not the approach of exhaustion? We can make no prophecy now as to the end of the war, the day and the date, but we can and do say that all symptoms combine to tell us that the day of Prussian exhaustion is much closer at hand than the Germans dare admit even to themselves. Their present behaviour affords ample support to this view, and therefore our moral and our counsel once more are:—Look not to the right hand or to the left, but press resolutely, unflinchingly onwards towards the goal, without selfishness, without hope of reward except in the adhesion and trust of the peoples we set free. Say to the pacifists amongst us, to the croakers about expense, about the incompetence of Ministers, and to babblers about the "rights of humanity"—"stand aside and keep silence until the work is accomplished." To the Greeks say: "Who is not for us is against us," and push them aside with a firm hand. But to our Allies the message must still be: "We are with you loyally in all things to the end."

A final word on finance. This week the Germans

send round the news that the Turks have 650,000 men under arms, and may soon have a million. Good, and who pays for these hordes? They must get food and clothes of sorts, and above all they must be armed in the best modern fashion. Who pays? Turkey has no money, Austria none, and armaments are costly. Is Germany financing the Turk? She must be, and the outlay in that one direction alone would cripple the Empire in time. Added to the costs of the Kaiser's own immense hosts, and to the costs of the Bulgarian army as well as to the immense sums devoured in crime subornings within the United States and Canada; to the bribes paid to spies and traitors everywhere; to the backsheesh distributed among politicians in Turkey, Greece, Rumania, Bulgaria, Persia, as also to the Press subsidings in almost every civilised country on the face of the earth, and the devouring rapidity with which what remains of German wealth—at best a small but well-bluffed accumulation—must now be disappearing, exceeds our power to conceive. A similar fury in reckless self-improvement is now the dominant aspect of Germany's attitude. To the raging and baffled Junker human lives have never meant anything, and now he is ready to sacrifice all that the German people possess, and to sell them into hopeless slavery for all time rather than be balked of his prey. It is horrible, and had the Germans been men—"clean" fighters instead of among the foulest in history—we should have been ready to accord them our pity. As it is, they must endure the fate they have invited. Our duty is to contain them, to slay them on every chance offered, and by the vigour of our blockade of the seas reduce them to impotence. And we are doing this better and better every week. Why, then, play the German's game by malignant gabbling and intrigue?

### Liberating the Nation's Stored Wealth for War Costs.

Just what to say about the latest scheme of the Government for strengthening its position is difficult, but then everything is difficult about the financing of this devouring war. We are wealthy, no country more so, but from the outset the Government has been confronted with the immobility, as it may be called, of the nation's accumulated wealth. In regard to this proposal to buy or borrow American securities, with a view to the financing of our growing obligations in the United States, there would be no difficulty at all if we could sell our possessions of this kind at will, were there an open market or markets to which we could always go for money. But there is no "open market," except New York, and New York's resources are very measurably limited. The nominal amount of United States railroad securities quoted on the London market is about £1,900,000,000, an ample margin to borrow on, the reader may say, or a great stock on which to draw. It does not, however, follow that we own this mass of American securities. Many of the railroad bonds quoted here are in part held in the United States themselves, and only a minor part of some of the share capital, whose total "listings" here is put at over £850,000,000, really belongs to the British investor. One way and another, however, we believe an estimate of £1,000,000,000 as the amount of British money invested in this one group of foreign securities to be not far from the mark, and if our Government, by its scheme, could release half of that amount for use in raising credit in America, our embarrassment there would be removed.

It is for the purpose of liberating as large a slice as possible of these securities that this scheme has been devised, and if it had been limited to outright purchases, we should not have said a word against it. It is the offering to borrow part that we do not like, because of the difficulty of working it and of the risks of loss to the nation it involves. We borrow the stock, and yet allow the owner thereof to deal with it as he likes. He may die and his heirs may want to sell out; he may lose money and require his capital in "Yankees" back again—an endless variety of influences such as con-



tinually move the stock markets will involve endless risks and contribute multitudes of worries to the department that is to manage this stock-jobbing device. Our Treasury is also apparently going to do all the work and take all the responsibilities for nothing; but there may be some misapprehension in regard to Mr. McKenna's declaration on that point. If the Treasury "during the currency of the loan sold the securities on the owner's behalf in New York, they would pay over to the owner the proceeds of the sale without any deduction for brokerage or commission." They cannot do that except at a loss, because neither the agents employed here nor those turned to in New York will consent to work for nothing. Therefore we take this to mean that the brokerage and commission will be paid at the expense of the British taxpayer, which is surely an additional expenditure needless from any point of view for us to incur, part of that generosity which too often characterises the handling of other people's money by the mere departmental functionary.

In other respects, the terms offered to those who lend securities to be pawned for Government purposes in New York appear to be generous enough. During the time the lent securities are in the Government's possession owners are to receive not only the entire amount earned upon them in the shape of dividends and interest, but  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. bonus will be paid in addition by the British taxpayer. Some American securities, especially shares, pay steady and handsome dividends. At, or about, present prices, for example, Atchison ordinary pays nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., Chicago, Milwaukee preference 6 per cent., Northern Pacific common  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., Southern Pacific common  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent., and Union Pacific common almost as much. Should it be necessary to give away an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to people whose investments make such handsome returns as they stand? Would not patriotic holders, knowing how safe their investment is, be willing to hand it over for the proposed fixed period of two years without exacting this additional bonus? To pay compensation at all implies risks, but there can be no additional risk to owners of the stocks in taking a step of this kind. For this and other reasons we do not much admire the borrowing-to-pawn-again part of the proposal. Something simpler and equally effective, as well as less costly, ought to be devised, and we trust that the united financial wisdom of the House of Commons will modify the Bill in this and other directions.

Let us now look at the buying right out proposal. Here also objections push forward claiming notice, but they are principally concerned with the price at which the securities are taken over. The Treasury proposal is to buy at the current market price, and to pay in five-year 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds taken at par. The current market price of securities bought is to be, in the case of securities quoted in the New York Stock Exchange, the middle price of the closing quotations. Where unquoted securities are in question the price is to be fixed by agreement. That is a simple and apparently fair proposal, but at the present moment the British Government would buy dear. Owing to the weakness of the New York exchange on London, the effect of which is to increase the return to the investor on his investments because fewer dollars buy more sovereigns, all securities have been pushed up in price, many of them so far that we have of late constantly advised holders to sell. That is to say, the opportunity given by the strength of the New York market is the seller's opportunity, not the buyer's. This objection, however, cannot really be maintained against our present necessities. In a war so stupendous and costly as the present one, we must be content to make sacrifices, not once, but continually, and after all the margin of loss when the investments come to be realised and the whole transaction liquidated is not likely to average more than 5 or 6 per cent. That might mean little, if any, greater cost to the taxpayer than that involved in borrowing. It is even conceivable that the wind-up might show a profit for the Treasury.

But would not the lock-up of an enormous mass of American railroad securities in this fashion destroy

the business of the stock markets, paralyse them by taking out of the hands of the brokers so much of the material through the handling of which they got their living? Not necessarily at all. The Exchequer bonds would to some extent take the place of the securities sold and locked up. To be sure, these might not fluctuate as an American Railroad bond or share does, and consequently room for speculation and for small jobbing out and in would not exist to the same extent. On the other hand, fluctuations in the aspect of the war would cause the whole mass to shift up and down in a way that might afford no small scope for dealing. This point, however, is a minor one, and cannot be put forward as a serious objection to the proposal. Of greater weight is the suggestion that the market would always be haunted to paralysis by the dread that prices might collapse altogether when we came to liquidate after the war. That also might be dismissed, for if we sell it will be gradually, not in the mass.

What remains is an endeavour to guess what this scheme is going to cost the nation, and when we approach that point it is at once seen that the borrowing plan would probably be the dearer. Under it we not only hand over all the dividends and interest to the owners of the securities pawned with the Treasury, but give the lender of the stocks and shares in addition a bonus of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., whereas if the securities are bought outright the Government gets the interest and dividend to help it towards paying the interest upon its own Exchequer bonds or over and above on the additional moneys borrowed in New York upon these purchased securities. They are our securities, and if we can borrow money on them at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or 5 or  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., we know exactly what we are paying, and the nett cost to the Treasury will be the difference between the interest paid and the dividends and interest received. That is to say, if we borrow at 5 per cent. in New York and pay the holders 5 per cent. on our Treasury bonds, we will pay away 10 per cent. in gross, less the amount of the dividends and interest received, which might range from 4 per cent. up to 6 per cent. or more. But under the borrowing scheme we part with all the dividends, give  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. bonus, and bear the whole cost without deduction of any sort of the interest to be paid when we in turn arrange to pawn the lent securities in New York. That seems to us to offer an uncertain vista of varying extra costs, and if in addition there is forced upon us some sort of guarantee against loss to be given to the holders of these lent securities, our Treasury might now and then be landed in an unpleasant dilemma. On the whole, then, while quite recognising the regrettable necessity we are under to mobilise our wealth to the extent of many hundreds of millions in order to find the money necessary to pursue this inevitable war to its successful finish, we hope that the simple purchase will alone have to be resorted to, prudent though it may be to arrange an alternative available in case of necessity.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

So much has been said in another article about the war that these notes must be brief this week. There is little new to say, for a pause has come, and we have only threats of an immediate great offensive on all fronts. There lies the strength of our position. The Allies of civilisation are to-day much in the position of the Northern States of America in the middle of the Civil War, as an American aptly pointed out in Thursday's *Evening Standard*. They hold the sea power everywhere—witness the almost undisturbed landing of Italian troops and supplies in Albania—and on land the enemy is now everywhere held in check. He is, therefore, compelled to take the offensive, and he will be beaten, because his strength is on the wane. Confab and conspire as they may, the Central Empires cannot conjure new resources in men and means out of their desolation, but just because their desperate plight threatens their existence, they must attack and attack, and again attack while they have a man and a shot left. And on us, who must be ready for every contingency, the strain is also great. But it will tend to grow



less with every fresh punishment inflicted upon the sayages at bay.

The Bulgars have called up another 150,000 men, it is alleged. If true, that shows how the war has already smitten them, and as this is their third war in four years, they cannot have so many pawns serviceable for killing left. Means they have none. Ferdinand the Fox is said to have professed respect for treaties, and even "love" for the Greeks, will not invade Greek territory just yet, and his word is as worthless as the Kaiser's. We trust neither Bulgar nor Greek, and must beware of both. The dilemma of King Constantine is of his own making. Had he loyally and from the outset kept faith with Serbia, the country he misguides to its undoing would have been in a happier position today. Now it is out in the cold, and has for ever lost its chance of becoming one of the trusted guardians of the peace in the Mediterranean. Italy will be, and deserves to be, endowed with the hegemony of the Adriatic and the Ægean, but without power to interfere in the domestic concerns of any of the countries on their margin. Serbia will not only receive large accessions of territory—all co-racials should have free liberty to join her—but be endowed with the dominant voice in all domestic Balkan affairs, Bulgaria being disarmed and put back into the servitude of her already overwhelming debts. The "Prussians of the Balkans," as we have named the willing dupes of Ferdinand's ambition, must share the ostracism of the Hohenzollern Prussian. Calmly weighed, this plunge of the desperate "Central Empires"—soon to bite the dust and await burial—into the Balkans may well be the source of the greatest good for the peoples therein we could hope to see; for with Bulgaria the treacherous left in a position to do mischief there could have been no room for a true peace in all that tormented land.

Sir Douglas Haig, another cavalry general, has succeeded Sir John French in the supreme command of our Armies in France and Flanders. He is, by all accounts, a capable leader of men, a man of dash and resource, whom experience of the war may have qualified to be a masterly handler of artillery. It is small wonder if Sir John French felt himself to have had enough of it, and feared that he might be growing stale. Be that as it may, he was relieved at his own request, and neither dismissed nor disgraced. He did not deserve either fate, for he is a good, if not a dashing and resourceful, general, and well deserves his peerage. The home command is a post where his experience of war should make him a valuable help. But both in the West and in the Mediterranean the supreme command rests, as it ought to rest, with France.

### Helfferich the Heroic.

If there is one thing more certain than another in German finance, it is that for many years before the Kaiser commenced his world-war of conquest German credit was strained. No theme was more frequent at meetings of the Reichsbank directors than warnings on the absence of reserves amongst the big banks. They were always being urged to reduce or restrict their credits, and to call in money so as to be to some greater extent independent of the Imperial Bank on quarter days or in financial crises. Owing to the fact that German banking had become an affair of syndicates, company promotions, industrial developments, and of competition against the banks and producers of other countries, it was never possible for the advice tendered to be taken. And because these German banks, big and little, were committed beyond hope of escape to undertakings in all parts of the world Germany was always more severely hit than any other country by financial crises abroad. If a panic occurred on Wall Street, it was followed by panics on German bourses, and multitudes of failures. The whole credit structure of the empire was flimsy and bolstered, and it is upon this foundation that the empire's war finance has been built up.

As was his duty—he would not have been "worth his screw" otherwise—Dr. Helfferich, the Imperial Finance

Minister, in introducing his latest £500,000,000 loan, ignored all this side of the subject, as well as all the note issue inflation and the falling exchanges, and devoted himself chiefly to the abuse of this country, boasting that German resources enabled them to do without foreign help. "We Allies"—that is to say, we presume, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria—"are covering our money supply from the inexhaustible wells of internal strength." It, therefore, is not true that the loans are mere displays of financial jugglery. On the contrary, they are so fully subscribed that we German dare-alls are actually able to raise the price with each fresh loan. And this picture altogether false is, not without skill, put against an at least equally false picture of the English position; but here it will be best to allow the German financier to speak for himself, as reported in Reuter's summary. We should like him, though, to solve one question: How is England, if ruined, able to borrow in the United States, in spite of furious hyphenated opposition, able to get money from any part of the world where there is money to lend? Can Germany do that, would even Holland lend Germany any money on such security as the empire has now to give? And when this riddle is solved, may we ask how Germany is going to exact those indemnities her spokesmen dangle before the eyes of the deluded people if the armies of the Kaiser succeed in ruining the nations they have attacked? The bully among empires cannot have it both ways. Now peruse Dr. Helfferich's harangue, admire and tremble for our fate:—

"We Allies are covering our money supply from the inexhaustible wells of internal strength. Our enemies have had to take refuge in money sources abroad. We have carried through our money-raising by a uniform plan chosen from the beginning—a type of 5 per cent. loan—and have increased the rate of issue from 97½ at the first to 98½ at the second, and to 99 per cent. at the third loan. The result is that the subscriptions rose from 4,500 to 9,000 and to 12,200 million marks. In the French 5 per cent. loan the rate of issue after the deduction of small profits and interest comes out at 86.60 per cent. In England the raising of any notable amount of the war costs by taxes failed. The English 3½ per cent. loan was a failure, which rendered the market unfit for similar loans. England helped herself with Treasury bonds until the market was glutted with them. In July England chose a 4½ per cent. loan, which in reality was a 5 per cent. one, and again a failure as regards the result and its influence on the condition of the Money market. The difficult conditions of the English Money market was accompanied by the deterioration of the English rate of exchange, and England was faced with a convulsion of her prestige on the international Money market and the endangering of her supply of war material and provisions from America. Under the pressure of this situation England and France sought credit in America. The result did not correspond with expectations, so that both soon tried to obtain further credit. The lack

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of success was greatly due to the resistance of American citizens of German origin." Dr. Helfferich then proceeded to draw a comparison between the course of gilt securities in France and England and Germany before the war and now. "We are almost exclusively paying to ourselves while the enemy pays abroad. Therein lies a guarantee that in the future, too, we shall maintain the advantage. It must be added that money is a different thing with regard to England than with us. The British Empire is to a great extent built up on, and maintained by, British money power. England has founded her alliances and waged her wars mostly with money."

"In the present war, also, England hoped to work by this method, but our brave troops forced England to stake not only English money, but also English blood. The raising of strong armies increased the English war costs incalculably, and brought English finances to a state continually described by British statesmen as extremely serious. With the shaking of British financial powers the foundation of the British Empire is tottering. Germany's relation to money is different. She can bear to become poorer, but still remains what she is. We overcame the Thirty Years' War and the Napoleonic wars; we were sucked dry, plundered, beaten, and cut up, but we always worked our way up and grew together again. But when the British Empire has gone to pieces it will never rise in a millennium, and this England pronounces the outrageous word of 'a war of exhaustion.' We know how to possess what we want, to live and to fight. Bread, potatoes, and other necessities are cheaper than in England and France. The enemy shall know that we had rather forego all abundance and bear all hardships than suffer an enemy's command. The enemy shall know besides that, our sharp sword, unbroken fighting spirit, and confidence in victory are at our disposal. The German iron fist, which has now blown up the iron gate and opened the broad road to the East, is ready, if her enemies wish, to strike anew. The responsibility falls on those who cannot make up their minds to draw conclusions from our war successes, and who, in criminal delusion, still talk of our destruction. We stand firmly as a rock in its native ground, but on the golden pillars of the British Empire gleams in flaming characters, 'Mene Tekel Upharsin.'"

## British Railways in Argentina.

### I.

Looking merely at the results for the past year ended June 30, there is nothing very cheering to be found. Of all of the great lines—and the great have now absorbed the little for the most part—the Buenos Ayres and Pacific alone showed an increase in nett receipts. It was not much—a mere £85,952—but yet enough to encourage the hope that better times were at hand, and hope is needed always in wonderful, but capricious, Argentina. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern Co. earned £309,606 less, the Central Argentine £119,207 less, the Cordoba Central £121,770 less, and the Buenos Ayres Western £24,028 less. Even the smaller North-Eastern Co. produced £36,108 nett less. At the same time, fixed charges in all instances show increases compared with the previous years, the details being as follows:—Buenos Ayres and Pacific £91,115, Buenos Ayres Great Southern £54,624, Buenos Ayres Western £76,201, Central Argentine £100,008, and Cordoba Central £62,351 more. The Central Argentine, in addition, charged last year £116,878 to capital account for interest upon unproductive capital. What between shrunk income and decreased charges, it is no wonder that dividends had to be cut down or, as in the case of the Cordoba Central, suspended altogether. The B.A. and Pacific could pay only £2 16s. 6d. per cent.—against 5 per cent.—on its second preference stock, and the Cordoba Central was £60,743 to the bad, after providing for its debenture stock and other interest charges.

Happily, a turn for the better had begun to manifest itself some time before the reports of the companies for the 1914-15 year became public property, and their distribution consequently produced less disappointment than would otherwise have been the case. Capitalists small and great interested in Argentina are now therefore looking forward with confidence to a much better year, bigger revenues, rising prices. Every railway in the Republic, except the Cordoba Central, is showing more or less distinct improvement in its earnings. The gain to date in the gross earnings of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific has been £308,000 and in the Great Southern £360,000, but the Cordoba Central is nearly £136,000 to the bad, and that is a most disappointing fact. Why this now extensive narrow-gauge system of railways—it is 1,186 miles in length—should lag behind, in spite of a rise of 10 per

cent. in most of its rates, is not altogether clear. Doubtless the territory served by it is not its own, is territory much competed over by the broad-gauge roads that run into the same region; but if the harvest had been as good as was expected, the Cordoba Central could hardly have failed to get its share. Considerable quantities of grain and sugar are still awaiting transport in the company's territories, the report told us. Have rivals secured the carriage of them, and at lower rates? Much better results were looked for from the amalgamation of the three companies now united, and great economies are alleged to have been effected, but thus far with no visible result. Is the best use being made of the Buenos Ayres extension? Is land carriage beaten by water? The property ought to be strong and profitable, and is not. Why?

Ups and downs are to be expected in the progress of the Argentine Republic; it is still for the most part in the half-raw and undeveloped state. The dissemination of wealth and the means of consolidating wealth have not gone very far in the country, nor has the development in its natural resources been undertaken and carried on with that systematic intelligence and forethought which would gradually erect substantial barriers against the caprices of seasons and climatic changes. There are years, several years in succession at times, of severe aridity, followed often by seasons of excessive moisture, and the ambition of those who serve the Republic and labour to make it great and happy should be to bring science and industry to bear for the correction and, if possible, regulation and control of these too often desolating fluctuations. The great Pampas of Buenos Ayres Province may not be a fit or easily-served region for irrigation in the ordinary way, because there are no rivers worth mentioning to dam up, and the country is too flat to make it easy or feasible to store water anywhere in serviceable reservoirs; but by wells, or by going back to the hills and mountains in the West, much might be done to tap underground reservoirs and to collect flood waters for distribution over the canalised flat plains as to bring security to crops in time of drought, and also some measure of safety to the land in time of excessive rains.

Meantime, we have to deal with the railway position as determined by the actual development of the country and by the energy of those who have covered the Republic with lines at an amazing speed, all things considered. To look back merely over one year or two gives but little conception of the immense amount of railway extension carried out by British enterprise and British capital in Argentina within less than half a generation. Going back only to the beginning of this century, we find that within 15 years the amount of capital created for or sucked in by the Argentine railway enterprises in British control has more than doubled. At the end of June, 1901, the paid-up capital of all the British designed or owned railways in Argentina was about £102,000,000; it is now nearly £230,000,000, and within less than 15 years the British engineer and railway-builder has covered the Province of Buenos Ayres with a network of lines almost gridiron-like in their contiguity. Still more energetic, if possible, has been the development westward and north-westward to Cordoba and Tucuman. In 1901 there was only one railway—the Central Argentine—running direct from Rosario, westward to Villa Maria on the way to Cordoba. Now the whole Province of Cordoba and the southern portion of Santa Fé are literally gridironed with lines, so much so that one wonders how they are all to find employment. These regions of the Republic are, however, so rich in pastoral and agricultural resources, give such wealth in crops and in flocks when the seasons are propitious, as to make prosperity for the railways certain on the average of years—provided due care is taken to avoid excessive haste in pushing extensions forward into undeveloped territory or into districts already well provided.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened an agency at Hlobane, Natal.



## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and December 11, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 11, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 12, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,052
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	48,900,000	35,175,000	24,974,000
Excise .....	54,850,000	40,290,000	26,443,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	30,000,000	22,239,000	17,294,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,644,000	5,633,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	350,000	270,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	116,424,000	22,715,000	11,437,000
Excess Profits Tax .....	6,000,000	—	—
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	62,000	71,000
Post Office .....	34,280,000	21,050,000	19,000,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	350,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,100,000	774,312	791,119
Miscellaneous .....	2,430,000	4,229,070	4,148,183
Revenue .....	305,014,000	151,928,382	110,414,302
Total, including Balance .....		235,379,334	120,848,821
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		1,880,000	2,270,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		255,879,000	48,600,000
For War Loan 1915-1928 .....		35,798,408	77,800,000
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1915-1945 .....		586,316,000	—
For American Loan .....		24,735,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,230,000	1,650,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		650,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan: Repayment on account of principal .....		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		292,196,500	96,161,000
Total .....		1,434,600,412	347,459,821
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 11, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 12, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	22,055,000	17,028,089	14,494,102
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,030,000	27,553,388	1,063,201
Road Improvement Fund .....	525,000	694,395	889,225
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,600,000	6,497,433	6,235,124
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,800,000	1,215,883	1,140,343
Supply Services .....	1,510,696,000	950,834,760	242,592,151
Expenditure .....	1,589,706,000	1,003,823,948	266,419,146
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		2,415,000	2,575,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,400,000	2,450,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		190,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		744,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b) .....		104,836	60,000
Section 16 (1) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	751,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Cunard Agreem't (Money) Act, 1904 .....		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances repaid —			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £205,998,000 in 1915-16) .....		205,998,000	35,520,000
Total .....		1,401,749,792	308,137,516
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Dec. 11.	1915. Dec. 12.	
Bank of England .....	£	£	
Bank of Ireland .....	32,184,045	38,626,72	
	665,675	695,579	
Total .....		32,850,520	39,322,305
Total .....		1,434,600,412	347,459,821

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 344 of 1915, which is subject to revision.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on December 11, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender ..	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued .. ..	£348,394,000
Total .. ..	£358,394,000

\* Includes £213,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, December 13, 1915.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia.—A branch has been opened at Bendigo, in the State of Victoria.

## Insurance News.

The inclusion of the name of Mr. J. Burn, the actuary to the Prudential Assurance Co., on the Committee appointed to consider the best method of obtaining contributions to War Loans from the working classes, has given great satisfaction to the insurance world, the selection, as the *Post Magazine* points out, constituting a further recognition by the Government of the efficiency of industrial assurance organisation as a method of approach to the million. Should the deliberations of the Committee result in the recommendation of a scheme involving a personal canvass of the people, benefit should be derived from the long experience of those officials who are in closest touch with methods of voluntary thrift of proved utility.

As foreshadowed in these columns a clause has been added to the Finance Bill designed to obviate the hardship which would otherwise be felt by those who, through a reduction of income, might not get the full benefit, by way of income-tax abatement, to which their payments of life assurance premiums would have entitled them had their income been maintained. The new clause was added during the report stage of the Finance Bill last week, and applies to the income-tax year ended on April 5 last, and to any future income-tax year which includes any time during which the present war continues, and any amount which has been paid before the passing of this Act, and would not have been paid if this section had been in force, will be repaid.

Fire underwriters doing business in Canada and the United States are now assured of a successful year's trading, the figures relating to fire losses having now been tabulated up to the end of November. Last month's losses, amounting to £4,241,000, were practically identical with those of the corresponding month last year, so that for the 11 months the total stands at £32,393,000, or £10,021,000 less than that of the 11 months to November 30, 1914.

On Tuesday the House of Lords discussed the question of the appointment of a Committee to consider the problems which will occur through the return of soldiers to industrial pursuits after the war. The War Office has been in close consultation with the Board of Trade on this question for a long time, and a good deal has already been done departmentally to prepare the way for the return of the soldiers to civil life. Among the provisions proposed there is to be an insurance policy against unemployment, valid for one year.

The British Dominions General Insurance Co. has issued an explanatory book giving particulars of the company's new "all-in" insurance policy, which, it is claimed, covers the householder against practically all risks from fire, loss of rent, larceny, and theft down to mirror breakage, bursting of water pipes in consequence of frost, storm flood, and tempest, and many other risks not usually included in similar policies. Policy-holders are covered completely for sums ranging from £100 to £5,000 at one inclusive premium of 5s. per cent., and this new and all-embracing policy does not contain the average clause or the arbitration clause. In the case of no claim being made a policy is renewed every sixth year.

Policies taken up before Dec. 31 will share in the present year's bonus.

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## RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	October. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyno Clyde..	280,000	32,851	- 5,469	5	165,358	+ 2,079
Allagar ..	260,000	22,200	+ 1,200	11	240,500	+ 40,000
Alliance ..	—	17,677	+ 549	11	134,658	+ 15,537
Anglo-Java ..	800,000	80,800	+ 74,049	11	636,838	+ 584,779
Anglo-Johore ..	240,000	20,000	+ 6,800	8	158,267	—
Anglo-Sumatra ..	1,430,000	143,110	+ 24,123	11	1,381,316	+ 31,144
Asahan ..	830,000	70,864	+ 7,434	6	399,491	+ 51,711
Assoc. Ceylon..	180,000	19,753	+ 9,741	4	74,134	+ 39,856
Ayer Kuning ..	210,000	14,778	- 2,805	5	76,862	+ 11,601
Bagan Seria ..	362,000	51,000	+ 26,940	11	378,525	+ 180,125
Bajoe Kidoel ..	235,000	27,000	—	11	240,333	+ 67,834
Bakap ..	110,000	10,000	+ 6,325	8	83,594	+ 49,492
Bambrakelly ..	340,000	26,260	+ 4,017	5	139,449	+ 22,845
Bandar Sumatra	210,000	17,164	- 4,751	8	112,740	+ 38,457
Banteng ..	—	26,934	+ 10,665	—	93,752	+ 29,385
Batang ..	24,340	+ 4,945	—	—	155,940	+ 25,175
Batak Rabit ..	246,600	28,200	+ 8,955	6	313,610	+ 20,240
Batang Malaka ..	275,000	18,500	—	5	96,424	+ 10,674
Batu Caves ..	205,000	20,487	+ 6,487	11	187,803	—
Matang ..	570,000	50,839	+ 1,386	11	552,139	+ 53,023
Rata ..	125,000	11,903	+ 3,014	5	57,935	—
Tiga ..	325,000	34,670	+ 11,290	5	148,710	+ 48,160
Bekoh ..	550,000	64,550	+ 15,550	11	601,865	+ 162,222
Bentota ..	318,500	26,766	+ 8,732	5	124,447	—
Beranang ..	—	10,904	- 1,831	11	143,109	+ 47,771
Bernam-Perak ..	220,000	24,483	—	5	88,366	+ 40,654
Bidor ..	—	17,400	+ 8,400	—	90,660	+ 40,880
Bikam ..	331,000	28,000	+ 5,874	5	238,000	+ 70,400
Bradwall ..	300,000	24,000	+ 5,013	8	248,700	+ 30,373
Braunston ..	267,200	35,914	+ 19,138	11	271,370	+ 84,798
British Borneo Para..	306,000	28,000	+ 2,770	2	58,500	+ 11,045
British Malay ..	220,000	21,500	+ 2,745	7	138,500	+ 16,025
Brooklands ..	30,000	32,300	+ 21,300	3	53,600	—
Broome ..	370,000	32,000	—	4	147,648	+ 85,367
Buiong ..	262,000	20,326	+ 6,570	5	100,203	+ 36,462
Bukit Cloh ..	121,500	14,400	+ 3,366	—	—	—
Ijok ..	235,000	20,000	+ 1,600	11	235,500	+ 46,500
Kajang ..	240,000	27,000	+ 5,000	11	215,000	+ 44,500
Lintang ..	700,000	66,000	+ 15,775	5	309,160	+ 79,173
Mertajam ..	310,000	26,000	+ 3,550	5	121,330	+ 14,609
Panjong ..	552,000	55,365	+ 21,608	8	376,975	+ 133,929
Rajah ..	343,000	42,000	+ 18,500	11	346,760	+ 127,158
Selangor ..	705,000	69,665	+ 3,718	8	482,404	+ 55,808
Sembawang ..	80,000	9,240	+ 5,283	8	59,152	+ 17,589
Carey United ..	775,000	51,000	+ 17,000	11	477,800	+ 136,556
Castlefield ..	3,000,000	19,344	+ 1,156	2	38,661	+ 3,839
Cent. Travancore ..	473,000	42,852	+ 5,248	5	208,935	+ 33,766
Ceylon Para ..	175,000	28,651	+ 5,641	11	160,435	+ 44,326
Ceylon T. & R. ..	735,000	66,336	+ 11,964	11	591,009	+ 76,449
Chembong Malay ..	—	18,500	+ 8,270	10	156,176	+ 11,573
Changkat-Salak ..	300,000	38,478	+ 10,453	10	309,041	+ 132,821
Cheras ..	60,000	60,000	+ 29,000	11	48,240	+ 180,546
Chersonese ..	90,000	11,300	+ 6,010	11	82,400	+ 50,239
Cheviot ..	620,000	56,130	+ 2,668	11	585,271	+ 103,027
Chimpul ..	220,000	26,650	+ 8,950	10	205,650	+ 42,584
Chota ..	150,000	13,691	—	8	93,857	+ 37,737
Cicely ..	149,250	11,571	+ 5,407	11	140,400	+ 39,133
Cluny ..	340,000	28,224	+ 4,170	8	214,818	+ 17,832
Consolidated Malay..	180,000	16,100	+ 1,963	11	162,562	+ 25,423
Dalkeith ..	660,000	63,314	+ 15,026	11	638,802	+ 120,948
Dainansara ..	—	27,350	+ 2,450	11	265,633	+ 83,523
Dangan ..	58,823	+ 8,520	—	—	568,677	+ 47,407
Dennistoun ..	178,000	17,580	—	5	78,446	+ 31,309
Dimbula Valley ..	455,000	46,279	+ 18,710	11	452,528	+ 143,812
Doolgalla ..	—	27,500	+ 4,746	—	268,088	+ 35,532
Duff Develop. ..	—	16,522	+ 6,413	10	109,869	+ 32,278
Diasinga ..	254,100	44,000	+ 18,000	10	328,000	+ 113,050
Dusun Durian ..	—	17,000	+ 5,800	5	56,581	+ 20,285
E. India & Ceylon ..	411,000	34,201	+ 845	11	338,225	+ 84,651
Edinburgh ..	—	14,706	+ 104	12	154,620	+ 44,320
Elphil ..	280,000	27,500	+ 5,391	11	270,000	+ 51,492
Emerald ..	140,000	11,281	+ 5,928	11	103,151	—
Eow Seng ..	178,300	21,200	—	10	176,600	—
Escof ..	140,000	13,187	+ 1,993	11	136,022	+ 32,930
Fed. Malay St. ..	119,370	13,000	+ 4,530	2	29,000	+ 13,430
Fed. (Selangor) ..	1,400,000	124,000	+ 1,763	6	742,532	+ 89,509
Galaha ..	315,000	29,353	+ 4,111	8	214,056	+ 49,437
Galang Besar ..	—	10,450	+ 694	11	87,099	+ 26,092
Gan Kee ..	400,000	33,600	+ 3,490	5	163,580	+ 12,200
Garing ..	135,000	12,101	+ 4,901	5	56,097	+ 22,647
Gedong ..	124,935	13,280	+ 2,275	2	26,510	+ 5,795
General Ceylon ..	14,796	12,943	+ 4,593	11	12,943	+ 4,593
Glen Berrie ..	740,000	62,150	+ 7,027	11	628,881	+ 103,042
Glendon ..	220,000	18,547	+ 5,047	2	37,250	+ 11,150
Glenshiel ..	—	17,464	+ 2,679	11	39,120	+ 4,010
Oolconda ..	300,000	21,420	+ 2,998	11	197,120	+ 6,764
Golden Hope ..	445,000	45,085	+ 4,256	11	425,120	+ 39,324
Grand Central ..	178,000	17,542	+ 1,023	11	180,946	+ 25,828
Gula Kalumpung ..	3,000,000	307,069	+ 37,347	11	2,983,906	+ 642,036
Harpender ..	1,015,000	102,869	+ 25,628	11	936,366	+ 185,268
Harpep ..	450,000	36,305	+ 6,905	11	367,690	+ 26,210
Heawood ..	—	34,094	+ 5,924	—	312,384	+ 73,439
Hewagam ..	133,000	13,587	—	11	113,523	+ 18,007
Hidlen Streams ..	539,000	53,500	+ 9,000	11	164,600	+ 96,500
Higgoda ..	150,000	17,500	+ 5,500	11	152,000	+ 16,319
Highlands ..	100,000	8,744	+ 498	11	73,205	+ 12,633
Inoh-Kenneth ..	1,240,000	114,200	+ 13,249	11	1,075,027	+ 48,435
Insulinde ..	300,000	22,470	+ 2,510	6	130,970	+ 290
Jasin ..	172,000	14,400	+ 4,046	5	62,550	+ 13,198
Java Amalgamated ..	—	15,006	+ 5,722	11	116,148	+ 47,864
Java Rubber & Prod.	—	33,300	+ 13,763	11	297,770	+ 102,233
Java Para ..	165,000	19,992	—	—	—	—
Jeram ..	120,000	12,190	+ 6,941	10	147,173	+ 90,114
Johore Para ..	194,000	21,374	+ 5,403	8	147,181	+ 45,037
Rubber Lands ..	—	14,400	—	11	141,764	—
Jong Landor ..	480,000	43,997	+ 23,556	11	367,529	+ 160,751
Jugra Estate ..	480,000	42,136	+ 11,771	5	265,788	+ 64,104
Jugra Land ..	300,000	28,479	—	8	206,748	+ 9,225
Kajang ..	739,500	80,044	+ 31,525	7	450,355	+ 174,622
Kali Glagah ..	90,000	11,180	+ 4,480	11	81,630	+ 33,830
Kamuning Kuantan ..	—	11,000	+ 9,144	8	66,722	+ 41,519
Kapap Para ..	320,000	29,000	+ 4,520	11	291,000	+ 20,149
Kawie Java ..	690,000	57,460	+ 5,800	5	316,790	+ 79,000
Karak ..	640,000	46,493	+ 6,570	11	470,812	+ 100,800
Kepitigalla ..	300,000	34,500	+ 13,701	8	217,995	+ 139,626
Kepong ..	130,000	13,092	+ 3,574	11	125,004	+ 46,507
Kerata ..	513,000	41,516	+ 2,817	8	339,471	+ 57,809
Khotatampun ..	270,000	25,500	+ 1,500	11	250,360	+ 34,250
Killinghall ..	135,000	22,766	+ 7,550	8	122,158	+ 56,407
Kinta Kell ..	157,000	16,000	+ 5,450	10	126,600	+ 30,300
Klabang ..	193,700	18,525	+ 6,992	5	92,847	+ 44,081
—	315,000	26,900	+ 8,300	8	196,700	+ 72,600
—	175,000	14,378	+ 2,236	11	152,297	+ 27,356
Klanang ..	440,000	49,228	+ 9,048	11	415,391	+ 90,594
Kombok ..	302,000	34,690	+ 13,510	11	309,980	+ 97,190
Kuala Klang ..	175,000	16,293	+ 2,042	2	33,086	+ 4,541
Kubu ..	120,000	11,137	+ 3,137	5	50,993	+ 15,593
Lumpur ..	1,575,000	110,600	+ 15,487	5	605,975	+ 10,500
Nal ..	115,000	11,870	—	10	97,664	+ 44,040
Selangor ..	580,000	59,497	+ 7,343	11	515,304	+ 23,329
Kurau ..	280,000	26,300	—	11	235,298	+ 49,141
Labu ..	475,000	46,040	+ 6,530	11	461,230	+ 75,630
Lanadron ..	1,400,000	112,860	+ 40	11	1,172,525	+ 45,001
Langat River ..	—	21,220	+ 2,797	10	168,573	+ 44,380
Langen, Java ..	—	68,000	+ 33,848	3	158,377	+ 71,525
Langkat Sumatra ..	360,000	42,077	+ 9,837	11	355,101	+ 61,013
Ledbury ..	516,000	51,024	+ 9,841	11	499,246	+ 99,562
Lendu ..	160,000	14,750	+ 4,678	11	104,444	+ 36,203
Linggi ..	1,500,000	161,520	+ 5,000	11	1,356,640	+ 163,595
Lochnagar ..	80,000	11,239	+ 3,085	11	85,886	+ 30,964
London Asiatic ..	1,240,000	110,576	+ 195	11	1,127,657	+ 111,975
Lumut ..	650,000	67,050	+ 19,982	2	141,855	+ 45,851
Madingley ..	102,000	14,001	+ 7,487	—	—	—
Majedie ..	100,000	9,073	+ 1,868	5	46,780	+ 13,567
Mahawale ..	—	27,226	+ 551	11	281,579	+ 73,344
Malacca ..	3,700,000	12,900	+ 12,300	11	3,195,500	+ 217,025
Malayalam ..	716,300	100,741	+ 19,786	11	604,831	+ 157,997
Malay R. Planters ..	—	25,000	+ 2,710	2	51,000	+ 6,230
Malaysia ..	275,000	23,496	+ 8,038	11	233,842	—
Membakut ..	—	52,000	+ 5,450	8	239,500	—
Mergui Crown ..	1,150,000	113,700	+ 18,700	11	1,005,713	+ 271,883
Merlimau ..	12,60104	49,225	+ 21,679	11	150,999	+ 61,158
Moopy Valley ..	920,000	87,500	+ 30,818	8	763,391	+ 214,464
Mount Austin ..	435,800	38,800	+ 10,455	11	361,145	+ 30,525
Nagolle ..	—	14,500	—	5	62,140	—
Nar'orough ..	—	36,000	+ 5,102	—	356,500	+ 61,607
Neboda Ceylon ..	—	21,523	+ 2,001	11	254,715	—
New Columbia						



Val d'Or .. .. .	172,255a	21,500	+ 12,500	I	21,500	+ 12,500
Windsor .. .. .	100,000	16,000	+ 12,750	II	131,270	+ 111,150
Woodend .. .. .	125,000	11,950	+ 269	II	122,421	+ 44,646
Yam Seng .. .. .	249,908a	26,020	+ 15,681	I	26,020	+ 15,681
Yatiantota .. .. .	—	39,481	+ 7,083	II	376,267	+ 54,868

a Last year's crop.

## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Dec. 10	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 10	2,763	+	130	+	177,644	+	9,172
Grand Canal .. .. .	" 10	1,140	+	67	+	26,838	+	1,974
Great Northern .. .. .	" 10	20,985	+	1,435	+	1,137,405	+	24,655
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 10	29,926	+	1,187	+	1,634,226	+	92,613
Midland Great Western ..	" 10	13,593	+	620	+	635,485	+	10,627

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	Sept. *	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira .. .. .	Sept. *	37,140	+	8,847	+	—	+	—
Canadian Northern ..	Dec. 7	\$1,830,600	+	\$327,000	+	\$8,044,300	+	\$2735,300
Canadian Pacific ..	" 7	\$3,016,000	+	\$1280,000	+	\$56,573,000	+	\$6313,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	155,466	+	16,714	+	7,718,153	+	466,059
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	40,849	+	10,828	+	1,536,677	+	129,378
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	13,979	+	3,787	+	558,237	+	55,801
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc.	" 7	45,296	+	32,185	+	601,092	+	163,135
Mashonaland .. .. .	Sept *	52,800	+	10,533	+	335,697	+	154,492
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Oct *	6,561	+	2,478	+	23,282	+	12,198
New Cape Central ..	" 30	1,601	+	89	+	76,944	+	670
Rhodesia .. .. .	Sept *	74,243	+	4,413	+	596,013	+	172,926
W. Pass & Yukon ..	Oct. 7	\$43,239	+	14,495	+	\$1,404,667	+	\$33,316

\* Months.

† July 1.

† Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Nov. 30a	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Nov. 30a	1,325,000	+	445,000	+	19,450,000	+	2,865,000
Chicago G. W. ..	" 30a	316,000	+	21,000	+	6,233,000	+	30,000
Colorado & South'n ..	Nov. 14	347,000	+	3,000	+	8,843,000	+	235,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Nov. 30a	656,000	+	135,000	+	11,454,000	+	917,400
Louisville & Nashv'e ..	" 30a	1,559,000	+	401,000	+	24,085,000	+	1,390,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	" 21	879,000	+	299,000	+	14,165,000	+	1,390,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 30a	969,030	+	68,000	+	13,777,000	+	493,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 21	1,329,000	+	172,000	+	24,709,000	+	313,000
Southern .. .. .	" 30a	1,807,000	+	342,000	+	23,059,000	+	577,000

a Nine days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	Nov. 13	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Nov. 13	1,30,000	— 2,989	8,04,000	— 21,775
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 6	2,97,210	— 1,30,932	15,64,340	— 124,509
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 13	7,39,000	— 5,000	2,47,06,562	— 5,333,354
Bombay, Baroda ..	Dec. 11	1,32,000	— 1,26,000	1,24,28,000	— 10,41,000
Burma .. .. .	Nov. 13	3,34,504	— 22,073	20,78,114	— 24,250
Delhi Umballa ..	Dec. 4	69,300	— 5,049	6,74,630	— 11,611
East Indian ..	" 11	20,73,000	— 7,000	2,06,60,000	— 1,64,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 4	22,69,700	— 9,89,700	1,53,87,400	— 24,17,236
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Nov. 6	29,439	— 3,674	1,52,508	— 11,473
Madras and S. ..	" 13	7,40,000	— 29,380	47,60,000	— 3,96,879
Mahratta .. .. .	Oct. 30	1,23,883	— 19,303	4,69,160	— 22,130
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 30	62,954	— 11,289	2,47,269	— 18,740
Robilkund and ..	Nov. 6	30,632	— 148	1,71,497	— 443
Kumaon .. .. .	" 13	4,98,496	— 25,578	32,87,567	— 5,43,954
Southern Punjab ..	July 8	7,01,855	— 2,45,176	21,34,091	— 2,09,663

† April 1.

§ Month. † October 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	No. Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchafson T. & S. Fé ..	Oct.	3,755,000	+ 100,000	4	14,344,000	+ 787,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	600,000	+ 223,000	4	1,364,000	+ 478,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,161,000	+ 1,203,000	4	12,827,000	+ 3,195,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	1,257,000	+ 537,800	1	1,257,000	+ 537,800
Canadian Pacific ..	"	6,579,000	+ 3,258,000	4	17,507,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,391,000	+ 411,000	4	5,645,000	+ 1,451,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,670,000	+ 568,000	4	9,517,000	+ 376,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Sept.	3,773,000	+ 368,000	3	9,116,000	+ 542,000
Chicago G.W. ..	Oct.	369,000	+ 35,000	4	1,322,000	+ 95,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	Oct.	3,435,000	+ 751,000	4	12,124,000	+ 1,690,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Sept.	1,401,000	+ 360,000	3	3,328,000	+ 1,052,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	559,000	+ 100,000	4	1,525,000	+ 236,000
Cuba .. .. .	"	391,108	+ 113,961	4	1,639,755	+ 321,900
Do. .. .. .	"	69,942	+ 24,276	4	430,129	+ 179,349
Delaware & Hud. ..	Sept.	833,000	+ 81,000	8	5,338,000	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Oct.	977,000	+ 149,000	4	3,258,000	+ 775,000
Erie .. .. .	"	2,591,000	+ 1,215,000	10	15,571,000	+ 4,210,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£218,600	+ £18,000	10	£1,967,850	+ £31,950
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£45,100	+ £37,300	10	£176,050	+ £134,600
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	"	£16,550	+ £10,350	10	£36,650	+ £72,050
Gt. Northern ..	Sept.	4,488,000	+ 274,000	3	10,230,000	+ 1,403,000
Illinois Central ..	Oct.	1,209,000	+ 130,000	4	4,191,000	+ 144,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	381,000	+ 137,000	4	1,308,000	+ 213,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,370,000	+ 17,000	4	4,639,000	+ 115,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,531,000	+ 605,000	4	5,532,000	+ 1,572,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	Sept.	1,267,000	+ 133,000	3	2,850,000	+ 345,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	Oct.	905,000	+ 158,000	4	2,639,000	+ 366,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Sept.	1,217,000	+ 370,000	3	3,309,000	+ 1,079,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Oct.	5,811,000	+ 2,290,000	10	38,816,000	+ 12,883,000
N. Y. N. Haven & P. ..	Sept.	2,162,000	+ 382,000	3	6,471,000	+ 1,498,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	Oct.	108,000	+ 52,000	4	1,024,000	+ 50,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,054,000	+ 578,000	3	5,702,000	+ 1,735,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,379,000	+ 798,000	4	10,255,000	+ 1,784,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"	10,205,000	+ 3,583,000	11	70,851,000	+ 11,438,000
Reading .. .. .	"	560,000	+ 23,737	4	2,258,000	+ 42,019
St. Louis & San F. ..	Sept.	1,194,000	+ 105,000	3	3,500,000	+ 124,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	Oct.	534,000	+ 134,000	4	1,660,000	+ 151,000
Southern .. .. .	"	1,820,000	+ 820,000	4	6,207,000	+ 1,695,000
Southern Pacific ..	Sept.	4,738,000	+ 829,000	3	13,928,000	+ 3,382,000
Union Pacific ..	Oct.	4,669,000	+ 793,000	4	14,848,000	+ 907,000
Wabash .. .. .	"	919,000	+ 315,000	4	3,265,000	+ 302,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

\* Gross earnings.

† Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.			Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 11	Ps. 8,030	—	£ 3,000	†	Ps. 607,700	—	Ps. 40,660
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 12	39,990	—	16,960	†	1,230,825	—	253,460
Arauco .. .. .	Oct. 11	9,225	—	2,400	†	71,801	—	6,149
Argentine N.E. ..	Dec. 11	5,223	—	1,773	†	156,376	—	47,929
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Nov. 11	5,216	—	1,256	†	55,565	—	613
Bolivar .. .. .	" 11	9,000	—	4,457	†	39,634	—	13,961
Brazil .. .. .	Sept. *	M3,498,000	—	M10,763,17	†	M29,319,000	—	M186,654
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	M18,33,750	—	M 4,900	†	M272,600	—	M23,000
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Dec. 11	82,000	—	5,000	†	1,841,000	—	299,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 12	127,000	—	22,000	†	2,175,908	—	399,567
Do. Western ..	" 12	55,000	—	2,000	†	1,093,000	—	163,000
Central Argentine ..	" 11	97,100	—	10,100	†	2,615,700	—	237,400
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 11	12,696	—	294	†	272,641	—	52,140
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 11	4,295	—	107	†	86,883	—	20,537
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 11	1,879	—	122	†	44,851	—	11,281
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 11	2,447	—	159	†	43,523	—	9,383
Colombian National ..	Nov. *	10,560	—	—	†	114,802	—	—
Cordoba Central ..	Dec. 11	26,300	—	4,450	†	710,400	—	146,045
Costa Rica .. .. .	Oct. 16	5,704	—	646	†	74,943	—	31,386
Cuban Central ..	Dec. 4	9,790	—	3,326	†	178,670	—	29,240
Dorada Extension ..	Nov. *	6,900	—	500	†	85,300	—	5,900
Egyptian Delta ..	" 20a	6,687	—	554	†	107,366	—	14,975
Entre Rios .. .. .	Dec. 11	11,100	—	2,900	†	226,700	—	43,600
French Sante Fé ..	Oct. 11	81,576	—	14,083	†	757,768	—	54,261
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Dec. 4	Ps. 76,662	—	Ps21,100	†	Ps2,045,612	—	Ps216,26
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 11	12,800	—	1,900	†	487,200	—	118,400
Havana Central ..	" 11	5,641	—	429	†	127,972	—	14,550
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. *	4,521	—	2,373	†	168,843	—	52,153
La Guaira and Car. ..	Nov. *	6,750	—	1,750	†	74,500	—	19,000
Leopoldina .. .. .	Dec. 11	26,928	—	4,361	†	1,464,014	—	9,077
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 11	5,385	—	4,145	†	534,495	—	38,219
Midland Uruguay ..	Nov. *	8,723	—	999	†	50,743	—	9,519
Mogiana .. .. .	Sept. *	M2,395,000	—	M 432,733	†	M1747,000	—	M218,213
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Nov. *	22,200	—	2,810	†	114,764	—	28,491
Nitrate .. .. .	30b	24,680	—	14,146	†	333,544	—	192,925
Paraguay Central ..	Dec. 11	5,070,000	—	246,000	†	11,026,000	—	506,000
Paulista .. .. .	Sept. *	M3,200,000	—	947,978	†	M20150,000	—	M254998
Peruvian Corp'n. ..	Nov. *	575,720	—	512,176	†	3,857,777	—	3,553,754
Salvador .. .. .	Dec. 11	20,250	—	4,875	†	451,760	—	873,835
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 4	33,718	—	2,274	†	841,572	—	181,580
Sorocabana .. .. .	Sept. *	M1,718,000	—	M658,631	†	M12442,000	—	M75374,74
Taital. .. .. .	Oct. 11	17,798	—	7,538	†	65,461	—	2,648
United of Havana ..	Dec. 12	29,401	—	6,342	†	589,434	—	130,972
West'n of Havana ..	" 11	4,842	—	188	†	113,097	—	6,150
Zafra and Huelva ..	Nov. *	3,975	—	1,819	†	94,099	—	30,723



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NOTICE.—Owing to the Christmas Holidays THE INVESTORS' REVIEW will next week be published on Friday morning, and the Office will be closed from Friday evening to the following Tuesday morning.

## The Investors' Review.

### The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. (Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Conditions in the Money market showed very little change in the early part of the week, day-to-day loans being arranged at 4-4½ per cent. and weekly fixtures at 4½-4¾ per cent., with a fair proportion of the business at the lower figure in each case. During the last day or two, however, there have been signs that balances were being called in, and although £3,000,000 Argentine Treasury bills were nominally repaid on Wednesday, the transaction did not increase supplies appreciably, as a good many of the bills had already been bought up under discount. The demand for accommodation also seemed to increase and rates hardened, until it became less easy to obtain advances below 4½ per cent. for day-to-day or 4¾ per cent. for seven days.

The discount market also became a little more active on Wednesday, when a special demand for bills sprang up in some quarters. Maturities just short of three months were most in request, and changed hands at 4¾ per cent., but parcels of fine ninety-day paper were also readily placed at 5½ per cent. Yesterday, however, the market became distinctly harder, and holders who had been selling at the low rates just mentioned found no takers at anything under 5½ per cent., while some houses held out for 5¾ per cent. The main reason for this sudden change was the knowledge that an issue

of Exchequer bonds was on the point of being issued, but a contributory cause was the statement that arrangements had been completed for establishing a Russian credit in London. A number of banks and accepting houses have agreed to accept three months' bills drawn in Petrograd by approved institutions, such bills being renewable until 12 months after the war. It is expected that the first of these bills will come on the market in about a fortnight's time, and that they will be dealt with as ordinary commercial bills.

Among foreign exchanges the Dutch rate has fluctuated very sharply. Early in the week it fell to 10.94, rallied a little and then declined to 10.75, owing, it was said, to the remittance of credits from New York. It finished, however, above the worst at 10.82½. The New York cable rate improved to 4.73½d on Mr. McKenna's scheme for mobilising American securities, and the Paris cheque, after touching 27.67, came a shade easier. Petrograd touched a new high level of 150½, but dropped back a little on the completion of the arrangements for establishing a credit in London. The Scandinavian exchanges continued their upward movement in the end of last week, but since then they have gone steadily back.

Changes in this week's Bank return are not of much significance. While the loss of gold for abroad was smaller than has been the case for some time past at £445,000, it was offset by receipts from the country, with the result that the stocks of coin and bullion were £8,000 up at £50,281,000. As, however, the note circulation showed an expansion of £111,000, the reserve was £103,000 lower, and the proportion to liabilities has dropped to 23.6 per cent. Treasury receipts and disbursements just about balanced, and Public Deposits were only reduced by £308,000, but owing to an increase in "Other" Securities of £3,955,000 Other Deposits were £4,150,000 up at £94,169,000.

According to the official statement for the week ended December 15, currency notes amounting to £3,904,166 in £1 and £1,487,743 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £1,685,659 in £1 and £703,174 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £3,003,075 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £91,594,775 10s., made up of £68,152,444 in £1 notes and £23,442,331 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £410,000 were issued and £560,000 were cancelled, leaving £5,550,000 outstanding. There is also an investment reserve account of £734,892 13s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £54,620,563 1s. 11d. in Government securities, and £14,351,105 1s. 11d. at the Bank of England, while £159,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £249,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

### SILVER.

A little inquiry on Eastern account put the price of silver up to 26½d. per oz. on Saturday last, but since then the market has gone steadily backwards. China has been a seller throughout the week, and towards the end selling orders also came from India. As there was no support beyond a moderate demand from the Mint, the quotation relapsed sharply until it touched 25½d. per oz., but this level checked the offerings, and the market closes steady.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 13,85,000 in bills, Rs. 2,18,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 2,19,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 56,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 34,71,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 14,73,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-16d. receiving about 65 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 1,50,000 in immediate transfers at 1s. 4 3-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 14th inst. the total sales were Rs. 10,61,00,377, realising £7,077,064, compared with Rs. 6,57,94,861 for £4,388,476 to December 15 last year.



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

## EXCHEQUER BONDS

Per Acts 29 Vict. c. 25; 52 Vict. c. 6; and 5 & 6 Geo. V. c. 55.

Bearing interest from the date of purchase at £5 per cent. per annum, payable Half-yearly on the 1st June and the 1st December.

REPAYABLE AT PAR ON THE 1st DECEMBER, 1920.

Price of Issue fixed by H.M. Treasury at £100 per Cent.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to receive until further notice applications for Exchequer Bonds as above.

The Principal and Interest of the Bonds are chargeable on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Bonds will be issued in denominations of £100, £200, £500, £1,000 and £5,000, and will bear interest at £5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly by coupon, the first coupon on each Bond representing interest to the 1st June, 1916, from the date upon which payment for the Bond is made.

In the event of future loans (other than issues made abroad, or issues of Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, or similar short-dated securities) being raised by His Majesty's Government for the purpose of carrying on the War, Bonds of this issue will be accepted, together with all undue Coupons, as the equivalent of cash to the amount of their face value for the purpose of subscription to any such loan. Interest accrued to the date of the surrender of a Bond will be paid in cash.

Bonds of this issue, and the Interest payable from time to time in respect thereof, will be exempt from all British taxation, present or future, if it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of a person who is neither domiciled, nor ordinarily resident, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Where a Bond belongs to such a holder, the relative Coupons will be paid without deduction for Income Tax, or other taxes, if accompanied by a declaration of ownership in such form as may be required by the Treasury.

Applications for Bonds, which must in every case be accompanied by payment of the full amount payable in respect of the Bonds applied for, may be lodged by hand at the Bank of England, Threadneedle street, E.C., on any business day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 12 noon); or they may be forwarded to the Bank through the post. Where payment is made otherwise than in cash or Banker's draft on the Bank of England, the amount of interest payable in respect of the relative Bonds on the 1st June, 1916, will be calculated as from the date on which the proceeds of the payment are actually received by the Bank.

In all cases in which the Bank are asked to forward Bonds by post, the Bonds will be dispatched by Registered Post at the risk of the Applicant, who must himself effect any insurance that may be desired.

A provisional receipt, exchangeable in due course for the Definitive Bonds, will be issued in respect of each application.

Bonds of this issue (EX the Coupon payable 1st June, 1916, for interest in respect of the broken period) may be lodged for registration in the books of the Bank of England, on payment of a fee of one shilling per Bond. Holdings of Registered Bonds, which will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of £100, in the same manner as Inscribed Stock, may be reconverted at any time into Bonds to Bearer without payment of any fee.

Dividends on registered holdings will be paid by warrants which will be transmitted by post.

Applications must be made upon the printed forms which may be obtained, together with copies of this Prospectus, at the Bank of England, at the Bank of Ireland, of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13 George street, Mansion House, E.C.; and at any Bank, Money Order Office, or Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND, LONDON,  
16th December, 1915.

**SIGN THIS FORM TO-DAY.**

### EXCHEQUER BONDS.

Bearing Interest at £5 per Cent. per Annum, payable half-yearly. Repayable at par on the 1st Dec., 1920.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£100 PER CENT.

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

In terms of the Prospectus dated the 16th December, 1915, I/we hereby apply for (a) £....., say,.....pounds, of the above-mentioned Bonds as detailed below, and I/we agree to accept that, or any less amount which you may allot to me/us.

The sum of (b) £....., being the amount of the required payment (namely £100 for every £100 of Bonds applied for), is enclosed herewith.

.....Bonds of	£100	£.....
.....do.	£200	£.....
.....do.	£500	£.....
.....do.	£1,000	£.....
.....do.	£5,000	£.....
TOTAL		£.....

Name  
in full  
and  
Address.

(This must be signed by the Applicant.)

Date....., 191

(a) Applications must be for not less than £100, and must be for multiples of £100.

(b) Cheques should be made payable to "bearer," not to "order," and should be crossed:—"Bank of England, a/c Exchequer Bonds."



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 15, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 68,596,630	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	50,146,630
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 68,596,630		£ 68,596,630

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 32,840,075
Reserve .. ..	3,296,508	Other Securities .. ..	96,865,303
Public Deposits (including		Notes .. ..	34,329,820
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	134,552
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,136,369		
Other Deposits .. ..	94,169,276		
Seven Day and other Bills	14,597		
	£ 164,169,750		£ 164,169,750

Dated Dec. 16, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 16.		Dec. 8, 1915.	Dec. 15, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,244,894	Rest .. ..	3,285,537	3,296,508	10,971	—
43,167,729	Pub. Deposits ..	52,443,879	52,136,369	—	307,510
122,736,426	Other do. ..	90,018,941	94,169,276	4,150,335	—
20,635	7 Day Bills ..	16,469	14,597	—	1,872
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
11,968,674	Gov. Securities.	32,840,075	32,840,075	—	—
16,481,844	Other do. ..	92,910,363	96,865,303	—	3,954,940
55,272,166	Total Reserve ..	34,567,388	34,329,820	103,016	—
				4,264,322	4,264,322
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
35,751,935	Note Circulation	34,155,360	32,840,075	—	—
72,414,101	Coin and Bullion	50,272,748	50,281,182	8,434	—
332 p.c.	Proportion ..	24.3 p.c.	23.6 p.c.	—	7 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £445,000 out.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	£ 1,294,116,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	960,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,286,213,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,090,919,000	984,535,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. 3	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
" 24	261,627,000	200,392,000	61,235,000	—
Dec. 1	263,784,000	215,603,000	48,181,000	—
" 8	271,441,000	241,793,000	29,648,000	—
" 15	255,433,000	203,817,000	51,616,000	—
Total ..	12,869,120,000	14,265,382,000	—	1,396,262,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 11.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
	£
Customs .. .. .	1,764,000
Excise .. .. .	625,000
Estate, &c., Duties .. .. .	656,000
Stamps .. .. .	321,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	1,499,000
Land Values Duties.. .. .	—
Post Office .. .. .	600,000
Crown Lands .. .. .	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous .. .. .	337,950
Bullion advances repaid ..	220,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	31,347,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. .. .	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. .. .	—
American Loan .. .. .	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Housing Act .. .. .	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments .. .. .	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal .. .. .	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—
China Indemnity .. .. .	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. .. .	—
	£37,370,950

National Debt Service ..	160,582
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	1,520,376
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	210,380
Other Consolidated Fund Charges .. .. .	12,675
Supply Services .. .. .	25,661,812
Bullion Advances .. .. .	250,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. .. .	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Re- demption Act, 1910 .. .. .	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 .. .. .	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. .. .	100,000
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 .. .. .	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .. .. .	—
Old Sinking Fund 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. .. .	—
Under Public Buildings Ex- penses Act, 1903 .. .. .	—
E Africa Protectorate Loan	—
Cunard Loan repayment is- sued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement .. .. .	130,000
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid .. .. .	8,363,000
Increase in Exchequer balances .. .. .	958,125
	£37,370,950

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
	£		£
Saturday—Bars .. ..	14,000	Saturday—U.S.A. .. ..	85,000
Thursday—Misc. (released)	225,000	" Egypt (set aside) ..	100,000
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	136 000	" Switzerland .. ..	50,000
" Sovereigns .. ..	750,000	Monday—Egypt .. ..	100,000
Thursday—Bars .. ..	629,000	Tuesday—Uruguay .. ..	100,000
		" Egypt (set aside) ..	100,000
		Wednesday—Continent ..	300,000
		" U.S.A. .. ..	170,000
		Thursday—Spain .. ..	250,000
		" South America .. ..	125,000
		" Canada .. ..	32,000
		" U.S.A. .. ..	20,000
		Friday—U.S.A. .. ..	315,000
		Nett Influx .. ..	7,600
	£1,754,000		£1,754,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 26, 1915.	Nov. 19, 1915.	Nov. 12, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 49,197,200	£ 49,080,000	£ 46,686,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	250,400	246,400	245,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	14,766,000	13,869,000	12,558,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	7,442,400	6,434,600	6,361,200
Total reserves .. ..	71,656,000	69,630,000	65,850,600
10-day bills and loans ..	1,232,800	920,600	934,800
30-day bills and loans ..	2,225,800	2,464,000	2,233,000
60-day bills and loans ..	3,665,000	3,167,000	2,932,600
90-day bills and loans ..	1,904,800	1,803,600	1,904,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	766,200	674,600	575,000
Total .. ..	9,794,600	9,029,800	8,029,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	2,583,800	2,534,800	2,400,600
Municipal Warrants ..	5,461,600	5,503,800	4,560,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,335,200	3,758,400	3,907,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. .. ..	2,810,600	3,165,400	3,235,000
All other assets .. ..	926,600	732,400	655,000
Total assets .. ..	97,068,400	94,354,600	80,238,400
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,909,200	10,970,800	12,909,200
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	79,590,400	76,999,400	71,863,400
Nett circulation—nett. ..	2,677,000	2,584,600	2,601,400
All other liabilities .. ..	831,800	799,800	804,400
Total liabilities .. ..	97,068,400	94,354,600	89,238,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	77.9 %	79.6 %	81.1 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities .. ..	86.9 %	87.7 %	88.7 %

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended December 11 amounted to £31,363,000, or a daily average of about £5,250,000. Bills to the amount of £8,363,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £23,000,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£ 10,000,000	12 months	1916. Feb. 27.	2 17 1/2
*348,394,000	—	—	—
358,394,000	—	—	—

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Dec. 12, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 630,082,000	£ 626,566,000	£ 627,642,000	£ 435,600,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	103,916,000	103,466,000	103,416,000	67,140,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,262,000	32,634,000	33,090,000	18,780,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,888,000	10,923,000	10,626,000	6,000,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	645,114,000	642,322,000	643,136,000	374,420,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	29,364,000	29,010,000	29,082,000	18,140,000
Circulation .. ..	7,023,000	7,020,000	7,018,000	12,340,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	35,604,000	36,088,000	35,986,000	23,940,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Dec. 12, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 123,848,000	£ 123,512,000	£ 123,118,000	£ 112,020,000
Specie .. ..	10,560,000	10,532,000	10,518,000	8,440,000
Deposits .. ..	129,118,000	128,412,000	128,474,000	110,680,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	2,000,000	1,974,000	1,960,000	2,440,000

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Dec. 5, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 34,755,993	£ 34,291,515	£ 34,280,183	£ 16,057,757
Silver .. ..	291,152	314,714	280,285	394,443
Bills discounted, &c. ..	13,969,281	13,935,172	14,022,265	25,648,410
Note circulation .. ..	47,382,130	47,123,240	46,839,563	39,798,018
Deposits .. ..	3,046,307	2,724,577	2,930,915	1,822,233



## BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 6, 1915.	Dec. 9, 1915.	Dec. 2, 1915.	Nov. 25, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 201,055,960	£ 197,601,000	£ 195,100,600	£ 193,407,720
Silver in hand ..	14,308,880	14,260,000	14,344,360	14,401,560
Bills discounted ..	14,070,160	12,682,160	12,950,200	11,833,240
Advances ..	46,003,320	25,209,840	23,309,480	22,866,760
Note circulation ..	517,930,120	562,818,840	571,639,760	571,136,960
Public deposits ..	89,469,920	6,233,960	4,072,080	1,713,680
Private deposits ..	88,566,280	117,618,200	107,607,360	106,847,240
Foreign Bills ..	50,600	52,200	89,500	48,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 37½ per cent., against 36½ per cent. last week. Advances to the State £296,000,000; unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £35,670,560, decrease £162,840, and at the branches to £38,168,840, decrease £96,160.

## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1914.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 123,605,900	£ 123,628,100	£ 123,672,450	£ 103,031,200
Treasury Notes ..	23,083,650	33,431,050	27,837,250	34,564,500
Bills discounted ..	249,596,200	233,589,500	233,339,700	151,798,350
Advances ..	679,000	727,350	632,650	2,267,950
Note circulation ..	302,044,500	299,970,600	288,243,400	211,496,400
Deposits ..	83,363,450	79,392,350	86,167,350	6,587,750

Clearing House returns during Nov. £22,927,375 against £242,546,610 in Oct.

## BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 10, 1915	Oct. 31, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Nov. 10, 1914
Total cash ..	£ 53,263,600	£ 54,089,720	£ 54,273,800	£ 49,007,280
Inland Bills ..	19,464,880	20,419,000	19,556,240	31,326,400
Foreign Bills ..	834,440	840,160	834,520	3,177,200
Advances ..	7,918,480	8,649,560	9,365,920	5,236,440
Government securities ..	8,078,920	8,188,360	8,399,000	8,179,080
Circulation ..	116,662,160	115,929,760	114,248,600	85,924,120
Deposits at notice ..	11,392,000	11,920,360	11,445,520	7,197,880
Current accounts ..	18,660,600	17,435,960	16,873,080	11,757,560

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Dec. 5, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 34,197,467	£ 33,737,709	£ 33,330,147	£ 22,614,443
Silver ..	30,010,224	30,113,734	29,764,481	28,117,036
Foreign Bills ..	4,070,826	4,093,578	4,171,697	6,214,618
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,346,394	26,059,467	26,269,872	32,228,469
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,202,793	28,049,280	28,266,877	28,852,085
Notes in Circulation ..	82,686,411	82,380,394	82,756,385	78,404,531
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	27,036,465	27,137,127	26,801,936	23,913,101
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,238,045	1,750,105	1,515,216	1,297,924
Government Securities ..	2,729,489	1,991,590	1,962,912	4,909,765

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 29, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915.	Nov. 28, 1914.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 7,437,800	£ 7,051,600	£ 9,346,200	£ 8,529,700
Cash in reserve ..	160,828,700	160,518,450	160,310,300	155,417,100
Gold in reserve abroad ..	22,851,400	13,372,700	13,017,300	21,525,500
Circulation note issue ..	523,900,000	518,400,000	513,400,000	290,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	23,805,700	25,061,600	21,137,000	20,710,700

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 23, 1915	Dec. 7, 1914.
Gold and silver ..	£ 12,073,100	£ 12,113,840	£ 12,160,141	£ 10,393,788
Bills ..	5,519,412	5,605,816	5,234,254	6,693,432
Note circulation ..	16,697,940	17,098,420	16,702,654	16,277,496
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,368,756	2,982,956	2,930,136	2,834,776

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Dec. 5, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 6,921,000	£ 6,294,000	£ 6,295,000	£ 5,807,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	7,980,000	7,581,000	7,217,000	2,902,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	2,908,000	2,918,000	2,929,000	1,473,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,931,000	4,604,000	4,747,000	9,948,000
Notes in circulation ..	16,863,000	15,971,000	16,327,000	15,712,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,150,000	5,296,000	4,760,000	4,210,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 14, 1915.		Dec. 16, 1915	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland ..	Three months' bills ..	11.12	11.20*	10.93	11.04*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	10.95	11	10.75	10.83
Italy ..	Three months' bills ..	31.47	31.62	31.45	31.55*
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	31.02	31.12	31	31.10
Lisbon & Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	33½	34½	33½	34½
Do. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.05	28.12*	28	28.10*
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.65	27.70	27.62½	27.67½
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	150	151	149	151
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	17.30	17	16.50	17-20
Do. ..	Three months' bills ..	17.63	18.50*	18.50*	18.50*
Spain (Bnk. ples.) ..	Three months' bills ..	25.25	25.50*	25.12	25.22
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.95	25.10	25.12	25.22
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	25.25	25.50*	25.3	25.45
Do. ..	Cable transfers ..	24.95	25.10	24.90	25

Nominal.

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Nov. 22, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1914.
Gold ..	£ 3,526,000	£ 3,659,000	£ 3,693,000	£ 2,374,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	3,788,000	3,694,000	3,630,000	1,563,000
Govt. Securities ..	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,314,000	4,200,000	4,337,000	6,485,000
Notes in Circulation ..	8,404,000	8,416,000	8,288,000	7,103,000
Deposits at notice ..	1,377,000	1,317,000	1,564,000	1,021,000

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris ..	chqs.	27.65	27.66	Antwerp ..	short sight	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy ..	sight	31.10	31.05
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.10	11.88	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin ..	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna ..	sight	—	—	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	150	149½	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	sight	4.73	4.72½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11½d.	1/11½d.
Lisbon ..	sight	34½d.	34½d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/7½d.	2/6½d.
Madrid ..	sight	25.10	25.12½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5	5
Six months ..	5	5
Nine months ..	5	5
Twelve months ..	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5½	5
Three months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	5½-6	5½-6
Four months ..	5½-6	5½-6
Six months ..	5½-6	5½-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
.. short loan rates ..	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4	4
.. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½-4½	4½-4½
.. for call loans ..	4-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Markets were depressed a little on the announcement of the Exchequer bond issue noticed elsewhere, and generally the dulness of the week has been unrelieved. Even in the miscellaneous markets speculation has not been active, and American railroad shares and munition or steel shares have been swept into the backward rush of the tide. This is partly because the Germans in America have organised a dead set against the Anglo-French loan, the subscription syndicate to which has now been dissolved. It is to be hoped that the friends of the civilised Allies will be able to take measures to make this bear raid costly for the perpetrators thereof. In other departments there was a fair amount of strength shown most days, and in that strength the shares of our armament firms and shipping companies, as well as of rubber companies and mines, were participants. There is plenty of strength behind markets if they could see their way, but everything is more or less obscured by the devouring requirements of this world war.

Regarding these requirements one thing is plain enough: some other method than any yet adopted must be found to attract the small savings of the community. We notice that hints are appearing in the Press that Mr. McKenna will have to fall back on a lottery loan, and it is amusing to note the hesitancy with which this proposal is put forward. Our habits of mind have been cast into a mould of repulsion, one may say, against this form of raising money owing to the scandals and crimes that attended the lotteries which were common in this country in the early part of last century. But, as a matter of fact, there is no real objection to bonds that give holders a chance of a bonus premium or a prize when drawn for redemption. The practice of issuing such loans has existed on the Continent all through the past century. Most, if not all the debt of the City of Paris, as well as that of the City of Brussels and numberless other municipalities, is in this form, and



the existence of such debts has never given rise to the slightest scandal. We believe, in fact, that in this form of debt the Government will find the surest method of reaching the multitude who could save money, but now mostly waste it, and in all probability it would get its loans at less cost than by the system usually employed, as illustrated in the new offer of Exchequer bonds to an indefinite amount. We should suggest that bonds of as low a capital value as £5 might be created and sold through the Post Office bearing 3 or at most 3½ per cent. interest, and endowed with a plentiful sprinkling of moderate bonuses on redemption. These bonuses might begin at £1 and spread upwards to, at the very outside, prizes of £10,000. By fixing the annuity created for the service of these bonds at, say 4½ per cent., and giving 3½ per cent. of it in interest paid quarterly, or half-yearly, as the case might be, there would be 1 per cent. left to accumulate for the purpose of paying these bonuses or prizes. No holder of a bond would get less than par on its redemption, and a considerable proportion would receive some more or less substantial bonus. It is only a different method of paying off debentures to that common enough with joint-stock companies. They create debt by issuing bonds, say at par, or at a discount, and engage to pay them off at 5, or it may be 10 and even 20 per cent. premium. Take this method and arrange prizes after this fashion, and we believe the amount of money that would flow into the Treasury would surprise most people by its magnitude.

Applications for the French War Loan in London appear to have exceeded all expectations. M. Ribot announced in the Chamber on Thursday that more than 600,000,000 frs., or £24,000,000, had been subscribed, a total which is decidedly satisfactory from every point of view. Brokers tell us that Scotland has distinguished itself by both the number and the magnitude of the subscriptions, which is as it should be, in view of the ancient *camaraderie* of the two peoples. Dealings in the bonds on the Stock Exchange opened this morning at 79½ for the fully-paid, and the price rose rapidly to 80½, or a premium of 1½, if allowance is made for the discount on payment in full.

With the volume of business still greatly restricted, Stock markets are very susceptible to outside influences. This week opened rather more cheerfully, but a feeling of depression followed the announcement of Mr. McKenna's scheme for mobilising American securities, as it was feared that it would deprive members of business, and the issue of an unlimited amount of Exchequer bonds intensified the weakness. Under these influences an early recovery of ¼ to 5½ in Consols was lost, and the price further relapsed to 58½, while the 4½ per cent. War Loan fell to 97. Colonial Government short-dated stocks were in some request, and Canada and New South Wales 4½ per cents., as well as South Australian 5 per cents., were all harder. It was stated that the City of Calgary had raised \$2,000,000 in New York by an issue of three-year notes at 97, secured on arrears of taxes due November 21, amounting to \$2,800,000. Foreign Government stocks were weak with the exception of Argentine 6 per cent. five-year Treasury bonds, which were in demand and improved to 100½. Brazilian issues were nearly all lower, but Chilean moved irregularly, the 1896 and 1910 5 per cents. rising and the 1886 4 per cents. dropping a fraction or two. Egyptian Unified were sold and fell to 75½. Dealings in the new French loan will be permitted by the Treasury as soon as allotments are made, and the loan will be quoted in sterling in multiples of frs. 2,500 at the fixed exchange of frs. 25 to the £.

Home Railway stocks were rather irregular, with a little buying of the heavy stocks in anticipation of the forthcoming dividends. Midland deferred were prominent with a rise to 58½, and Great Eastern, Great Western, and Great Northern deferred were all the turn harder. North-Eastern, on the other hand, eased off, and Great Central preferred and Metropolitan gave way. Can Pac shares have followed the movements in Wall Street, and have fluctuated between 191 and 192½, closing near the best, but Trunk stocks generally were lower, and Canadian Northern income debentures also fell back. American Railroad shares were depressed by fears of labour troubles and by the Note to Austria, and prices fell sharply, but the decline brought in the bears to cover, and final quotations are above the lowest. In South American Railways, Argentine things were better on the good outlook for the coming season, but relapsed a little before the close. Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Central Argentine ordinary improved to 84, Buenos Ayres Western to 85, and Buenos Ayres Pacific to 47. Cordoba Central second debentures, however, dropped to 51 on the proposal to place an issue of 6 per cent. notes in front of them. Leopoldina ordinary were heavy, but San Paulo advanced to 177, and Mexican Railway stocks were a shade harder.

Very little business was recorded in Bank shares, and the few changes in the London group were all adverse. National Provincial £12 paid relapsed to 29, and London County and Westminster and Lloyds were both ¾ down on the week. Hongkong and Shanghai improved to 76, but South American shares drooped. Shipping shares were mostly easier, but Royal Mail, after touching 99½, reacted sharply to 103 on rumours of an amalgamation. P. and O. deferred declined 1 to 288, and Cunards slipped back to 70s. 6d., but London-American Mari-

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	58½	58½	N.S.W. 4½ 5 yr. bds.....	97½	97½
War Loan 3½.....	90	89½	" 4½ 1922-7.....	96½	96½
India 3½.....	97½	97	New Zealand 4.....	95	95
" 3½.....	69½	69½	Queensland 4.....	92	92
Canada 4½, 1940-60.....	80½	80½	" 4½ new.....	98½	98½
Canada 4½, 1920-5.....	92	92	Union of S. Africa 4½.....	95½	95½
N.S.W. 4½.....	96½	96½	1920-5.....	98	98
	95½	95	Victoria 4½, 1920-5.....		
Belgian 3½.....	55	55	French Rentes.....	64½	64½
Brazil, 1913.....	60	60	Japan 4½ (1st).....	92½	92
" New Funding.....	76½	75	" (2nd).....	92	91½
Chinese 1896.....	93½	93	Russia 4.....	70½	70½
" 1913.....	79	77½	" 4½.....	77	76½
Egypt Unified 4½.....	77½	75½	" 5.....	85	84½
Brighton defd.....	55	54½	London and S.W. dfd.....	24½	24½
Caledonian defd.....	9	8½	Do. new pf.....	100½	101
Chatham ord.....	9	7½	Metropolitan.....	24½	24½
Gt. Central pf.....	14	13½	Do. 5% New pf.....	95½	95½
" dfd.....	7½	7	Met. District.....	15½	15½
Gt. Eastern.....	3½	3½	Midland dfd.....	58½	58½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39½	39	Nth. British dfd.....	10½	10½
Gt. Western.....	92	92½	Nth.-Eastern.....	102½	101½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	69½	69½	Nth.-Western.....	102½	102½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	24½	24½
Canadian Pacific.....	195½	192	Chesapeake.....	66½	65
Do. 6% Notes.....	110½	110½	Erie.....	46½	46
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debts.....	93	93	Milwaukee.....	100½	99½
Grand Trunk ord.....	11½	11½	N. Y. Central.....	109½	111½
Do. 3rd pf.....	27½	27½	Southern.....	24½	23½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes.....	98½	99½	Southern Pacific.....	107½	106½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. ".....	98½	98½	Union Pacific.....	149½	145½
Atchafalca.....	112½	112½	U. S. Steel.....	91½	90½
Baltimore.....	99½	97½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	124	123	Cent. Argentine ord.....	81½	82
Do. 6% Notes.....	100½	100	Do. 5% Notes.....	98	98½
Brazil Common.....	9	9	Do. 6% ".....	101	101
B. A. & Pacific.....	46½	46½	Leopoldina.....	37	37½
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	81½	81½	Mexican ord.....	19½	19
B. A. Western.....	84½	84½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	179	177
			United of Havana.....	74½	73½
Bank of Australasia.....	107½	108	London City & Midland.....	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	81	81	London County & West.....	16½	15½
Do. "B".....	11½	11½	London Joint Stock.....	21½	21½
Capital & Counties.....	22½	22½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd).....	25½	25½
Chartered of India.....	54	54	Do. (£12 pd).....	29½	29½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	75½	76	Parr's.....	29½	29½
Lloyds.....	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.....	10½	10½
London & Provincial.....	158	158	Union & Smiths.....	23½	23½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Forestal Land.....	45½	44½
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34½	34½	Furness, Withy.....	34½	35½
Associated Cement.....	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay.....	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	37½	36½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.....	22½	22½
Borax dfd.....	25½	25½	Do. dfd. "A".....	35½	35½
Brazil.....	20½	20½	Kynochs.....	29½	29½
Brazil Traction.....	52½	52½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	21½	21½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	69½	37½	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brown (John) & Co.....	28½	27½	Marconi.....	1½	1½
Brunner, Mond.....	38½	38	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	24½	24½
Cammell-Laird.....	41½	41½	Mond Nickel ord.....	3½	3½
Casner-Kellner.....	60½	60½	National Steam Car.....	12½	12½
Coats.....	5½	5½	Pears, A. & F.....	2	2
Cunard.....	72½	70½	P. & O. dfd.....	29½	27½
Dennist Bros.....	26½	26½	Royal Mail.....	103½	103
Dorman, Long.....	24½	26½	South Durham Steel.....	26½	27½
Eastmans.....	7½	8½	Underground Inc. Bds.....	77	77
English Sewing Cotton.....	33½	34½	Vickers.....	33½	33½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	25½	25½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	8½	8	Mexican Eagle pf.....	1½	1½
Baku (ros.).....	2½	2½	North Caucasian.....	23½	22½
Burmah.....	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons.....	13½	13½
Lobitos.....	33½	32½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	46½	46½
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3½	3½	Shell.....	4½	4½
Maikop Pipeline.....	4½	4½	Spies (10/-).....	12½	12½
Mexican Eagle.....	1½	1½	Ural Caspian.....	1½	1½
Anglo-Malay.....	10½	10½	Linggi.....	18½	17½
Batu Caves.....	12	12	London Asiatic.....	5½	6½
Bukit Mertajam.....	3½	3½	Malacca.....	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang.....	2½	2½	Malayalam.....	22½	23½
Damansara.....	2½	3	M. Rimau.....	4½	4½
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15 pd.).....	14½	14½
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	10½	10½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	17½	17½	Vallambrosa.....	15½	15½
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.).....	11½	10½
Brakpan.....	3½	3½	East Rand.....	1½	1½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	2½	2½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15½	15½
Cam & Motor.....	14½	14½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	5½	5½
Chartered.....	11½	11½	Do. Deep.....	5½	5½
City Deep.....	3½	3½	New Modder (£4).....	15½	15½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	54½	54½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep.....	2½	2½

time improved to 28s. on the prospects of an interim dividend. The most sensational-looking movement, however, was in International Mercantile Marine preferred, which jumped suddenly from 70 to 78½ on New York impulses, and then relapsed to 77½, while the common rose to 19. Hudson's Bay shares were offered and fell to 6½, and Forestal Land ordinary were also easier at 44s. Brazil Traction were sold and declined to 52½, but Motors were quiet, the only movement of any note being a rise of ½ in Rolls-Royce. Otis Steel were again dull and lower, and Canadian Engineering things were generally easier, Steel Co. of Canada being down to 41½. Cargo Fleet were flat on the disappointing dividend, and Thornycroft were a shade down at 22s. 4d. Cuban Port common came into favour and rose to 30. Aerated Bread were rather harder, and Lyons firmed up to 4½ on a little support. Peek Bros. and Winch preference shares



dropped to 2½ after the report, and Harrods (Buenos Aires) were also dull, but in both cases the losses were speedily recovered. Courtaulds were in demand and improved to 55s. 6d., and there was a little buying of Coats at 5½ xd.

The market for Oil shares was again very quiet, and a few transactions in "Shells" left the price unchanged at 4½. Royal Dutch, however, dropped to 46½, and Spies were easier. New Schibaeff hardened a little on the report, and Ural Caspian were also a shade firmer. Burmah and Anglo-Persian preference were easier, and Venezuelan Concessions were sold after the meeting, but Lobitos put on a little on the declaration of an interim dividend. A fair business has been done in Rubber shares, and although there was a temporary set-back on a little profit-taking, the market remained firm under the influence of the satisfactory dividend declarations. Anglo-Java were amongst the most active, and improved to 18s., and there was also a good inquiry for Djasinga, Java Amalgamated, Soember Ajoie, and Batavia Plantations investment. In Malay and Sumatra companies, Batang and Glen Bervje were good on the reports, Pataling were better on the increased dividend, and Sungei Buaya, Tandjong, United Sumatra, and Asahan all came in for some attention, but Anglo-Malay and United Serdang were a trifle easier.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

**SUGAR.**—There was a steady business doing during the week, and prices remained at late level almost without exception. American granulated, spot, changed hands at 32s. 6d., and white Java 30s. 3½d. to 30s. 9½d., as to sample, with white Mauritius 30s. 1½d. to 30s. 3d. Grocery cane crystallised West India cleared to a fair extent at a steady range. Demerara sold, 30s. to 30s. 6d.; Jamaica, 29s. 9d. to 30s. 6d. Mr. Guma estimates the coming Cuban crop as 3,183,000 tons, against an outturn last year of 2,593,000 tons.

**COFFEE.**—There is no new feature to note in this market, general trade being slow, with the export side of the article still shackled, while the little business stirring with the home trade is at a steady range. Futures continue quiet, and small transactions effected include December delivery, at 39s. 6d. to 39s. 9d.

**COCOA.**—Affairs were not so depressed as recently, though business was again of retail proportions.

**TEA.**—Altogether a firmer market ensued during the week, buyers showing decidedly more confidence while bearing in mind the exceptional stringency in freight world, and most kinds were from ½d. to ¾d. per lb. dearer. Quantities offered during the week totalled 54,000 packages Indian, 19,500 Ceylon, and 6,700 Java.

**SPICE.**—General trade moved quietly, and little or no alteration occurred in quotations of pepper, either spot or forward. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sellers, 7½d. Tapioca quiet, though supported in value.

**RICE.**—Market firm, with a good inquiry for spot and afloat parcels, owing to scarcity and dearness of tonnage affecting forward positions. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, January-February, sold, 13s. 3d., c.f. and i.; London, old crop ditto, afloat, 14s. 1½d.; and No. 1 Siam, broken, 12s. 6d., also on passage.

**FIBRES.**—General firmness was apparent, and fair transactions, especially with regard to jute; Daisiee qualities in fact being extensively dealt in. Offers from Calcutta are still meagre in consequence of the marked scarcity of freights. Hemp is similarly affected, and coarse January-March, sold, £36 10s. to £36 15s.; brown, £34 10s. to £34 15s.; and fair New Zealand at £35 to £35 10s.

**RUBBER.**—Fair general trading ensued during the week, and though slight irregularity predominated at times, rates closed firmer. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold up to 3s. 7d., and later 3s. 6½d. was accepted. Forward positions came in for comparatively good support. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 3s. 6½d. to 3s. 5½d. and 3s. 6d. Fine hard Para, spot and near done, 3s. 2½d. to 3s. 1½d.; January-February, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 2½d. and 3s. 1½d.

**COPRA.**—A dull tone prevailed, buyers adopting reserve after the liberal purchases recently made, and though sellers were not unduly pressing, rates further depreciated in all directions.

**WOOL.**—Public sales were continued this week, and with good competition firm rates were obtained for all descriptions.

**TALLOW.**—Market dull. Near parcels, afloat, nominal. At public sale, 244 tons of better coloured and 204 tons of inferior were offered. 152 tons of the former and 37 of the latter sold at an average decline of 3s. per cwt. Australian mutton: fine, 50s.; fair to good, 49s. to 50s.; dark to dull, 44s. to 47s.; hard, 50s. Beef: sweet, 50s.; fine, 49s.; fair to good, 47s. to 48s. 6d.; dark to dull, 45s. to 46s. Market letter unchanged for stuff, tallow being 1s. lower. Town tallow, 44s. 6d.; melted stuff, 32s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 1rd. per 8 lb.

**METALS.**—Copper: At the commencement of the week the standard market was again lower on realisations of cash and near dates and an absence of fresh forward buying, cash delivery moving down to £76 5s. and three months to £76 10s. The tendency on Tuesday was influenced by better support, while values of these dates improved to £76 15s. and £77 7s. 6d. respectively. A fresh upward movement prevailed during the middle of the week, sellers becoming reserved, cash improving to £78 12s. 6d. and three months to £79 5s. At Thursday's session prices of the above positions were finally fixed at £79 2s. 6d. cash and £79 15s. three months. Tin declined last Monday in all positions, poor inquiries being felt at the drop, while selling desire continued. Standard cash left off at £166 15s. and three months at £166 10s. A rally occurred on Tuesday, and on a cessation of pressure prices of the above dates improved to £167 15s. and £167 10s. respectively. Both dates left off during the middle of the week at £167 10s. At Thursday's session cash closed £164 15s., and three

months £165 10s. Lead firmer, English, £29 10s. Soft foreign, January shipment, £28 10s. paid. Spelter dearer. G.o.b. officially quoted at £88 to £78, according to position. Iron stronger.

**CORN (Mark Lane).**—The enhanced cost of freightage continues to exert its powerful influence upon this market, which, though quiet—as usual at the present advanced time of the year—maintains a distinctly firm tone in most cases. Wheat; English rather easier, while the quality comes up damp. Imported grades dearer. Flour maintained. Grinding barley in sellers' favour. Oats fairly steady. Maize distinctly stronger. Wheat, English: Whites,

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 17, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 9½, 98%			Australian		
polarisation			Scoured Merino	3½ 3 0	1 4½—3 1½
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Secured Cr'ssbr'd	6½—2 0½	1 4—2 4
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Greasy Merino	7½—1 7½	0 7½—1 9
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Greasy Crossbred	6½—1 8½	0 9—1 2
Lyle's granulated	32 3—32 9	32 3—32 9	New Zealand		
Foreign			(scoured) Merino	1—2 9	1 11½—2 7
labeled, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	10—1 5½	1 1—1 7½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	6—2 5½	1 2—2 6
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indian rubber</b> p. lb.		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
prompt			Crepe	0 3 6	0 3 6½
Crystallised, West			<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
India	29 3—31 9	29 3—31 9	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 7—1 1½	0 7½—1 1½	Steamers, best	20 0	21 0
Broken	0 7½—1 2	0 7½—1 2	Seconds	17 0	17 6
Orange	0 7½—1 1	0 7½—1 2	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 10—1 6	0 10—1 3½	English Pig	28 10 0	29 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 6½—0 10½	0 6½—0 10½	Foreign soft	27 15 0	28 15 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 7½—0 11½	0 7½—0 11½	<b>Quicksilver</b> —per		
Broken	0 8½—1 0	0 8½—1 0	bottle first hand	£168—£168	£168—£168
Orange	0 8½—1 1½	0 8½—1 1	<b>Tin</b> —per ton.		
Broken	0 9—1 1½	0 9½—1 1½	English Ingots	168½—169	167—168
Pekoe Souchong	0 7—0 9½	0 7½—0 10½	Do. bars	169½—170	168—169
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard cash	£166 15 0	£167 10 0
duty 1½d. per lb.			Tin Plates, per box	23½	24½—24½
Trinidad—per cwt.	90 0—96 0	90 0—96 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Grenada	83 0—91 0	83 0—91 0	English, Tongh.	£97—£98	£98½—£99½
West Africa	nom.	nom.	per ton	£96—£97	£97—£99
Ceylon Plantation	77 0—91 0	77 0—91 0	Best Selected	£112	£112
Guayaquil Arriba	90 0—94 0	90 0—94 0	Sheets	£76 12 6	£80 12 6
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt.			Standard		
duty 2½d. per cwt.			<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
East India	56 0—94 0	56 0—94 0	Native firsts for		
Jamaica	52 0—120 6	52 0—120 6	sh'pmt. Dec.-Jan.	£27 2 6	£27 5 0
Costa Rica	53 0—76 0	53 0—76 0	<b>Oils</b>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Provisions</b>			Linseed, per ton.	£34½—£35½	£36½—£37½
Butter, per cwt.			Rape, ref. English	£44 10	£45
Australian finest	160½—164½	157½—158½	barrels		
Irish Creameries	150½—168½	152½—160½	Brown English	£40	£43
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	naked	£37	£39
Russian finest	130½—140½	126½—134½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£37½—£43	£40—£45
Normandy baskets	150½—154½	150½—154½	Ditto, refined		
Danish finest	174½—178½	168½—172½	Petroleum Oil, per		
Brittany rolls			8 lbs.	1rd.	1rd.
doz. lb.	14 6—18 0	14 6—18 0	Water White	1rd.	1rd.
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	94 0—103 0	93 0—103 0	Calcutta—per 4½		
Continental	94 0—103 0	92 0—103 0	lbs. Dec.-Jan	3 10 0	3 12 6
Canadian	86 0—93 0	86 0—93 0	Rape, Guzerat		
American	81 0—82 0	83 0—80 0	Nov.-Dec.	3 7 6	3 7 6
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	3 14 2	3 16 10
Irish	128½—144½	134½—150½	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty		
Canadian	100½—104½	100½—104½	unmanufactured		
American	63 0—102 0	70 0—98 0	5½ to 6½ per lb.		
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
Canadian	91 0—93 0	90 0—94 0	Virginia leaf	0 5½—1 6	0 5½—1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6—0 10	0 6—0 10
English Cheddar	92 0—102 0	92 0—102 0	Latakia	0 4½—1 0	0 4½—1 0
Wilt's leaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0—6 0	1 0—6 0
New Zealand	90½	90 0—92 0	Manilla	0 6—2 0	0 6—2 0
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10½		
Garden Siam			per lb.	2 0	2
spot	14 6	15 6	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars	14 9—15 0	15 0	Dantsig and		
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Memel Fir, per		
Dutch	27 0—30 0	nom.	load	130½—150½	130½—150½
Russian	16 0—19 0	16 0—19 0	Indian Teak	280½—600½	280½—600½
Danish	27 6—30 0	27 0—29 0	<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
<b>Copra</b>			Powd households,		
Malabar, London	31 10 0	31 0 0	official	48½	48½
Dec.-Jan.	30 10 0	30 0 0	American, 1st	up to 48½	up to 48½
Ceylon, London	30 10 0	30 0 0	patents		
South Sea	28 0	27 5 0	<b>Turpentine</b>		
M.F.S. Straits	29 0	28 5 0	American Spot	2 5 9	2 6 9
			Spelter		
			G.O.B. as to posi-	£78—£68	£88—£78
			tion		

nominal up to 59s.; and reds, up to 58s. per qr. 504 lbs., delivered. Imported: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship and now due, held for 62s. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 47s. to 48s. 6d.; Manitoba patents, 46s. to 57s., both landed. Grinding barley: Plate, 41s. 6d., ex ship, 42s. ex quay. Oats: Plate, 31s. 3d. to 32s., landed. Maize: Sound Plate, 41s. 9d. ex ship, 42s. 6d. landed; white flat South African, quoted at 43s. 6d. to 44s., quay terms.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has not been active, and business continues to run on rather irregular lines. The slightly easier tendency in raw cotton rates has had very little influence upon yarn and cloth quotations, and both spinners and manufacturers have strived to improve their position as a result of the



somewhat bearish movement in the raw material markets. Ideas with regard to the current American crop are now settling down. The official estimate of the United States Government is 11,161,000 bales, but Messrs Neill Bros., of London, stick to their forecast of 12,300,000 bales. Most people believe the yield will be about 11,750,000 bales. No particular change shows itself with regard to the Egyptian crop. In some quarters there is the expectation of rather lower prices before very long. In certain directions the inquiry in piece goods has been of a more practicable character. Business in shirtings for India has broadened. Some fairly substantial sales have been arranged for Calcutta and Madras, and certain producers have obtained a little relief. The demand in light fabrics for our dependency has also been rather more encouraging. Only isolated sales have been mentioned for China, and offers for that outlet are slow in being raised. A steady demand continues to be experienced for Egypt. Various fabrics have been in request for South America. Many of the outlets in the Near East are very adversely affected by the war. No particular development in home trade circles is expected until after the turn of the year. There is a good deal of irregularity in the engagements of manufacturers, and fancies and specialties are better engaged than grey staples. American yarns for home use have been well held in quotation, and most spinners have ignored the lower rates in the raw material. Demand has not been particularly active, but a fair business has been done in small lots for quick delivery, especially in wets. In shipping counts it has been difficult to arrange transactions, especially in India, but most producers of two-folds are well engaged. The firmer tone in Bolton spinnings continues, and, owing to the shortage of operatives, a considerable amount of machinery is stopped, and sellers are not so eager for fresh orders.

### American Business Notes.

Readers will, perhaps, forgive us for reprinting the subjoined extract from an article in the *New York Commercial Chronicle*, one of the most influential financial journals in the United States. The article is entitled "Petticoat Peace," and is inspired by the Ford escapade. We can make room for but a few sentences, but they suffice to indicate the spirit and purpose of the writer, as well as to exhibit the attitude of the most thoughtful and enlightened among Americans towards this war of hell the Prussians have conceived and are ruthlessly carrying out against all that humanity and civilisation hold dear. It is an attitude wide as the poles away from that assumed by some journals in this country claiming to speak with a similar authority:—

"There are many Americans who, because of their love of England, and many others who, because of their love of Germany, distressed by the tremendous sacrifices which the contest involves, would be moved to welcome peace on the basis of the situation to-day, and will favour any attempt that would give hope of securing it. But they do not express the feeling either of the vast majority of Americans or of the neutral sentiment of the world. The truth is that the great outstanding facts which appeal to the imagination and possess the heart of humanity are the crushing of Belgium, the torpedoing of the *Lusitania*, and the butchering of the Armenians. If there is any single truth that to-day may be spoken that will express the nearly universal conviction of civilised people, it is that hereafter war shall not mean massacre; that might shall not dominate every other consideration; that the policy of 'frightfulness' shall never again be adopted, and that solemn treaties between civilised people shall not be regarded as merely 'scraps of paper.' With the spoliation of Belgium still going on in the monthly assessments of her devastated towns in millions of francs and the extradition of the remnants of the population; with the *Lusitania* atrocity not only not yet compensated for, but not in fact acknowledged, and with the *Arabic* and the *Ancona* bearing witness to the possibility of a recurrence any day, and with Mr. Morgenthau from Constantinople telling of widely circulated reports that Turkish leaders, when they have finished with the Armenians, contemplate next taking up the Greeks and then all other Christians, that Turkey may be swept clean of everybody but Mohammedans, the world is realising how much there is yet to be done, no matter what is to be the cost, before the pathway of even a decent civilisation shall again be open."

From the above we can in a measure estimate the good German atrocities and intrigues are doing to the cause of the Allies in the States. They are consolidating the sentiment of the whole civilised world against Prus-

sian brutality, and not least that of the great North American Republic. Prussia is linked in infamy with all that is most cruel among the nations of mankind, and when friends of the Armenians, against whom a war of extermination is being conducted by the Kaiser's most exalted ally, the Turk, send a deputation to Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to plead on their behalf, all that poor functionary can say in answer is that "the German Government would always consider it one of its highest duties not to allow Christian peoples to be persecuted on account of their religious beliefs." The cant of that answer makes one blush for one's kind, for it is race, not religion, that is here in question. But the Chancellor only copies his master. What could be more revolting than the gloating outbursts of the Kaiser over each fresh "triumph"? Well may the American people join in the stern resolve that, as result of the war, beings of this description shall no longer be tolerated within the bounds of civilisation. And we hope they will help us more and more, for it is their fight as well as ours, as, thanks to the malignant assiduities in crime displayed by Germans in America, our kinsmen of the Republic are finding out. The greatest strength of the Germans lies in this, that they believe themselves to be endowed by their God with liberty to slay and take possession wherever their covetous eye rests.

The fight is proving arduous beyond all expectation, but the States are doing their part with increasing energy. So enormous are the consignments of goods for export to Europe that all the great railways whose lines serve the Atlantic ports have been compelled recently to refuse acceptance of further consignments for shipment. Freight is not to be had. On the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad alone—and it is but a small road—not less than 6,000 loaded cars were held up recently between Scranton and New York. But the congestion is proportionately as great on the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio, and other lines. So inextricable had the block become that President Rea, of the Pennsylvania, summoned a meeting of the heads of all the roads affected to consult upon joint action. It seems a pity that the interned German boats cannot be utilised to help in clearing off accumulations of munitions awaiting cargo space. There should be no scruple in annexing them, but probably the difficulty would be to get crews.

We are nowise disappointed that the public subscriptions to the Franco-British loan of £100,000,000 should have amounted to no more than about two-thirds of the total. As has frequently been explained, the mass of the American people are not rich, and even those who possess means keep their capital employed to closer extent than in any other country, except perhaps Germany before the war. Therefore, however willing, it could be no easy matter for the multitude of investors to find at once a sum so large, a mass of capital such as had never been asked for in America before. But, naturally, the Germans all the world over profess joy over the "failure" of the loan, their only happiness consisting now in the contemplation of what they suppose to be other people's discomfiture. Poor abortions of humanity! Do they really believe that the plots and manœuvres of their hyphenated bankers, Semite and other, in the States have marred the success of the loan? We hope so, and that their conceit will induce them to try and raise a loan in New York for the Kaiser. He wants it very badly, the blood-bedraggled object that he is; but hitherto the Teutonic efforts in that line have not been encouraging. A few millions sterling are said to have been got together there before the war—and it has gone in subornation of crime against the nation whose citizenship and hospitality had been assiduously sought in "sea-green" hypocrisy. That experience is not good preparation for another attempt.

Naturally, the partial, and temporary, failure of the loan throws back our Government and banks upon other expedients, and already eight of our great London banks have joined hands to raise a credit of £10,000,000 in New York on six months' notes bearing 4½ per cent., interest, not renewable. Their names



are :—Lloyds, the London City and Midland, the London County and Westminster, the Union of London and Smiths, Barclay and Co., Ltd., Parrs', the National Provincial Bank of England, and the London Joint Stock; and the proportions for which each bank is responsible are :—For each of the first four named £1,500,000, and for each of the last four £1,000,000. The security is still the best in the world, and if American suppliers will not accept bills or bonds of our Government direct in payment of what it owes, the help of all the banks in the Kingdom must be enlisted. For, cost what it may, this war must be won. It will be won, of that we have not a doubt, and every day that passes sees the foe weakened, sees him also falling lower and lower in the scale of humanity. But the agony of the fight, and the cost, grows greater the nearer the wounded wild boars are to discomfiture.

### Critical Index to New Investments.

#### FIVE PER CENT. EXCHEQUER BONDS.

Particulars of this new creation of debt will be found in the advertisement, and it is unnecessary for us to enlarge upon the excellence of the security. A word, however, may be said on the advantage which those who buy these bonds will enjoy. They get interest at 5 per cent., paid half-yearly on June 1 and December 1, during the five years for which the bonds are current, and are sure of being repaid at par on the due date. Also these bonds may be tendered in payment of subscriptions for any future loans other than issues made abroad or other issues of Exchequer bonds which His Majesty's Government may find it necessary to raise for the prosecution of the war. The bonds, together with all undue coupons, will be received at their face value as equivalents of cash for subscriptions to any such new loan, but the accrued interest will be paid in cash. Holders of these bonds who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom will get their interest free of income or other taxes on proof being tendered that the owner is really resident abroad. This should open the door to a very considerable foreign subscription. In fact, bankers and capitalists all over the world will in this way secure a tempting opportunity to invest in a British Government security on terms unimaginable in times of peace.

#### MACFARLANE AND ROBINSON, LTD.

This company, which was incorporated in 1909, with a nominal capital of £100,000, divided into 30,000 preference and 70,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, claims to be the largest merchants in enamelled hollow ware in the world. Factories have been erected in Glasgow and Wolverhampton, but the company appears to have hitherto obtained the bulk of its supplies from Germany and Austria, and the directors naturally are anxious to substitute home-made goods. They propose therefore to erect new works at Wolverhampton for the purpose of producing ware on a large scale, and for this purpose the capital has been increased to £200,000, half in preference and half in ordinary shares, of which 28,020 preference and 66,516 ordinary shares have been issued, and subscriptions are invited for 60,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par. Profits for the five and a-half years to June 30, 1915, are certified to have averaged £14,787 per annum, after providing for all charges except income-tax, managing directors' commission, and interest paid. The balance-sheet as at June 30 shows total assets of £161,447, including £20,000 for goodwill, so that the company starts on its new career with a good foundation, and the preference shares now offered appear to be a promising industrial security.

Cuban Telephone Co.—On and after Jan. 1, 1916, and until further notice, interest coupons on the first mortgage bonds will be paid on presentation at Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell and Co., London, England, or at Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., New York City, New York.

It is officially announced that Mr. J. G. Chrystal and Mr. W. A. Tennant have been appointed directors of Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Mr. F. J. Shand, the general manager of the company, has been appointed managing director, and Mr. H. McGowan, the assistant manager, has been appointed a director.

### The Week in Mines.

In common with other markets, the Mining departments have been less active during the past week, and the tone has been subdued, with irregular movements in prices. The excellent output figures for last month failed to put fresh life in the South African market, which was more interested in the half-yearly dividends, which fully fulfilled expectations, except those of the Van Ryn Gold Mines and the Village Main Reef. The former, which has for a long time paid 22½ per cent., has unexpectedly reduced its dividend to 17½ per cent., owing to extra expenses involved by the war, while the latter is paying no final dividend owing to the recent earth slides, which caused damage to the mine. Base metal shares have been a dull market, but copper shares brightened up about the middle of the week on New York buying.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICAN.

At first the South African market seemed tired after its recent advance, and prices slipped back on profit-taking, Springs falling 1s. 6d. to 33s., and the Options 2s. to 14s., Daggafonteins to 7s. 9d., Consolidated Mines Selections to 12s. 6d., Rand Mines to 4½, and Central Mining to 6½. But on Wednesday the dividends, which were generally satisfactory, induced further buying, partly on Colonial account. Brakpans and Transvaal Coal Trusts improved to 3½ and 2½ respectively on the larger dividends, and City Deep recovered from 3 17-32 to 3 19-32 on the increased distribution. For the same reason, Modder B's rose to 5½, but Crown Mines weakened on the smaller dividend to 3½. Rand Mines, however, rose to 4½, and Central Minings got back to 6½ buyers. Springs were actively bought from the Cape, the price rising to 35s., and the options 2s. to 16s. Gedulds were firmer at 35s. 3d., and Daggafonteins rallied to 8s. 6d. City and Suburbans were a shade lower on the reduced dividend at 2½, and Van Ryns fell 3-32 to 2½ for the same reason. In the Rhodesian department, Tanganyikas, after relapsing to 1½ on profit-taking, advanced afresh to 1½, but Chartered are lower at 11s. Shamvas weakened to 1 29-32, in spite of the maintenance of the 1s. 6d. dividend. Diamond descriptions have been on offer, and De Beers deferreds are ½ down at 11, and Premier deferreds are no better than 4½. Among West African shares, Ashanti Goldfields were bought after the dividend of 1s. had been deducted, and closed higher at 17s. 9d.

#### COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares were rather weak at first, on poor American advices, but a sharp rise in the price of the metal on Wednesday put fresh life into the market. Anacondas, after falling to 17½, rallied to 18½, Utahs rose ½ to 16½ xd., and Rio Tintos jumped ¾ to 54½. Russians have been fairly steady, with Orsk higher at 9s. 6d. Tin shares have been lifeless almost owing to the easier tendency of the metal. Kamunings were dull at 1½, and Malayans at 1½ xd. In spite of the strength of zinc and lead, Broken Hills have reacted rather sharply. Proprietaries are 2s. down at 47s. 6d., Norths ¼ at 2½, South Silvers ¼ at 7, and British at 22s., and Amalgamated at 27s. are also lower. Sulphides rose 9d. to 23s. 9d. on the report, but failed to retain the advance.

In the Westralian group, Lake View and Stars, which declined on the reduction in dividend, fell further to 3s. 9d. on the statement that no profit is expected for three months, and Lake View and Oroyas were easier in sympathy at 9s. Gt. Boulders at 16s. have met with support. Of the Mexicans, Camp Birds were bought at 7s. 9d. on the increase in profits, but Tomboys declined to 24s. on the dividend. The Alaska group has continued to show strength; Treadwells have risen ¾ to 7½, Mexicans ¾ to 2½, and Uniteds ¼ to 4½. Indians have been dull, Champions falling a further 1s. to 8s. 6d. on the report, and Mysore to 4. Balaghats, however, improved to 5s. 9d., on a good development cable.



## MINING NEWS.

**TRANSVAAL GOLD PRODUCTION.**—The output figures for the past month are again very satisfactory; the total was £3,317,534 as compared with £3,388,122 in October, the decrease being accounted for by the shorter month. But the daily average so production was the highest since the outbreak of war. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1910:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January ..	2,554,451	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058
February...	2,445,088	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406
March .....	2,578,877	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514
April .....	2,629,535	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651
May .....	2,693,785	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347
June .....	2,655,602	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,203,224
July .....	2,713,083	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258
August .....	2,757,919	3,030,360	3,248,195	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975
September ..	2,747,853	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,685	2,982,630	3,299,423
October .....	2,774,390	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122
November ..	2,729,554	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534
December ..	2,722,775	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	—
Total..	32,002,912	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	35,309,512

**NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.**—The native labour figures are again quite satisfactory; they show a decrease of 30; the coal mines lost 81, and the gold mines secured 51 more natives:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
November, 1914.....	166,039	8,990	—	175,029
December .....	164,650	8,704	—	173,354
January, 1915 .....	172,331	8,675	—	181,006
February .....	180,422	8,494	—	188,916
March .....	185,239	8,216	—	193,455
April .....	186,941	8,418	—	195,359
May .....	183,961	8,857	—	192,818
June .....	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July .....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August .....	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September .....	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October .....	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November .....	210,068	9,432	—	219,500

The number of natives on the gold mines is the largest on record.

**VAN RYN GOLD MINES.**—The accounts for the year ended June 30 show a profit of £262,143, an increase of £7,617. The dividend is maintained at the rate of 45 per cent., the same rate that, with one exception, has been paid for many years past. No less than £2,144,500 has been distributed in dividends by the company on its capital of £500,000. The balance carried forward is reduced from £16,165 to £15,499. During the year 462,920 tons were treated, yielding £579,996 (25s. per ton) for a profit of £235,698 (10s. 2d. per ton); these figures compare with 439,900 tons, yielding £590,129 for a profit of £238,986. The yield declined 1s. 10d. per ton, but costs were reduced 8d. per ton, so that the profit was only 8d. per ton lower. Reserves of ore have been maintained at approximately the same figures as last year, viz., 1,953,000 tons of fully developed ore, but the average value has dropped from 6.49 dwts. to 6.20 dwts. per ton.

**CAPE COPPER.**—The nett profits, which last year declined from £83,500 to £17,244, recovered in the past year to £33,212, to which must be added £9,153 brought forward, making £42,365. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year, on the preference, and a dividend of 1s. per share on the ordinary, both less tax. No final dividend was paid on the ordinary last year, but £63,375, as against £5,850 on the present occasion, was distributed in dividends. The improvement in the past year was chiefly due to a larger return of copper from Cape Colony and increased railway receipts. Ore reserves in Cape Colony show no change, but in India the reserves have been increased from 307,747 tons, valued at 4.13 per cent. copper to 344,991 tons of 4.01 per cent. copper.

**PAHANG CONSOLIDATED.**—A further increase in the treatment of ore is announced in the report for the year to July 31. The quantity rose from 137,055 tons to 160,000 tons, while the yield of tin advanced from 2,211 tons to 2,664 tons. The average price realised declined further from £107 to £103 13s. per ton, but the profit on working was £106,901 against £71,242 in 1913-14 and £82,377 in 1912-13. This increase in profits was due to the larger tonnage treated, the higher grade of ore, and lower costs. For the first time the cost of development has been charged against the returns. The nett profit comes out at £103,963, making with £7,366 brought in a total of £111,330; £15,402, or £3,402 more, is appropriated for depreciation; £15,000, or £5,000 less, is placed to reserve; the ordinary shares get 15 per cent. against nil last year, and the preference shares 12 per cent., against 7 per cent., £8,030 being carried forward. The production of rubber was 68,933 lbs.; this year it is expected to reach 95,000 lbs. Last year expenditure exceeded the receipts from rubber by £1,139, but this year there should be a balance on the right side.

**MOUNT ELLIOTT.**—The report for the year ended June 30 is a record of masterly inactivity. No smelting operations were in progress, and after allowing £13,404 for depreciation and other charges, a loss of £43,342 is shown in the profit and loss

account. Deducting this from the credit brought in, leaves £1,262 to be carried forward. Owing to scarcity of labour occasioned by the war, and for reasons of economy, development work has been cut down to a minimum, and the reserves of high-grade ore in the Elliott and Consols Mines remain at 28,000 tons of 11 per cent. copper.

**HAMPDEN-CLONCURRY.**—This Cloncurry concern, in contrast with the Mount Elliott, produced in the half-year ended August 31 4,366 tons of copper, 1,191 ozs. of gold, and 35,802 ozs. of silver. The profit on working rose from £53,018 in the preceding half-year to £129,779, while the nett profit was £67,586 higher at £112,195. A dividend of 2s. per share was declared in July, and the surplus of liquid assets over liabilities has risen from £24,556 to £67,234. Reserves of ore have been increased by 10,500 tons to 250,500 tons, containing 22,520 tons of copper, against 21,970 tons. On account of the current period a dividend of 2s. per share was declared last month.

**RUSO-ASIATIC.**—The report for the year ended June 30 states that the expenditure amounted to £133,438. The corporation's interest in the Ridder and Skebastus properties has now been transferred to the Irtys Corporation in return for 877,500 shares of £1 each in that corporation. Unexpected difficulties have been met with in the shape of shortage of labour, materials, and transport, but in other ways greater progress has been made than had been anticipated.

## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Excellent results were obtained by the Bantam (Java) Rubber Estates in the year ended June 30, as although the output was over 9,000 lbs. below the estimate, it showed the satisfactory increase of 82,251 lbs. over the previous crop at 441,757 lbs. The average price was .94d. better at 2s. 3.17d., and the all-in cost, notwithstanding the extra charges due to the war, was further reduced by 1.52d. to 1s. 1.80d., with the result that nett profits improved by no less than £14,871 to £25,930. The company re-enters the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 12½ per cent., which compares with 5 per cent. paid for 1912-13, and entitles the directors to £1,000 as extra remuneration, and £3,000 as against nothing is put to reserve, but £6,336 less at £2,297 is transferred to development account, and after writing £2,697 off buildings and machinery, the balance carried forward is reduced by £1,815 to £4,951. Property account, without allowing for the present appropriation, is £5,900 down at £155,343. Stocks of rubber are valued at £28,977, or an increase of £21,796, and cash is £2,355 up at £9,878. The crop for the current year is expected to amount to 495,000 lbs.

Since it came under the control of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, the Asahan Rubber Estates has gone steadily forward, and in the year ended July 31 brought a further 308 acres into the tapping area. This large addition accounts for the small increase of only .37 lbs. to 1.94 lbs. in the average yield per tree, but the crop was 75,053 lbs. up at 137,584 lbs. The "all-in" cost, including .27d. for war risk insurance, was reduced by 1.28d. to 1s. 4.13d., while the gross price rose by 2.75d. to 2s. 3.41d. Profits amounted to £6,413, out of which the directors write off £2,646, or £734 more, for balance of preliminary and underwriting expenses, and declare a maiden dividend of 2½ per cent., which leaves £1,037 to be carried forward. A further 6d. per share was called up during the year, making the shares 9s. 6d. paid, and increasing the issued capital by £5,684 to £109,096. On the other hand, £8,331 was spent on development, raising the cost to £99,761, exclusive of buildings and machinery. Stocks of rubber are £3,930 larger at £5,471, and cash is £589 up at £2,359. The crop for the current year is estimated at 180,000 lbs.

The output of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Co. in the year ended July 31 was 58,014 barrels larger at 341,119 barrels, but the quantity purchased for shipment to the refinery fell off by 102,326 barrels to 417,857 barrels. Owing to a decrease of 180,487 barrels to 358,495 barrels in the production of the Rangoon Oil Co., this undertaking was called upon to contribute a much larger proportion of crude oil than during the previous year to satisfy the obligations of the Crude Oil agreement, and the throughput at the refinery consequently fell off by 1,863,650 to 22,476,507 gallons. Trading profits dropped by £18,378 to £143,253, and



the total income was £18,845 down at £147,276, and as, at the same time, £11,965 more at £40,250 was allowed for depreciation, the nett profits, after providing for administration charges, were £33,286 smaller at £45,152. Of this £29,191 is transferred to sinking fund account, and the second mortgage debenture stock again gets its additional 2½ per cent. interest, but nothing is added to reserve compared with £35,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £9,735 to £14,957. Capital expenditure, less depreciation, amounted to £43,508, making a total of £502,635, against which the sinking funds now amount to £62,294, or £31,059 more, and there is also the reserve of £35,000. Stocks of products are £10,278 smaller at £28,232, sales adjustment account is £18,299 down at £17,876, and cash has been reduced by £21,269 to £35,654. Debtors have risen by £3,294 to £18,896, and investments have been increased by £8,713 to £20,913, this total including £21,000 nominal of 4½ per cent. War Loan, while a new item appears amongst the assets of £25,953 for debenture trustees' sinking fund accounts. The Burmah Oil Co. has agreed to a further modification of the terms of the Crude Oil agreement, and instead of having to deliver the first 1,500 barrels of crude oil per day produced by this company, or by the Rangoon Oil Co., the British Burmah Co. now has the first call on all crude oil produced by the two undertakings until the refinery requirements are satisfied. It is hoped that this amelioration of the conditions will result in greater prosperity.

In the 12 months ended April 13 (March 31 o/s) the Russian undertaking of the New Schibaieff Petroleum Co. increased its gross production of crude oil by 165,000 poods to 5,563,000 poods, while the nett production, after deducting royalty and fuel used, was 370,100 poods larger at 3,208,800 poods. This was not sufficient to provide for the full requirements of the refinery, but the principal sellers in Baku would only contract for the sale of their oil at Baku price plus a participation in any eventual rise during the life of the contract, without agreeing to bear any part of a possible fall. Such terms were naturally refused as being commercially unsound, and the total quantity dealt with in the refinery was reduced by 16,141,000 poods to 13,909,000 poods, from which 4,051,165 poods of kerosene, 3,163,288 poods of various lubricating oils and 4,237,368 poods of residue were obtained. Profits of the Russian undertaking, however, improved to such an extent that after providing for depreciation and meeting the debenture interest, it was able to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. as against nothing last year. Converted into sterling at Rs. 11.50 to the £ this gave £33,913, and the total income of the English company from all sources was £27,591 up at £49,823. Of this, £3,824 is written off preliminary expenses, compared with £5,000 paid to the administration of the Russian company, and after providing for London office charges a balance of £43,931, or £29,189 more, was left. With £2,993 brought forward, the disposable total was £46,924, out of which the arrears of preference dividend to 1913-14 are cleared off, and £11,674, or £8,682 more, is carried forward. During the year advances to the Russian company were reduced by £145,054 to £60,109, and cash balances show an increase of £194,205 at £196,869.

**GAN KEE RUBBER.**—The crop for the year ended June 30 fell short of the estimate, but exceeded the previous year's output by 36,000 lbs. at 95,650 lbs., and realised .92d. more at 2s. 1.79d. Nett profits rose by £1,995 to £3,866, so that the ordinary shares receive their first dividend of 7 per cent., after which £1,781, or £781 more, is written off preliminary expenses, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £430 to £1,006. For the current year the crop is estimated at 135,000 lbs., of which 56,097 lbs. had been secured during the first five months.

**KILLINGHALL (RUBBER) DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE.**—After writing off £836, or £571 more, for depreciation, nett profits for the year ended June 30 were £4,728 larger at £6,206, and, with £3,345 brought forward, gave a divisible total of £9,641, or £6,174 more. Out of this the ordinary shares get a dividend of 7 per cent., as against nothing last year, £4,000 is transferred to reserve, and £1,040 is written off preliminary ex-

penses, leaving £2,688, or £692 less, to be carried forward. The crop amounted to 135,677 lbs., or an increase of 61,152 lbs., and realised .76d. more at 2s. 1.26d. nett. For the current year the output is estimated at 193,700 lbs., of which 92,847 lbs. were harvested in the first five months.

**KUALA-KLANG RUBBER.**—The output of this company grows very slowly, and in the year ended September 30 was only 16,149 lbs. up at 167,182 lbs., while for the current 12 months the total is estimated at 175,000 lbs., of which 33,086 lbs. had been secured at the end of November. In spite of the small increase, the "all-in" costs were reduced by 2.83d. to the very low figure of 11.57d., and as the gross price was 1d. better at 2s. 3.68d. the nett profits showed an improvement of £3,712 at £11,773. Adding £3,318 brought forward, the disposable total was £5,799 up at £15,092, and the directors increase the dividend from 20 per cent. to 35. Out of the surplus £3,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £974 written off property account a year ago, and the balance carried forward is slightly higher at £3,341.

**MORIB PLANTATIONS.**—Partly because an alteration was made in the tapping system, the output of rubber in the year ended June 30 failed to reach the estimate, but it was 11,684 lbs. larger than that of the previous 12 months at 58,274 lbs. An average price of 1s. 10½d., or about 1½d. less, was obtained in Malaya, while the total cost worked out at 26.27 cents or about 7½d. A small increase of 51,288 nuts to 412,988 nuts was shown in the coconut crop, and the nett profits from all sources were £1,816 better at £4,010. To this was added £2,732, or £2,194 more, brought forward, making a total of £6,742, of which £3,000 is carried to reserve, as against nothing last year, and the directors resume the payment of dividends with a distribution of 3 per cent., compared with 6 per cent. two years ago, leaving £1,771, or £961 less, to be carried forward. For the current year the crops are estimated at 65,000 lbs. rubber and 500,000 coconuts.

**ABOYNE-CLYDE RUBBER ESTATES OF CEYLON.**—A further increase of 70,820 lbs. to 360,784 lbs. in the output of rubber for the year ended June 30 neutralised the drop of 2.93d. to 2s. 7.29d. in the price, while the all-in cost was reduced by 2.02d. to the satisfactory figure of 10.26d. The tea crop continues to shrink, and was 42,744 lbs. smaller at 114,588, but the price rose by 1.34d. to 8.79d., and the cost was unchanged at 5.27d. Nett profits, after providing for depreciation and all other charges, showed an improvement of £6,800 at £26,461, and with £4,262 brought in gave a total of £30,723, or £6,420 more, available. Of this an extra £5,263 at £10,000 is written off preliminary expenses, leaving £5,158 still to be wiped out, and after paying a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares as against 5 per cent. last time, £3,848, or £4,204 less, is carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are small, but it may be noted that a further £2,200 debentures were redeemed, reducing the amount outstanding to £106,800, of which £3,800 has since been paid off, and that cash balances are £2,243 lower at £10,071. No estimates of the crops for the current year are given.

**CALEDONIAN (CEYLON) TEA AND RUBBER.**—In the year ended June 30 the tea crop exceeded that of the previous 12 months by 41,268 lbs. at 631,137 lbs., and the rubber crop was 31,769 lbs. larger at 92,887 lbs., and in addition to the larger crops the company benefited by the high prices realised for tea. Nett profit, including £1,535 more brought forward, amounted to £15,269, and, after writing off £1,000 for depreciation and transferring £500 to coast advances reserve, the balance available was £10,729, out of which arrears of dividend on the preference shares for three years to June 30, 1912, are paid and £4,969 carried forward. Estimates for the current season are 630,000 lbs. tea and 125,000 lbs. rubber, and during the first four months the outputs were 182,295 lbs. tea and 39,911 lbs. rubber, or 12,889 lbs. tea and 9,927 lbs. rubber in excess of the figures of 1914-15.

**DUFF DEVELOPMENT.**—This company's gold-mining operations have dwindled to very small proportions, and its total output in 1914 only amounted to 946 ozs., which realised £3,584. It, however, has 4,905 acres under rubber, of which 1,372 acres are from four to eight years old, and the output for the 12 months exceeded the estimate by 12,502 lbs. at 266,602 lbs., for which an average gross price of 2s. 2.304d. was obtained. The total income from all sources was £43,946, or only £359 more, but working expenses, including £4,557 for depreciation, rose by £2,922 to £59,466, while £1,966 for dredge spare parts was also written off, so that the debit balance was increased by £17,485 to £40,008. During the year £36,658 was spent on developments, most of it on the rubber plantations, bringing the cost of the property up to £547,785.

**VINE AND GENERAL RUBBER TRUST.**—The original scheme of effecting an amalgamation of this company with another having similar objects having proved abortive owing to Treasury restrictions on new capital, new arrangements have now been made for the reorganisation of its affairs. The members of the late board have retired in favour of a new directorate, consisting of Mr. G. St. Lawrence Mowbray, chairman, Mr. Charles Storey Gilman, J.P., and Mr. Frederick Wm. Tazewell, and another director is to be appointed. It is stated that the directors propose to bring forward a scheme for the readjustment of the capital without calling on shareholders to incur any liability beyond that already existing upon the "B" preference shares. Calls in arrear are still extremely heavy, and in view of the urgent necessity of discharging the outstanding liabilities (including bankers' advances), shareholders are asked to pay these as promptly as possible.



## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

## MINES.

Apex Mines.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year ending Dec. 31, against 7½ per cent.  
 Brakpan.—22½ per cent., against 17½ per cent.  
 Chino Copper Company.—\$1, payable Dec. 31.  
 Corocoro United Copper.—For year 1914-15 of 1 franc per share, tax free, payable Jan. 5 in Paris.  
 Consolidated Main Reef.—6½ per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 City Deep.—20 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 12 per cent.  
 Crown.—30 per cent. (3s. per 10s. share) for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Durban Roodepoort Deep.—3½ per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Geldenhuis Deep.—10 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Geduld Proprietary.—5 per cent., same as a year ago.  
 Knights Deep.—Interim of 7½ per cent. for six months to Dec. 31, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 10, against 5 per cent.  
 May Consolidated.—5 per cent. This is the first dividend declared since Dec., 1913.  
 Modderfontein B.—35 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 30 per cent.  
 Modderfontein Deep Levels.—25 per cent. The first dividend was 10 per cent. declared in June last.  
 New Kleinfontein.—Interim of 5 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Nourse.—5 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 8½ per cent.  
 New Modderfontein.—16½ per cent. (13s. per £4 share) for period ending Dec. 31, against 15 per cent.  
 Rand Mines.—Interim of 80 per cent. (4s. per 5s. share) for period ending Dec. 31, against 90 per cent. a year ago.  
 Robinson.—6 per cent. (6s. per £5 share) for period ending Dec. 31, against 9 per cent.  
 Ray Consolidated Copper.—50 cents, payable Dec. 31.  
 Rose Deep.—15 per cent. (3s. per share) for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Simmer and Jack.—Interim of 5 per cent. for six months to Dec. 31, payable Feb. 10, same as a year ago.  
 Sub Nigel.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for six months to Dec. 31, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 10, same as a year ago.  
 Shamva.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, for current quarter (making with the three interim dividends already paid 5s. 6d. for the current financial year), payable Dec. 31.  
 Transvaal Coal Trust.—Interim of 12½ per cent., against 8½ per cent.  
 Tomboy.—1s. per share, free tax, payable 31st inst., against 2s.  
 Utah Copper.—\$1.50, payable Dec. 31.  
 Van Ryn Gold.—Interim of 17½ per cent. for current half-year, against 22½ per cent.  
 Village Deep.—11½ per cent. (2s. 3d. per share) for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.  
 Witwatersrand Deep.—13½ per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, against 17½ per cent.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Assam Dooars Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, now payable on account of 1915.  
 Hope Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, now payable on account of 1915.  
 Meenglas Tea.—Interim of 7 per cent. on the ordinary (less tax) now payable on account of 1915.  
 Arnold J. Van den Bergh.—5 per cent. and bonus of 2½ per cent. (together 1s. 6d. per share) on the ordinary, payable Dec. 15, making 12½ per cent. for the year, same as a year ago.  
 Anglo-French (Transvaal) Navigation Coal.—Interim of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference, against 6½ per cent. (1s. 3d. per share) a year ago. With the dividend of 5 per cent. declared in June last this makes a total distribution during the year of 12½ per cent.  
 Alexandria Water.—Interim of 4s. per £5 share, payable Dec. 15.  
 American Cyanamid.—3 per cent. on the preferred, payable Dec. 31.  
 Argentine Iron and Steel.—The directors announce the payment on December 20 of the second moiety of the 6 per cent. fixed cumulative dividend on the preference shares declared at the general meeting held on July 19, 1915.  
 Bogawantalawa District Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, payable Jan. 12, against 2½ per cent.  
 Breyten Collieries.—Interim of 7½ per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 27, against 2½ per cent.  
 Bartholomay Brewing (of Rochester).—Final of 8s. per share on the preference (making 8 per cent. for the year); 8 per cent. on the funding certificates; and also 6s. per share (3 per cent.) on the ordinary, all less tax, same as last year.  
 British Steamship Investment Trust.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the deferred, less tax, payable Jan. 1, against 3 per cent.  
 British Assam Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. (less tax at 2s. 8d.), payable Dec. 22.  
 Cargo Fleet Iron.—For year ended Sept. 30 of 3 per cent., less tax, payable 31st inst., against 2½ per cent.  
 Cassel Coal.—5 per cent., same as for 1914.  
 Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance.—Half-yearly

payment of 9s. per share (free tax) will be made on Jan. 1 next, same as last year.

Dejoo Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable 21st inst.

Forestral Land, Timber, and Railways.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the preference and 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 1. For the preceding year the dividend on the ordinary was the same.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber.—Third interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Jan. 14, against 4 per cent.

Imperial Tea.—Interim at 2½ per cent. (less tax at 2s. 8d.), payable Dec. 23.

Jetinga Valley Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), free tax, on the ordinary, payable 31st inst., against 2½ per cent.

Jorehaut Tea.—Interim 5 per cent., free tax, on account of 1915, payable Jan. 7, same as a year ago.

Lautaro Nitrate.—Interim of 4s. per share, free tax, payable Jan. 3.

Limbuguri Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of 1915, payable 21st inst.

Lobitos Oilfields.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of profits for current year, payable Jan. 4. For the whole of the preceding year the dividend was 10 per cent., no interim payment being made.

Marconi International Marine Communication.—Interim of 5 per cent., equal to 1s. per share, less tax, on account of current year, payable Feb. 1, same as a year ago.

Norwich Union Fire.—Interim at the rate of 12s. per share, less tax, payable 6th prox.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—2½ per cent. (6d. per share) for half-year ending Dec. 31, against 3½ per cent.

Ogilvie Flour Mills.—Usual quarterly of 2 per cent. on the common, payable Jan. 3.

Pataling Rubber.—Third interim of 50 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 20, against 30 per cent. a year ago.

Real Estate of South Africa.—Interim of 2 per cent., less tax, payable Jan. 8.

Royal Brewery, Brentford.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary for six months ending the 31st inst., payable Jan. 1, against 4 per cent.

South Australian Co.—Interim of 30s. per share, free of tax, payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

"Shell" Transport and Trading.—The directors, in announcing the distribution of an interim dividend of 10 per cent., free tax, payable Jan. 5 (thus combining the interim dividends hitherto paid in the previous July and Jan.), state that they have every reason to anticipate, when the completed accounts for 1915 are presented, that the results realised will not be inferior to those of the previous year. Owing very largely to the extension of areas operated by the company in various parts of the world, the prospects continue to be satisfactory.

Taiping Rubber.—Final for year ended Sept. 30 of 9½ per cent., less tax, making 12½ per cent., less tax, for the year. This is the first year in which the company has paid dividends.

T. Sugden.—At the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

United Fruit.—Two dollars per share on the common, payable Jan. 15.

Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power.—A 10 months' dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference, making the cumulative dividend paid up to Feb. 28, 1915, payable Jan. 6.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

In view of the fact that the State suffered from a long period of drought and from a partial failure of the harvest, the directors of this bank are to be congratulated on the results obtained in the six months ended September 27. The gross profits, after allowing for interest paid and rebate on bills, were £4,535 down compared with a year ago at £66,624, but there was a substantial saving in expenses, and the nett balance was only £2,746 lower at £27,209. With £21,878, or £7,444 more, brought in, the disposable total was £4,698 better at £49,087, out of which the usual dividend of £1 per share, or 10 per cent., is paid, and the amount carried forward is increased to £24,087. Liabilities not bearing interest were £28,593 lower at £1,171,136, but those bearing interest were £40,442 up at £1,274,066. Interest on fixed deposits and rebate on bills rose by £11,622 to £28,340, and balances due to other banks by £4,725 to £95,630, but there were small decreases in notes and bills in circulation at £12,045 and £37,181 respectively. Against these specie and bullion in hand came to £642,833 or £21,197 more, Australian notes were £16,896 up at £210,546, and remittances in transit £1,721 up at £25,923, while bills receivable, &c., were reduced by £5,113 to £2,456,956, and balances due from other banks were £8,867 down at £3,934.

## NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES CO., LTD.

The directors say that the year ended October 31 was one of exceptional anxiety, the operations having been carried out under considerable difficulties, owing to the abnormal conditions ruling. Ample compensation, however, would appear to have been obtained, seeing that the nett profits, after providing for all charges, including £4,085, or £3,585 more, for directors' remuneration, were increased by no less than £54,579 to £70,968.



Of this total £23,656, or £18,193 more, is applied in redemption of debenture stock under the terms of the trust deed, and an extra £4,000 at £7,000 is transferred to general reserve, after which a dividend of 20 per cent. is paid, as against 5 per cent. for the previous year, leaving the balance carried forward £15,348 up at £16,213. The debenture debt was reduced by £12,965, and by the end of the current year the amount outstanding will only be £14,344. Current liabilities are £47,458 up at £60,238, against which stocks are £50,330 larger at £99,178, debtors owe £22,178 more at £29,409, and, in addition to an increase of £8,396 to £29,915 in cash, the company holds £4,944 in Treasury bills.

#### RONCO, LTD.

Business was considerably disorganised during the early months of the war, but the directors say that it gradually recovered by the end of the company's financial year on June 30, while the company also received a considerable number of Government orders. Nett profits, nevertheless, showed a decrease of £8,844 at £20,013, after providing for depreciation, interest, and other charges, but as £10,386 more was brought forward, the disposable surplus was £11,542 up at £31,426. The company, however, has substantial interests in the Austrian and Hungarian undertakings, and in order to provide fully for any eventual loss on these, the reserve fund of £20,000 and the special reserve of £10,000 are brought into the appropriation account, giving a total of £61,426 to be dealt with. Of this £8,343, representing the holdings in the enemy companies, is written off investments, and £20,613 is reserved against debts due by those companies, while £1,646 is reserved against general debtors. Then £5,170, or £3,723 more, is written off new branch establishment fund, £9,000, or £7,500 more, off expenses of increase of capital, extinguishing these items, and £1,277 is applied in reduction of patents, &c., account, after which the preference dividend is paid, leaving £956, or £16,457 less, to be carried forward. Debts due by allied and proprietary companies are £12,002 down at £24,129, but other debtors have risen by £11,902 to £55,617, and stocks are £8,553 larger at £92,614, against an increase of £15,540 to £56,527 in sundry creditors, while cash and bills have been reduced by £5,222 to £17,291.

#### D. NAPIER AND SON, LTD.

Profits for the year ended September 30 amounted to £70,173, compared with £56,632 for the previous period of about 16 months. Adding £11,767 brought forward, the available total was £81,940, and after providing for various charges, a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, as against 3 per cent. last time, and £20,000 is transferred to general reserve, leaving £1,928 less at £9,839 to be carried forward. The company has undertaken special work for the Government, which necessitated additional outlay on buildings and machinery, and property account shows an increase of £13,616 at £203,230. Stocks are £38,026 up at £268,894, but debtors owe £4,778 less at £72,610, and cash is £19,016 down at £6,305, while sundry creditors have risen by £2,417 to £68,803. The whole of the output of Napier vehicles is being supplied to the British War Department and firms engaged on Government work, and the company has been a "controlled establishment" since August 2.

**PICCADILLY HOTEL, LTD.**—In the year ended July 31 the receipts fell off by £14,247 to £232,245, while working expenses were only reduced by £2,002 to £189,743. After providing for administration expenses and fixed charges, the nett balance was £11,890 down at £10,329, but the directors do not repeat the appropriation of £8,500 to general reserve, and as £6,219 more at £8,367 was brought forward, the amount available is £2,829 better at £18,697. The interim dividend paid on January 16, which is the only return made to the shareholders for the year, absorbed £3,750, or half the amount paid for 1913-14, and the balance carried forward is therefore increased by £6,579 to £14,946. Changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant.

**THOS. SALT AND CO., LTD.**—Including £2,507, or £2,050 more, brought forward, the profits for the year ended August 31 were £8,440 larger at £46,276. Debenture interest absorbed rather more, and the directors have thought it necessary to increase the provision for bad and doubtful debts from £1,000 to £3,000, and the depreciation allowance by £3,788 to £6,288. In addition £3,213, or £1,753 more, is written off the balance of outlay on brewery properties, and after again setting aside £3,150 to the sinking fund for redemption of mortgages, £5,257, or £2,750 more, is carried forward. Current liabilities are £38,528 higher at £67,109, against which there are increases of £10,815 to £56,398 in stocks, £18,735 to £77,610 in debtors, loans and investments, and £17,570 to £45,501 in cash. Property account has been reduced by £7,566 to £781,880, while, on the other hand, mortgage loans are £4,272 down at £71,603.

**W. BUTLER AND CO., LTD.**—After providing for repairs and writing off £13,336 or £2,244 more for depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended September 30 were £3,450 lower at £53,322, but £107,699, or £17,807 more, was brought forward. Debenture and other interest having been met, one year's dividend is again paid on the preference shares on account of arrears, leaving 4½ years still outstanding. Of the surplus remaining £2,407, or £2,150 less, is written off for special depreciation, &c., and the balance carried out is increased by £17,666 to £125,765. Loans on mortgages have been reduced by £32,620 to £16,024, against which property account shows a decrease of £16,002 at £954,682. Current liabilities have risen by £25,174 to £61,420, but debtors owe £7,058 more at £34,692, and cash is £18,276 higher at £35,880, while stocks are only £1,084 down at £67,370.

## Answers to Correspondents.

**\* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

**Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.**

**J. C. (Glasgow).**—This is rather a tempting speculative risk. Your shares would cost you about 24s. 6d., including the cost of the options, and you stand a fair chance of substantial benefit when the subsidiaries develop.

**Wykamist.**—(1) Yes, the loan is a trustee security. (2) We do not think that all kinds of securities are embraced in the scheme, but are not quite sure. For the rest, see the leader in this week's issue. We should sell, not lend.

**Septimus.**—The loss in selling would be severe, but, on the other hand, we see no chance of a recovery in the price. It might go lower, and we think you might sell part, at any rate.

**Chileno.**—Yes, prices will go up again by and by, but there is no hurry, although the industry is in a better position than it was. Your No. 2 is still liable to a fall, but your No. 1 might pay to average.

**H. E. P.**—We think not. See reply to C. D. R.

**J. B. A.**—Only if your investment is a temporary one. Otherwise there is little to gain in the long run.

**Don.**—We do not look for any big rise in prices. Companies such as you say you have ought to do well, and give you a good return. There seems no reason to sell just now.

**L. S. F.**—No official announcement has so far been made, but we doubt if one will be paid. You should not sell now, as the company has considerable assets, and will come round again.

**C. D. R.**—We think you should support the scheme, as the company ought to pull round before very long, as prospects look rather brighter.

**Matt.**—We fear it is. There is no recent news, so far as we know, but the company is naturally tied up.

**FREDERICK SAGE AND CO., LTD.**—Trading profits for the year ended September 30 showed a shrinkage of £9,475 at £33,827, but against this, outgoings, including £2,925 less at £3,862 for maintenance of buildings, &c. and £3,703, or £1,178 more, for bad debts, were reduced by £5,056 to £18,131. With the larger balance of £3,519 brought in, the disposable surplus was £2,807 down at £19,216, so the reserve gets nothing compared with £5,000 set aside a year ago, but the dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, and £5,713, or £2,194 more, is carried forward. Property account at Peterborough is £1,500 up at £12,925, and the capital employed in South American and South African branches has been increased by £8,215 to £20,456. Stocks are £6,172 larger at £34,615, but work in progress is £7,368 down at £14,465, debtors owe £14,555 less at £41,732, against a reduction of £9,926 to £30,999 in sundry creditors, and cash is £898 lower at £20,557.

**PROVINCIAL TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.**—In the year ended September 30 receipts from the local companies controlled by this undertaking improved by £8,492 to £48,789, and the total available, including miscellaneous receipts and £4,936 brought forward, was £9,599 up at £56,141. After providing for administration expenses, debenture interest, and other charges, £12,000 is again transferred to reserve and depreciation account, and the appropriation to the reserve for third-party insurance is doubled at £4,000. Out of the balance remaining, the dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated and £11,800, or £6,865 more, is carried forward. The directors consider it prudent to carry forward this substantial amount in view of the uncertainty of the current year and the probability of greatly increased taxation. Most of the changes in the balance-sheet are of small importance, but it may be noted that the company has £4,973 in War Loan and £7,854 in Treasury bills taken at cost.

Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., who already have a very large interest in the Johnston Line, Ltd., have acquired the shares held by the Johnston family, and will assume entire proprietorship on January 1 next owing to the retirement of Mr. William and Mr. Edmund Johnston at that date.

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## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Holborn Restaurant, W.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P. (chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Horace Morgan, A.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, The Chairman said: Our liquid assets at June 30 last—namely, cash, book debts, and stores—were £178,724; our liabilities amounted to £66,029. We had, therefore, a surplus of liquid assets over liabilities of £112,695. The only other liability is the balance at credit of profit and loss, and out of this account dividends have to be provided. Deducting the dividend declared in July last, there remained a surplus of nearly £60,000, which can legitimately be termed "working capital," as it represented cash in hand here and stores on the mines. I might add that the position to-day, after allowing for payment of the recent dividend, is somewhat stronger. The nett result of the year's working is shown in an increased profit of £13,924. During the year we paid dividends amounting to 2s 9d per 4s share, absorbing £151,670, and we carry forward to the credit of the current financial year about £8,000 more than was brought into the profit and loss account. It is, I am sure, a source of great satisfaction to us all that the ore reserve position has again improved very substantially. In point of tonnage the increase is only an insignificant one, but with the increased proportion of Obuasi ore included in the general reserve and a rise of 2 dwts in the general grade, the gross value of the visible ore shows an increase of £189,000. The profit value of the ore reserve at £829,700 makes the best showing since the year 1909, which was a record in this respect. This excellent position is attributable to the continuance of good values in the Obuasi chute down to the lowest developed levels of the mine—namely, Nos. 14 and 15. It has been possible during the past 12 months further to systematise the work of ore extraction, so that the grade of ore taken out has not exceeded the general average of the mines. As a consequence, the full benefit of the active work of development has made itself felt, and is reflected in the ore reserves. As I have already mentioned, the substantially increased profit values in the ore reserve are contained in, for practical purposes, the same number of tons of ore as the smaller values were held in last year. If the monthly tonnage to be crushed depended on the capacity of the reduction plant, it would therefore appear as if we should necessarily produce a considerably larger output in the future than in the past. But, as explained in the technical report, the chief limiting factor as regards monthly output is the problem of mining a maximum amount of average-grade ore in the heavy and dangerous ground in Obuasi chute while still keeping the stopes secure and in good order. It was with this difficulty in view that it was not considered safe, at the time of the consulting engineer's inspection, to base a programme of monthly output on an increased tonnage from Obuasi. On the other hand, he was of opinion there was the possibility that, with improved conditions, particularly in the way of better ventilation, it would be found practicable not only to meet the falling off in revenue from Ayeinm, Old Chief, and other outside sources, but actually to increase the monthly output. It would appear from the figures announced for November output as if the looked-for improvement had, to some extent, been realised. In such case, of course, the ore reserve, which we at present regard as the equivalent of five and a-half years' work at our usual rate of profit-earning, would, instead, become the equivalent of a larger rate of profit over a shorter period of time. I should like to repeat here what I have said on previous occasions, that our visible ore reserve, whether it means four or five or six years' production, does not set a limit to the ultimate life of the mines, which is dependent on what future development work may bring forth, and, as already mentioned, the lowest levels in Ashanti mine are developing well. The metallurgical treatment of the ore has been satisfactory, and extractions have been well maintained. You will observe that the consulting engineer has had numerous tests carried out in an endeavour to ascertain whether a still better and cheaper treatment could be devised. We may congratulate ourselves on learning that all recent researches tend to show that for years past we have been operating on the best lines possible in the present state of scientific knowledge. There is, therefore, at present no justification for anticipating any change of method in ore treatment. You will observe that there is a fairly substantial reduction in costs per ton during the twelvemonth covered by the report. To a considerable extent this reduction is due to the larger tonnage mined and treated.

Mr. Jeremiah Colman, J.P., seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor expressed the view that those present should congratulate the board upon the very excellent report put before them. The encouraging character of the chairman's speech made it clear that they had a very valuable property, and the result of many years' experience gave them the happiness of knowing that that valuable property was managed in a prudent, businesslike, and sagacious fashion, and that the best was being made of it. With reference to the last paragraph in the report, he would like to make one remark. He took it that a mine was not really being worked in a conservative and prudent fashion unless four years' ore reserves at least were in hand; although it was sometimes necessary to work with less, that was always an unsatisfactory position. It seemed that if the present rate of working were adhered to they had five years' ore reserves in hand, and although mathematically it might be demonstrated

that a considerable advantage would accrue in extracting that ore more quickly, he thought there was another side to the question. The fact was that shareholders had to set aside a large proportion of their dividends, probably one-third, as a depreciation fund, and the greater the ore reserve, the more they were justified in regarding a good proportion of the distributions as dividend, and not as a return of capital.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

## CORDOBA LIGHT POWER AND TRACTION.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Cordoba Light Power and Traction Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. George A. Touche, M.P., Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. A. C. Whitmee, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that at the time of the general meeting last year the bad effects of the financial crisis in the Argentine Republic had been accentuated by the outbreak of war, and a reduction in the takings of their subsidiary companies was the natural result. The outlook at that time was not encouraging, but it was now distinctly better. Business was adjusting itself to new conditions and confidence was returning. The recent crop reports were favourable; the rains had been sufficient, but not excessive; and the prospects for both wheat and maize were excellent. The indications were that the present improvement would be maintained. It was not until August of last year that the company experienced any actual decrease in takings, and from that time onwards to the end of last March there was month by month a falling off in their receipts. That falling off in the first half-year was not nearly so serious as that experienced by other similar undertakings in South America, but it resulted in a decrease of 6 per cent. in the combined gross receipts of their two subsidiary companies as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. From the beginning of April, however, an improvement set in, with the result that their gross receipts for the whole year fell short of those for the previous year by less than 2 per cent. For the year to September 30, 1915, the gross receipts of the combined businesses amounted to £157,590, compared with £160,420 in 1914 and £154,060 in 1913. The operating expenses were £1,360 higher than last year—in part due to the coming into force of an increased percentage payable to the Government—and the net receipts showed a decrease of £4,190, or 4½ per cent. The percentage of expenses to the gross receipts of the two undertakings was as follows:—1913, 47.5 per cent.; 1914, 45.4 per cent.; 1915, 47.1 per cent.—an increase over 1914 of 1.7 per cent., and a slight decrease as compared with the year 1913. Taking the Light and Power Co. independently, in spite of the adverse conditions a small improvement was shown over the results of the previous year, and that improvement arose in the second half of the year. The net receipts were £1,090 up at £57,640. The stagnant condition of business during the first half of the year bore more heavily upon the Tramway Co. than upon the Light and Power Co., and the tramways were taking longer to recover. The net receipts were £25,680, as against £30,960, and the percentage of expenses to gross receipts was 62.8 per cent. in 1915, 58.6 per cent. in 1914, and 60.5 per cent. in 1913. The total expenses were £59,421, against £60,230, leaving the balance of profit at £19,035, against £20,819. Adding to that £19,035 the balance brought forward from last year of £26,320, they had £45,355. From that the dividend on the preference shares paid on February 1 last had to be taken, leaving £37,205. It was proposed to pay a further dividend on the preference shares for the eight months to September 30 last, leaving £26,580 to be carried forward. Shareholders had expressed curiosity, if not anxiety, as to the manner in which it was proposed to deal with the issue of promissory notes, the shadow of whose maturity on December 1, 1915, began to trouble them. The total issue was £500,000, of which £405,000 were held by investors, and the balance had been utilised for purposes of temporary finance. The Treasury Committee had sanctioned the issue of £500,000 new notes, which had been placed. The new notes were for three years, with an option to the company to renew for a further two years, making five years in all.

Mr. Charles M. Rose seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## IND, COOPE AND CO.

The ordinary general meeting of Ind, Coope and Co. (1912), Ltd., was held on Thursday at 65, Aldersgate-street, E.C., Mr. Louis E. Walker (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. E. M. Wilks) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, after dealing with the accounts, said: Taking a general review of the present position of the company, I think it is not too much to say that the position has been immensely strengthened during the three years the present board has had control, and I hope it will have the effect of strengthening the confidence which I believe already exists in the board and the management. The results of the last financial year were obtained in spite of considerable difficulties and anxieties. Both your managing directors have been connected with the brewing trade for many years, and we can safely say that during all our experience we have never had such difficulties to contend with as we have had during the last year. These difficulties continue at the present time, and are, in fact, accentuated every week. During the past year we have paid into the Imperial



Exchequer no less a sum than £486,926, which represents beer duty, licence duties, &c.; but had the increased duty been chargeable for the full 12 months, the amount would have been considerably higher. There are, of course, also our large contributions towards local rates, owing to the large number of properties we have in different parts of the country. On the top of this heavy taxation we have now to contend with restrictions, in various localities, which have been placed upon our trade. I should like to mention as regards these restrictions that the trade has offered no opposition to them, as has been publicly acknowledged both by Mr. Lloyd George and Lord D'Abernon, the chairman of the Board of Control; but, on the contrary, we have loyally abided by the decisions arrived at by the Board of Control, and rendered every assistance in carrying the orders out, in spite of anything our rabid opponents may say to the contrary. In fact, the only section of the public who have not observed the truce are our teetotal opponents, who appear to take a fiendish delight in urging the authorities to inflict unreasonable disabilities in order to prevent our carrying on our business. With regard to the outlook, it is full of ominous signs. The prices of materials and every article a brewery has to purchase have increased by leaps and bounds, and it is impossible to anticipate during this current year, whether the war continues or not, any great prosperity; in fact, the stockholders must not feel disappointed if the trading results fall short of what they have been.

Mr. H. W. E. Storey seconded the motion.

Mr. W. J. Peake-Mason, J.P., said that one of the first things he did after joining the board was to visit Burton, and he was agreeably surprised with what he saw there of the organisation. He always admired the reconstruction of this business by Mr. Whinney, and having visited the centre of their activities, and seen the way in which the chairman and Mr. Thompson had extended the organisation, with the result shown by the balance-sheet, his admiration was further increased. He referred to the harassing condition of things under which the trade was conducted, and remarked that their critics, when speaking of the consumption of alcohol, never spoke of the proportion of the expenditure that went to the Government. Over £60,000,000 per annum was contributed by the trade to the Exchequer.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Arthur Whinney, in the course of a few remarks, said that if one thing more than another was proved by the accounts it was that the policy of reconstruction had been fully justified. He had no hesitation in saying that the position was better than it appeared, for the reason that the board were determined to conserve the company's finances. He believed that the difficulties in front of them would be overcome, because they had the right people to direct this concern.

### ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

The third ordinary general meeting of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, M.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. W. Creasser, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: We hold extensive areas of oil lands and two refineries, and we operate over 175 kilometres of pipeline and over 50,000 tons of storage. The petroleum output is 103,920 tons, as against 66,232 last year (an increase of 50 per cent. The gross Roumanian profit is £172,515, against £147,541 last year. The year's nett available balance of profit (subject to exchange) is £105,616. Adding £93,866 brought forward (being the nett result of the two first years), the balance to credit of profit and loss is £199,482. This is after writing off ample depreciation, £46,861, and after taking stocks at cost. We then raise the general reserve fund from £60,000 to £100,000. After making other reservations, including over £26,000 for the difference in exchange, we propose to carry forward a sum of £113,451. The increased production and the satisfactory financial results have been achieved in spite of all the difficulties arising out of the war. Our issued share capital is £1,177,840, and we have received £28,140 on account of our debenture issue of £48,700. These debentures have been created since last balance-sheet. The shareholders will remember that at the time when the debenture issue was made we had a number of payments to make in England for purchases of material and other purposes, and remittances from Roumania were impracticable. We created and offered these debentures to our shareholders, and received a gratifying response, particularly from small shareholders in the country. We do not look upon these convertible debentures as a permanency. After the war is over and we are able to pay good dividends, the values of the shares should approximate to pre-war prices, and there is little doubt that when this takes place the debentures will be converted into shares at par and automatically disappear. The shareholders will no doubt expect me to say something to-day about the prospects of the company, both future and immediate. Roumania is a rich, self-contained, well-governed country, with an industrious population. Its wheat and other grain products are second to none. The Roumanian petroleum output has steadily increased year by year, and now exceeds 2,000,000 tons per annum. It occupies a commanding position for supplying the ever-increasing demands of the Mediterranean littoral with light, fuel, and motive power. I believe this company has now attained such a position that with the return of normal conditions it may be relied upon as an established dividend-paying concern. In Roumania we have a capable, energetic

staff in which there are a number of young Englishmen, and we have been the pioneers of the most improved machinery and the pioneers of practical geological investigation, including the discovery of important oil deposits previously unknown, and I do not know any other undertaking in Roumania which under these war conditions has increased its output by 50 per cent. As regards the safety of the oil wells, my own opinion is that in any event such safety is assured. They are too valuable to be destroyed by either side, and, moreover, they are protected by being under the shadow of the highest portions of the Carpathian mountains, only penetrated by four or five passes, each of which, I believe, has been made impregnable.

Mr. Percy C. Quilter seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### A. DARRACQ AND CO. (1905).

The 10th annual ordinary general meeting of A. Darracq and Co. (1905), Ltd., was held on Friday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. Norman Craig, K.C., M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. A. Yeatman, F.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that during the whole period under review the European war had been in progress. Last year he congratulated the shareholders upon our being side by side with France, wherein were the site of the company's main works and the scene of their main production. To the extent of upwards of £20,000 they had commercial interests in Italy, then still neutral. Since then Italy had joined in the conflict as an ally. They had, therefore, the satisfaction of knowing that both the combatant countries in which they had vested interests were fighting with us. To a very large extent it was true that for the time being their works had ceased to be a motor factory, and had become a munitions factory. They had, however, been able to derive very sensible profits from completing chassis and cars at prices which plainly indicated the demand, even in time of war, for Darracq products, and offered the happiest augury for the future. It would not be prudent to enter into any detail as to the projects of the board for the future, except to say that their policy had been, and would be, to render all service possible, consistently with the shareholders' interests, to the British and Allied Governments during the period of the war, and to be in a complete state of preparedness to resume as speedily as possible the normal functions of the company as soon as peace might come. Since the incorporation of the company its financial position had been strengthened to the extent of £385,400, either by the extinction of debentures or by the reduction of the item of goodwill. He proceeded to explain the circumstances which had led up to the formation of a French company to take over the works at Suresnes, in which A. Darracq and Co. held almost the whole of the capital, and stated that that undertaking had the most gratifying prospects. With regard to the investments, he stated a year ago that the directors had made a purchase of debentures in Argylis, Ltd., at a price which would produce one of two results—viz., the acquisition at a reasonable figure of a British factory, of which they stood in need, or the securing of a nice profit to the company. The latter alternative occurred, but when they last met the profit had not been received, and so was not included in the accounts. These debentures had now been paid off, and a sum of upwards of £25,000 appeared in the accounts as the profit over this deal. This item of profit was apart from a considerable sum received by way of interest, and was clear of all expenses connected with the transaction. During the year the company's mortgage on the A.L.F.A. property in Milan had been paid off in full, and their holding in the share capital of the company had been realised at the full price at which it stood in their books. A very satisfactory sale had, since the end of the financial year, also been effected of the company's Amsterdam property. The company's investments appeared in the balance-sheet at cost. They consisted almost exclusively of Government and trustee securities, and although the depreciation consequent upon the war might have been regarded as temporary, the directors had preferred to be in a position to say that the investment figures, in the same way as in regard to all other figures in the accounts, accurately reflected the existing position. They had, therefore, transferred from profit and loss account a sum of £20,000 as a special depreciation reserve, with the result that the investments were in substance written down to current market prices. The financial position of the company was thus insured against any permanent depreciation of gilt-edged securities, whilst this special reserve could always be retransferred, in whole or in part, if and when these investments recovered. They had also increased their general reserve fund by £50,000. Until the disastrous year which led to the appointment of a committee of inquiry and reorganisation of the management the reserve fund had stood at £150,000. The old management found it necessary in that year to withdraw £50,000 from the reserve, but it was the wish of the committee, as it had always been the ambition of the new management, to replace this sum at the earliest moment. This it was now possible to do, and he had no doubt that the step taken would command the general support of shareholders. This £50,000 taken from the available cash balances of the company was represented in the accounts by their investment in the 4½ per-



cent. Government War Loan. The directors proposed, after paying debenture interest and making the usual payment to the debenture service fund and paying the usual 7 per cent. dividend on the preferred ordinary shares, as well as making the transfers to reserves to which he had referred and proper allowance for depreciation of plant, to pay a dividend of 9½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £17,144. They were strongly of opinion that the company should, as soon as opportunity offered, secure suitable British works, not only by reason of the imposition of the tariff on imported cars and chassis, but also that they might meet, by such an extension of factory accommodation, the demand for Darracq cars. These reasons convinced the board that it was in the best interests of the shareholders to show no recklessness in recommending dividends.

Mr. Almeric Paget, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### CAPE COPPER.

The 28th ordinary general meeting of the Cape Copper Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. T. Blair Reynolds (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. J. Franks) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that the working profit for the past year was £33,212, as compared with £17,244 in the previous year. The receipts from copper ores and metal, £105,234, were practically the same in both years. This might appear remarkable, in view of a generally rising market and a considerable increase in the output of the mines. It must be borne in mind, however, that for some months after the outbreak of war there was a marked fall in the copper market, and, although subsequently the price steadily rose, the average was not much higher than in the previous year; while the fact that the accounts were not more influenced by the increased output was explained by there being a larger stock in hand of partly treated material from the mines at the end than at the beginning of the year. The quantity of copper represented by this excess of stock was about equal to the increased copper output for the year, and, as the partly treated material was taken only at cost, it was evident that the realisation of profit in respect of the increased output was deferred to the current year. The delay in dealing with the year's output was partly accounted for by the disorganisation of transport arrangements, owing to the requirements of the military authorities. In the balance-sheet the Briton Ferry smelting works account showed £15,000 to have been spent during the year, and he was glad to think they were near the end of capital expenditure there. Under the head of the Rakha Hills mines there was an increase of about £67,000, which included the permanent mine plant and the concentration plant which had been installed during the year. An examination of the year's work, resulting in the payment of preference interest and a modest dividend of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, showed conclusively that the company had not made any of the so-called war profits. There had been constant difficulties to overcome and many disadvantages, but they had avoided any increase of costs due to high freights, having just before the war secured a steamer on time charter which covered the whole of the financial year. In the current year they had to face a great increase in the cost of sea transport, but against this they had to set the present high price of copper. Referring to the Cape mines, he said that at Nababheep the estimated reserves—160,000 tons of 5 per cent. ore—were the same as at the end of the previous year, although about 48,000 tons were extracted from the underground workings. The old O'okiep mine, from which the bulk of the company's profits in the past had been derived, was showing constantly diminishing returns, and to make good the declining profit therefrom they must now look to the Rakha Hills mines in India. The information in the report of the superintendent (Mr. Olden) confirmed the opinion formed by Mr. Money-Kent—who, with Mr. Arthur Taylor, visited the property early this year—that in Rakha they had a mine of considerable proved and prospective value. They had at the end of August ore reserves of 345,000 tons, showing an assay value of 4 per cent., or a gross copper content of nearly 14,000 short tons. By the use of a smelter at Rakha they were advised that they would make a material profit even under present conditions, and, therefore, when the freight problem became serious the smelter was ordered. They were told that it ought to be working in six months. He mentioned that period under present conditions with all reserve, but he did hope refined copper from Rakha would have been sold when they next met the shareholders, and that thus the new era in the company's affairs for which the directors had for a long time worked and the shareholders had paid would be inaugurated.

Mr. John E. Champney seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### PAHANG CONSOLIDATED.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Pahang Consolidated Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. J. E. Champney, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Arthur Giffard) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: You will see that the nett profit on the year's working amounted to £103,963—a pleasing result when we realise that at the commencement of the year we were unable to sell our tin at any price. However, the tin market

assumed a more normal aspect as the year went on, and by June we had disposed of all our accumulated stock, and since then regular sales have been effected. The average price realised for the tin was rather lower than in the previous year, and the improvement in profit is due to the satisfactory reduction in working costs, the greater quantity and better quality of ore treated. The feature as regards the costs is the reduction in milling expenses, the cost being reduced from 3s. 5d. to 2s. 10½d. per ton, and although nearly 2,300 tons more ore were treated, the total cost was £600 less than in the previous year. You will also notice that practically all the shaft-sinking costs have been written off, and a sum of £15,402 19s. 6d. is appropriated for depreciation of plant, machinery, &c. We have also added £15,000 to general reserve, a course which is deemed desirable in view of the uncertain position as regards taxation. Now, as regards the development of the mines, the superintendent gives you very full information up to July 31. The principal development was done in Willinks, including Nicholson's and Bells, which are now all worked as one mine, from the two shafts. Both these shafts have been pushed forward until now they are down to a depth sufficient to enable levels to be opened up in Willinks mine, Willinks South, Nicholson's and Bells at a depth of 800 ft. In the other mines variable success was met with, Pollocks showing the most satisfactory results. The most recent information about Pollocks, dated November 1, is that in Campbells East No. 3 level the lode has just been cut 2 ft. exposed, with possibility of greater width, and is payable. It is worthy of note that Jeram Batang supplied more ore for the battery than any of the other mines, nearly one-fourth of the total. The total development amounted to over 24,000 ft. or not far short of five miles. Since the close of the period dealt with in the superintendent's report an interesting, and what may prove an extremely important, find has been made of a new lode at the top of the range of hills which separate our mines from those that used to be worked by the Kabang company—these latter, you know, we have not yet attempted to work. The discovery was made last August, and the exploratory work has since been energetically pushed forward. The lode has been named the "Gunong" lode—the Malay for mountain. It would be premature to express a definite opinion about this, but the superintendent had given promising reports. The importance of this find, if it proves to be permanent, lies in the fact that there will be no pumping or winding charges, so that the ore can be worked cheaply; it can come down by gravitation, and a low-grade should therefore be workable at a profit. I am quite optimistic when I turn to our rubber enterprise. The work has gone on satisfactorily during the year, and both estates, especially the Kuala Reman, are looking very healthy indeed.

Mr. H. Frisby, jun., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### PARENT TYRE COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Parent Tyre Co. was held yesterday at the offices, 14, Regent Street, S.W., Mr. Arthur du Cros, J.P., M.P., presiding.

The Chairman said: The nett profit of the year of £124,300, including the amount brought forward, was less than that of the previous year by £15,000, accounted for as follows:—The amount brought forward from last year was £5,000 less than the previous year. The dividend received from the Dunlop Rubber Co., although at the same rate as last year, was £5,000 less, owing to the increased income-tax deducted. Transfer fees and other income were £2,300 less, and management expenses have increased by £2,300, while the royalty received from the Dunlop Rubber Co. was £700 more than last year. The dividends the company are proposing to pay, and which are the same as last year, will absorb £122,000, leaving £2,300 to be carried forward. The matters which really merit the consideration of the shareholders do not, in fact, appear in the report or the accounts. They are, first, the fact that the investment of the company in the shares of the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., appreciated in value from November 20, 1914, when the report of that company was issued to December 8, when the succeeding accounts were issued, by the sum of £463,000, while the royalty account is proportionately more valuable to-day than it was last year, and the second consideration is the fact that the report and accounts of the Dunlop Rubber Co. prove beyond doubt that the advance was not only justified by the progress of the company, but that it should be maintained, and, perhaps, even increased. The position of the Dunlop Rubber Co. is exceedingly strong and satisfactory, and there need be no cause for anxiety in the minds of the shareholders of this company because of the present slight, and, I hope and believe, temporary decrease in the year's results. The decrease is due to extraneous and passing reasons, and has no practical bearing on the value or prospects of this property. A very slight increase of dividend from the Dunlop Rubber Co. (1½ per cent. would be sufficient) would make good the deficit with this advantage, that once such an increase is made, it is more than likely to be maintained. I am not taking a possible increase of royalty into consideration. The ordinary shareholders will no doubt be pleased to know that it is the intention of the directors, all being well, to resume the payment of interim dividends on the ordinary shares, but in this connection I wish to draw attention to an error which has crept into the directors' report. The month of March specified there ought to have been the month of May. This company can only pay interim dividends from dividends received on its investment in the Dunlop Rubber Co., and this dividend is not received until May 1. The interim dividend will, therefore, be



paid on May 1, and not on March 1. During the year between the issue of the reports the preference shares appreciated in value on the market by £105,000, or over 10 per cent.; the ordinaries by £180,000, or nearly 30 per cent.; the deferreds by £125,000, or 25 per cent.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

### DUNLOP RUBBER.

The ordinary general meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., was held yesterday at 14, Regent Street, London, S.W., Mr. Arthur Du Cros, J.P., M.P., Deputy-Chairman and Managing Director of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Alfred Du Cros, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the shareholders would learn with satisfaction that the record results of the year had not been obtained by taking advantage of the war to squeeze higher prices. As a matter of fact, the prices had actually been reduced in the case of cycle tyres to users and consumers alike, and with regard to motor tyres sold to the Government, they had been reduced over and beyond the reduction to other companies. In comparing the profits with those of the last year, it was important to remember that the company had worked under the gravest possible disadvantages; wages and salaries had been considerably higher; freights, fuel and raw material had all been higher, too; and further difficulty and delays had been experienced in transport, which continued to that moment. The constant labour changes had also been the cause of the utmost delay, confusion, and difficulty in the works. In the circumstances it was a matter of great congratulation that the profits were not due to artificial high prices, but to the soundest of all business reasons, namely (1) increased output and sales in conjunction with high standard of manufacture, and (2) reduced costs, the result of improved organisation and expenditure of capital on improved processes. The Dunlop manufacture held a higher reputation now than ever before in all departments. He could speak particularly of a great advance in the results obtained from their solid tyres. Of the profits available for distribution it was proposed to divide 45 per cent., amounting to £194,000. The balance of £217,000 retained would be either carried forward or applied in reduction of plant and machinery, against £171,000 last year. If it were suggested that a higher dividend should be paid, his reply was, in normal times, perhaps, "Yes," but not at this most critical period of the war. The object of the directors was to ensure the present rate of dividend as a minimum, not only during the war, but, if possible, during the lean years which might follow the war. The weak spot of the balance-sheet was the stock, and, in the opinion of the board, it must be increased by £500,000. Their object was to accomplish this by the aid of the new works, but as the increase would be gradual no difficulty would be experienced in financing it. The foreign losses were not in the nature of normal trading losses, but were a loss of assets. All realised losses have been fully dealt with. The amount involved in the first part of paragraph 6 of the report was small, but next year it would be very much greater. The principle of taking such assets into a balance-sheet at inflated prices consequent upon artificially higher wages and materials due to the war did not appear to the directors to be sound. The amount involved in the concluding portion of the paragraph, £380,000, no one would question in view of the exceptional circumstances in which the depreciations were made. If plant was called upon to compress the work of two years into one by working by night as well as by day and at week-ends, the depreciation should be calculated accordingly. Referring to the new works at Bromford, he said that year after year the company had been unable to meet the demands upon it. The Government orders were urgent, and the new buildings had been undertaken partly on this account. The factory would enable the company to increase its output in all departments, and in course of time not only to meet the demand, but to increase the stock held to a figure more commensurate to its turnover. The demand for solid motor tyres for traction purposes had been particularly active, and the supply had been proportionately curtailed. With regard to investments, the first item called for no comment beyond mentioning that the writing down of the War Loan stock to the market price of August 31 cost £70,000. The increase in their interest in the rubber estates of £18,000 was mainly accounted for by the purchase of 1,887 additional acres of planted rubber. They were the third largest rubber planters in Europe, and the proceeds of the rubber sold from the estates now far exceeded the amount required for their upkeep, and the undertaking was earning substantial profits. The investments in the Associated Cos. had decreased by £85,000, the difference representing a portion of losses on the Continent arising directly out of the war. As a set-off against that reduction of investments it would be noticed that £160,000 of profit had been retained in the Associated Cos. during the past two years, and that no appreciation was made on that account. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Albemarle, K.C.V.O., C.B., A.D.C., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held, and resolutions authorising an increase of the capital to £2,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 preference shares of £1 each and the issue of the said 200,000 preference shares was agreed to.

A hearty vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman, directors, manager, and staff, the meeting terminated.

### BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

FINLAY AND CO., LTD.—A satisfactory increase of £1,056 to £6,566 is shown in the nett profits of this business of tobacconists for the year ended September 30, and with £434 more brought forward, the disposable surplus was £1,490 up at £7,175. After paying the preference dividend and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, as before, an extra £300 at £1,000 is transferred to the reserve, making that fund £6,000, and £1,000 is set aside as a special reserve to provide for probable extra Imperial taxation, leaving £1,015, or £406 more, to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are quite unimportant.

MANAOS IMPROVEMENTS, LTD.—Very little can be said about the report of this company for the year ended June 30. It will be remembered that last year the directors stated that the authorities of the State of Amazonas had seized the property without hint of compensation. Efforts have been made to arrive at a settlement, but it was not until October 15 last that the Government of the State passed a law authorising negotiations to be entered into with the company for acquiring the undertaking. No revenue, of course, was received, and after charging London office expenses and debenture and other interest, the debit balance was increased by £35,094 to £84,094.

P. PHIPPS AND CO., LTD.—These Northampton and Towcester breweries made a gross profit of £226,343 in the year ended September 30, or an increase of £10,159. After making allowances for repairs, depreciation, &c., including a bonus of 3 per cent. on staff salaries and wages, the available balance, including £3,618 more at £21,529 brought forward, was £112,379, or £4,720 up. Out of this the managing directors receive £2,500, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is made up to 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 3s. per share, all as before, while the appropriation of £15,000 to the depreciation reserve is also repeated, raising it to £100,000. Last year £1,000 was given to the National Relief Fund, but no similar donation was made this year, therefore the balance carried forward is increased by £5,720 to £27,249. Freehold and leasehold property, including goodwill, is £3,660 higher at £1,298,594, but machinery, plant, &c., shows a decline of £4,050 at £52,186. Stock has risen by £15,540 to £75,584, and although cash is £7,356 less at £62,596, the company has invested £51,667 in the War Loan. Mortgages and loans, and interest thereon, together with sundry creditors, come to £42,014 more at £80,711.

POWER-GAS CORPORATION, LTD.—In the first half of the year ended September 30 this company's output was reduced by the suspension of civil contracts, but the loss of revenue was later made good by the works being fully employed on the manufacture of war material. The ultimate outcome was that profits were practically unchanged at £20,743, and with £3,930 more at £7,479 brought in, the divisible total was £4,263 better at £28,223. Out of this the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 5 per cent. to 6, and £9,105, or £1,626 more, is carried forward. Advances to Ashmore, Benson, Pease and Co. have risen by £43,896 to £140,486, but work in hand and sundry debtors come to £15,761 less at £43,067, and cash is £2,497 down at £1,374. On the other hand, bank loans are £23,000 higher at £26,000, while sundry creditors show a decrease of £5,663 at £21,924. Since September 6 the company has been a "controlled establishment."

SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LTD.—Including £693 more at £2,612 brought in, the income for the 12 months ended November 1 was £4,509 smaller at £42,858. Of this the directors transfer £2,000, or £3,000 less, to reserve, making that fund £77,000, and reduce the dividend on the deferred stock from 6 per cent. to 5, leaving £2,669 more at £5,282 to be carried forward. Investments show a decrease of £25,607 at £838,864, against which liabilities to sundry creditors have been reduced by £24,521 to £3,458, and the small bank overdraft of £492 shown a year ago has given place to a cash balance of £3,499.

URUGUAY EAST COAST RAILWAY CO., LTD.—Business was anything but good for this little property in its year closed June 30 last. The receipts declined 17.91 and the expenses 7.18 per cent., so that the nett profit of £4,112 was £4,609 below that of the preceding year. Add to profit earned £20,015 received under Government guarantee and £86, against £588, collected under sundries, giving altogether £24,226, out of which the interest on the 5 per cent. bonds and 4 per cent. debenture stock has been met, and £3,812 assigned for income-tax, or £1,575 more than a year ago. The interest charge was £3,647 down, but even so, the year closed with a debit balance of £2,680. There was a complete failure of the wheat and barley harvest, which reduced the receipts from cereals by 30.37 per cent., and although the maize crop was satisfactory, poor prices induced the farmers to keep back their crops until after the year had closed. No amount is set aside to sinking fund in the past year's accounts, but the board, having consulted with the larger bondholders and 4 per cent. debenture stockholders, is preparing a scheme of arrangement which it hopes will meet with the approval of all concerned.



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## Passing Events.

Last week the public expenditure attained the formidable total of £48,005,120, and the revenue was £7,194,046. Expenditure was £28,875,288 and revenue £3,026,116 larger than the corresponding week of last year, and the revenue is coming in so well that up to the end of last week, or for eight months and 18 days of the present fiscal year, the receipts have exceeded the figure for the corresponding period last year by £44,540,196. But what is an income of £159,000,000, which is the total to date, compared with an outgo of £1,052,000,000? Mere small change; but we must not be dismayed, for presently the outpour will begin to slacken, and even now glimmerings of economies begin to be seen, as was mentioned in the speech of the Minister of Munitions. Our public debt nevertheless grows apace and must do so; therefore we must fight for such a peace as will enable the Allies of liberty to enforce disarmament on the robber empires. Only by that policy can we be saved. Prussia must be deprived of the means wherewith to prepare for other crimes against humanity, hemmed in and held down until the damages are paid and until all means of repeating her crime are permanently withdrawn from her control. That is the peace we must fight for, and no money must be grudged to secure it. Last Treasury year added £455,196,985 nett to the National Debt, raising it to £1,104,968,000; what this year may add cannot now be guessed even approximately, but up to the end of last week the expenditure exceeded last year's to the same date by £766,280,000, and it will remain stupendously excessive until the dashes and plunges of the perishing central empires begin to abate, which cannot be very long now. For if our expenditure is colossal, what must that of Germany be? In both money and men the Habsburg and Hohenzollern empires have been forced to a prodigality delightful to contemplate from our point of view, because it foredooms them to extinction. Courage, then, and be steadfast to the end. At present the goal is obscured, but the belief daily grows stronger that it cannot be so far away.

Now that the Government has definitely arranged its buy-or-borrow scheme in preparation for further credit-raising in New York, it must be supported, the time

for criticism of any drastic kind having gone by. According to the *Gazette* notice, the Treasury will either buy or borrow bonds and stocks, as was foreshadowed by Mr. McKenna. If it buys, it will take dollar securities only, or sterling securities convertible into dollar money. These securities may either be bonds or shares, but no bonds will be accepted on which there has ever been any default of interest, nor any stock unless a dividend of not less than 3 per cent. per annum has been regularly paid on it since January 1, 1913. We should have been inclined to fix this date two or three years further back. Besides Railroad securities quoted in the currency of the United States of North America or Canada, bonds of the United States Government, bonds of States or municipalities in the United States, Canadian Government, provincial and municipal bonds, and Canadian Railway securities will all be bought or borrowed, but bonds and stocks of industrial corporations will not, as a rule, be acceptable, except when the corporations are large, like the United States Steel Trust, and so on. Four different lists will be available, one pair dealing with bonds, or with stocks offered for sale, and the other with the same classes of securities offered on loan. Bonds and stocks or shares must not be mixed on the same list. The stockbroker will get his commission, we are glad to see, so that the Stock Exchange should be reconciled to the arrangement. The Government meets all costs, including this commission, and all lists of less than \$25,000 in amount must be submitted through a member of the Stock Exchange, unless by insurance or trust companies, who may go to the Treasury direct. We have no criticism to offer, and only one caution, not to buy or take in pledge securities quoted at too high prices. Over confidence in trusts should also be discountenanced. By the by, Mr. Andrew Carnegie has now the chance of his life to gratify his ambition to die poor.

We are as glad as any Dutchman could be that the Government of General Botha has had the courageous magnanimity to release de Wet and 118 other burghers who were sentenced for high treason for their share in the Teuton-fomented South African rebellion. It has not been an unconditional release; the fines imposed have been or will be paid, and freedom of move-



ment is restricted at present for the term of the sentences, as also freedom of political action; but in all essentials the men are free, and we have not the least doubt that henceforth they will be loyal to the Empire. For they will have learnt that we are not a vindictive people, and that the liberty enjoyed within the Empire is a real liberty in virtue of which each individual can be loyally obedient to the law and yet free.

Search as we may, few mitigating circumstances can be discovered in the position of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Limited, as disclosed in its report for the year ended June 30 last. The nett revenue fell off by £213,295 to £180,661, and had it not been for £60,000, as compared with only £10,000 a year ago, withdrawn from the reserve fund, it would have been impossible to pay anything upon the preferred ordinary stock. As it is this stock gets 2½ per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. paid a year ago. The deferred ordinary, however, now gets nothing at all, as against 8 per cent., and even so, the balance of £6,667 left to carry forward is £218 less than was brought in. This year, however, £10,000 has had to be set aside for income-tax, and there was no mention of that deduction in the previous year's accounts. Also the provision for renewals and maintenance has been £17,967 higher at £167,888, and it is obvious from the accounts that the utmost care is being taken to conserve the property and keep it ready for prosperous times when they return. Much of the poor results now revealed is due to the effects of the war, which has stopped capital expenditure of all kinds in the Province and brought about a decrease in its population estimated at about 30 per cent. in the district served by the company; but unregulated competition by owners of motor-cars called "Jitneys," continues to be more effective for injury than anything else, and so far neither the municipal nor the provincial Government seems to have done anything whatever to check this irresponsible and unfettered competition. Accordingly the loss of revenue continues, and for the first four months of the current year £124,147 less has been received. The comparison, however, is made with a period in the previous year unaffected by the motor-car competition. How severe that has been is illustrated by the figures relating to the number of passengers carried. These show a decrease last year of 17,099,000, bringing the total down to 46,330,000. Compared with two years ago, the decrease is 25,644,000, and the decline we fear is not yet at an end. Happily compensation in certain ways is arising from the severe trial through which the company is now passing. The most rigid economy has been put in force, and the general manager estimates that this and the reduction in wages will save nearly £200,000 in the working expenses this year. The directors themselves have set an excellent example in cutting down their fees which, at £1,049, are £4,945 below what they received for the year ended June 30, 1914. Also capital expenditure is being restrained, and that is perhaps the most important point of all when we remember the avidity with which new money has been devoured in this far off Canadian Province. For the past year by the company and its subsidiaries only \$875,558 of new money was laid out, and that compares with \$4,110,327 for the previous year. Moreover, the company has abundant resources laid by or at hand, its total reserves being up £71,494 to £1,167,216, notwithstanding the withdrawal of £60,000 from the general reserve, which, however, still shows a total of £483,000, and the renewals and maintenance fund was increased last year by £128,940 nett, so that it now stands at £654,322. There is also a capital amortisation fund of £29,892, the three items making the aggregate above mentioned, so that the company should pull through right enough. Its short loans and cash in hand stood on balance-sheet day at £418,877, notwithstanding a diminution of £72,745 on the previous year's figure. Advances to subsidiaries are lower by £32,621 at £2,965,986. All that is left for the shareholders to do is, therefore, just to

bear their misfortunes with patience and hope for the best.

After providing for depreciation there is a profit of £270,619 shown for its year ended June 30 last by accounts of the Orient Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. This is £9,831 more than a year ago. In reality, however, nett earnings for the year were £26,198 less at £200,897, but happily the balance of £86,911 brought forward was £30,194 better, and £5,584 was saved in interest. Of the total £100,000 was again put aside to repairs and the general reserve, only this time repairs and renewals get half of it and the general reserve the other half, whereas a year ago £75,000 went to the general reserve. Both the preferred and deferred shares get a 5 per cent. dividend as before, and the balance left to carry forward will at £96,742 just be larger by the amount of the increased nett profit shown. In order further to strengthen the Orient Underwriting Fund, Ltd., its capital is to be increased, if the Treasury permits, exactly as a year ago, by the issue of additional shares to be allotted to the deferred shareholders of the Orient Co. This will involve a call of £57,910, and to enable that call to be paid the sum will be distributed from income amongst the deferred shareholders. During the year £19,350 worth of debentures was redeemed, or £8,150 more than last year. The company's steamship *Ophir* was bought by the Government, and four of its most modern vessels have been, and are, on service as armed merchant cruisers. With the remainder the company has been able to maintain a mail communication with Australia, and also to do transport work. The fleet numbers nine steamers in all, including the largest one of all now building, and its book value has risen during the year because the entry includes Treasury bills of unacknowledged amount. Altogether the nine vessels, together with an asset in Treasury bills and payments on account of the new steamer *Ormonde*, now building, is £1,988,573, an increase of £51,186 on the year. It is unnecessary to go through the other items in the balance-sheet, but it will be satisfactory to mention the fact that the repair and renewal account and the general reserve account together now amount to £575,000, and that the debenture debt is now £50 below £660,000.

A welcome recovery is shown in the accounts of the South American Stores (Gath and Chaves), Ltd., for the year to July 31 last. Profits and income from investments show an increase of £23,900 at £207,547, but debenture interest requires £21,000 more, and after minor adjustments the available balance is £2,440 higher at £100,363. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which got nothing last year against 11½ per cent. per annum for the previous 13 months, when the 1s. deferred shares also received a distribution of 60 per cent. The undivided profit is £22,750, there is a reserve of £66,270, and an extraordinary reserve of £35,800, so that the company appears to be taking prudent measures to safeguard the future. At the commencement of its financial year the business of the company was adversely affected by the conditions in Argentina, and the position was rendered more difficult by the outbreak of the war, but it is gratifying to have evidence that the financial and commercial conditions in the country have been gradually improving, and latterly the company's trade has shown a substantial increase over the corresponding period. Creditors are £60,000 lower at £506,000, while debtors are down £24,000 at £187,160, and stocks have been reduced by £478,000 to £1,454,640, but cash is up £43,360 at £127,935, and there are now investments in Government securities amounting to £393,360. Items amounting to £33,640 for discount on debentures and expenses issuing ordinary shares have disappeared, and the balance-sheet has a clean and healthy appearance.

There is only a sort of an academic interest in the report of the Mexican Railway Co., Ltd., for the half-year to June 30, as the accounts only cover the six



months to December 31, 1914, and the present position seems extremely deplorable. During the current year, it is stated, the districts served by this railway have been very disturbed, and considerable damage has been done to the buildings and rolling-stock. General Carranza controls the main line, and the Puebla and Pachuca branches over which a service is being run, but seventeen of the company's stations have been burnt or otherwise severely damaged. The permanent way has not suffered to any great extent, but it is said that the rolling-stock has been allowed to get into a deplorable condition, some of it being destroyed, and a portion of it is being used for military operations in the northern part of the Republic. The line was taken over by General Carranza on November 18, 1914, and all applications for its restoration to the company have been refused on account of military necessities. Accordingly, the directors have nothing to report except the results of four and a-half months' working in the second half of last year, and comparisons with the corresponding six months are merely of historic value. Earnings showed a decrease of \$646,000 at \$4,322,000, while expenditure was \$352,000 higher at \$2,866,000, and the nett revenue was consequently \$998,000 lower at \$1,456,000. Passenger receipts increased \$140,000, no doubt owing to the flight to the coast of all families who could get away, and express earnings were \$113,000 higher, but there was a decrease of no less than \$914,000 in goods traffic. Conducting transportation and general expenses cost \$360,000 more than in the corresponding half-year. The average rate of exchange worked out at 10.37d., against 17.77d. in 1913, and it is mentioned that during the current year the value of the dollar has varied between sixpence and threepence. Converted into sterling and after paying debenture interest there is a debit balance of £33,324, which is charged to reserve, against a credit of £50,710 carried to reserve in 1913. Stockholders in the company have our sincere sympathy in these desperate straits, and we can only hope that peace and order will shortly be restored in the unhappy country so that they may again see daylight ahead. There are enormous natural resources to be developed, and things will take a turn for the better in due time, when the people have tired of the exciting but unprofitable occupation of slitting each others' throats. The dawn of a better era may not be so far off as it appears, and meantime we counsel patience.

The New Zealand and River Plate Land Mortgage Co. has reduced its interests in the Dominion to a purely nominal figure, the investments there being valued at only £1,336, on which the income was £300. Investments in the River Plate were reduced by £34,389 during the year ended October 31, but still reach the important total of £1,237,129, and investments in London, owing to the purchase of £40,000 War Loan and the substitution of £10,000 Exchequer bonds for a like amount of New Zealand Government debentures, are £41,837 up at £95,568. Cash is £6,922 down at £11,786, and loans at short call in London for £10,000 have disappeared, but bills receivable for £43,000 form a new item, while, on the other hand, terminable debentures have been reduced by £11,180 to £480,534, but interest received in advance is £7,100 up at £23,835, and £5,763 more at £11,730 is due to sundry creditors. The revenue from the River Plate was £10,741 up at £103,235, commission and exchange accounts gave £2,092 more, and with a slightly larger balance of £10,739 brought in, the total income was £13,635 better at £119,519. Taxes, however, absorbed an extra £7,502, and after providing for interest and administration expenses the nett balance showed a gain of £6,810 at £77,549. Out of this a dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, or the same as for the three preceding years, is paid, £25,000 is again transferred to reserve, raising that fund to £485,000, and the sum carried forward is increased to £17,549.

A better result is shown by the directors of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, for the year ended September 30 last, than was to be looked for. Everything almost has been against the drink trade during the year, and it is now more severely restricted than ever, so that it will be hard work indeed for companies like this to make as good a display next year as this. Profit on trading was actually £54,585 larger at £92,547, and £2,725 more was received as interest and dividends. Nett revenue from licensed properties and rents was, however, £4,629 down, and £99 less came in from transfer fees, so that the entire revenue of £120,717 was only £53,583 up, and all that increase was by no means available for the creditors and stockholders. Interest took £8,344 more at £33,462, and £25,139 more in all was assigned to repairs and maintenance, and for depreciation, these two groups of claims having absorbed nearly £41,000, of which £21,790 went against repairs. The consequence was that the nett income of £31,825 was only £18,777 larger, but even that enabled the board to give 2½ per cent., less tax, to the 4½ per cent. debenture stockholders, and the balance then left to carry forward is £3,599 bigger at £16,647. There is now, it must not be forgotten, 5 per cent. prior lien debenture stock outstanding to the amount of £500,000, and interest thereon was paid before the 4½ per cent. stock could come in. Holders of that stock have, however, the right to claim arrears, and the sanction of the Court has been given to the accepted scheme in virtue of which "certificates of rights" for arrears of interest, amounting to 11 per cent. up to the 31st inst., will be issued to the holders. In the balance-sheet the changes are not of great present importance.

That the African Banking Corporation should show a decrease of no more than £2,184 in its gross profits for the year ended September 30 is certainly a matter for congratulation. The total was £208,114, and at the same time a small saving was effected in expenses, but as £3,865 more at £16,984 was reserved for rebate on bills, the nett profit, after transferring an extra £500 at £3,300 to officers' guarantee fund and meeting other charges, was £6,059 lower. This was neutralised, however, by the increase of £6,283 in the balance brought in, so the directors are able to maintain the dividend at the old rate of 6 per cent., and to carry forward a trifle more at £27,701. The note circulation shows an expansion of £50,205 at £262,827, current and deposit accounts are £690,905 up at £5,563,946, and liabilities for drafts issued have risen by £73,267 to £182,436. A reduction of £164,340 to £787,144 in coin, bullion, and notes is offset by an increase of almost similar amount in cash at bankers and at call and short notice, and as the bank now holds £400,000 in Treasury bills the cash assets are £399,770 higher at £1,664,950. Investments, including the holding in War Loan, are £336,371 higher at £1,037,036, and bills of exchange purchased come to £1,335,017, or £151,236 more, but bills discounted, loans, &c., are £74,189 down at £2,644,213. Bank premises have been increased by £11,278 to £200,678, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is now £6,976,235.

Some indication of the way in which the National Steam Car Co. was hampered in the year ended October 31 is given by the decrease of 24 to 160 in the average number of buses licensed. The directors say that the services both in London and Chelmsford have been accorded their fair share of the patronage of the public, but the gross earnings nevertheless showed a decrease of £54,480 at £186,897. Against this, however, the running expenses were reduced by no less than £59,860, so that the nett revenue of £35,056 was actually £5,379 better. Interest on bank overdraft required £1,527 less at £466, and there is nothing to write off compared with £865 for debenture issue expenses a year ago, and after transferring an extra £1,500 at £16,500 to the special reserve for the renewal of buses, there was, with £618 brought in, £17,800 or £6,307 more to be dealt with. Of this



£3,000 is again transferred to general reserve, making that fund £6,000, and the dividend is then raised from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent., leaving the balance carried forward £3,787 up at £4,405. The fleet of 'buses, lorries, stocks of material, &c., show very little change at £150,435, and against this the special reserve now amounts to £44,569, but expenditure on patent rights, plant, &c., has risen by £7,195 to £54,310, and freehold land and buildings are £3,201 up at £24,289. Debtors owe £17,065 less at £10,425, but cash is £9,187 higher at £9,326, while current liabilities, including £9,000 or £1,005 less provision for overhaul of 'buses, are unaltered at £36,935. The company's works at Chelmsford are now being largely employed on the production of munitions and are under Government control.

We judge that there is no help for it. Debenture holders of the Municipality of Pará Improvements, Ltd., will have to accept the terms offered for the undertaking by the Municipality of Pará. They are hard terms and unfair. At the same time, the upset of business through the partial collapse of the Amazon rubber industry has put the city in great straits, so that we must not be too angry with Pará. It has now been agreed by the municipality to create 5 per cent. funding bonds, limited to an aggregate of £885,000, and to give of that issue £400,000 to the holders of the company's debentures. A meeting of these secured creditors has been called for the purpose of enabling the scheme to be accepted, and we really see no alternative. "The proposed arrangement is the best obtainable under the circumstances," say the trustees, and they add that in their opinion the debenture holders would be well advised to adopt it. The company issued £600,000 debentures, all outstanding, and holders thereof will receive funding bonds or scrip and fractional certificates in the proportion of £13 16s. 8d. for each £20 debenture now held by them. The new bonds will be entitled to a first charge on the taxes imposed in connection with the municipal drainage system, and any balance necessary to meet the annual service is to be paid out of the general revenues of the municipality. We hope that body will be in a position to complete the works of the company and put them in operation at an early date, and that circumstances will make the community solvent enough to keep this pledge, but we cannot speak with any great confidence in view of all that has happened.

It will be anything but comforting to holders of the bonds and shares of the Cuban Ports Co. to read the official announcement put forth by the Cuban Minister. Rumours have been floating about tending to raise hopes that a settlement was about to be made, and this disagreeable blot removed from the administration of the Cuban Republic. Not so, says the Minister, the Government of the Republic "does not entertain any project whatever of contracting in any manner or form a loan." That is all very well, and we approve, but he goes on to deny that his Government has any kind of negotiations pending or has made any proposition of exchange of bonds of the Republic for bonds and shares of this so-called Cuban Ports Co. That company was undoubtedly a dishonest promotion, whose chief purpose was to put the harbours of Cuba up to ransom for the benefit of a group of scallywags of no substance, and therefore we can sympathise with the Government's attitude even thus far; but what we contend for, and always have maintained, is that whatever property was created by the squelched Ports Co. ought to be valued and paid for without regard to the character or purpose of the original promoters, and we should even go so far as to suggest that the bond and share holders who now stand to lose their money might be formed into a new corporation of an honest description, and allowed to complete the works. All, however, that the President of the Republic will permit himself to say is that his Government is willing "as an act of grace and equity only" to pay compensation to *bonâ-fide* investors in the now defunct Ports Co. As

yet, however, nothing has been decided, and that delay in itself is grievously unfair and damaging to the Republic's reputation. It is not charity, moreover, *bonâ-fide* bond and shareholders want, it is justice and fair play.

Probably through their skill in erecting buildings of a character suitable for Government purposes, Boulton and Paul, Ltd., the well-known constructional engineers, horticultural builders, &c., of Norwich, have enjoyed a most prosperous time. Owing to an intimation that the company was to be declared a "controlled establishment" the accounts were made up to July 31, and therefore cover ten months only, but the profits for that period exceeded those of the preceding year by £31,221 at £52,877. Recognising the exceptional character of this increase, the directors very prudently transfer £25,000 to a special reserve, as against nothing last year. Their own remuneration takes £4,468 more, and after writing off a slightly larger amount of £3,926 for depreciation, they increase the dividend on the ordinary shares from 15 per cent. to 20, leaving £292 less at £24,114 to be carried forward. Stocks are £3,698 smaller at £46,108, but debtors have risen by £24,045 to £58,873, and cash is £2,579 up at £18,077, while £29,426, or £2,950 less, is due to creditors. Property and goodwill stands at £109,789, and against this the only reserve is the amount now set aside out of revenue.

A timely and instructive compilation has reached us by M. Yves Guyot, a former Minister of Public Works in France, entitled "La Province Rhénane et la Westphalie." No political object is aimed at in this essay, which, however, is preceded by a succinct and, like all that M. Guyot writes, lucid summary of the early history of these districts. The purpose of the essay is to exhibit the origin and growth of the wonderful industries to whose existence Prussia and the German Empire owe so much of their progress in what was thought to be civilisation. In 1815, a century ago, Westphalia and the Rhine Province were thrust upon a reluctant Prussia, which wanted instead to absorb Saxony, and looked upon the Rhineland as a worthless, or almost worthless, possession, so at least, the writer says. The discovery of minerals, however, together with the beginning and development of the coal and iron industries, soon changed the entire outlook, and now this part of the German Empire is the most valuable of all, more valuable even, so far, at least as the external trade of the Empire before the war was concerned, than Silesia. And in the war is not Essen, Krupp's town, the most exhaustless source of Prussian murder power—source likewise of that waste of wealth from which Germany may never recover? "After the war it will be all as before in trade, with we, the Germans, the master of all," is the Teuton's insane and vengeful dream. And it will be desolation. The brochure is published by Messrs. Attinger Frères, Paris, at the price of frs. 3.50.

It is to be feared that the Argentine Transandine Railway Co., Limited, is going to prove a very unprofitable enterprise. Its report and accounts for the year to June 30, 1915, are the reverse of pleasant to study. Under the working agreement with the Argentine Great Western Railway Co.—a company in its turn controlled by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific—the Transandine company is entitled to 17½% of the gross receipts. These receipts last year declined by no less than £47,633 to £48,473, with the result that the company got £19,499 less as its proportion, or in all £8,563. Consequently there was a shortage of £18,418 after meeting the interest on its "A" and "B" debenture stocks, and other debts. This loss presumably falls upon the lessee, and could it be looked upon as temporary there might be less room for grumbling, but last year the road was open for only 5½ months out of the 12, and even in those 5½



months the traffic was adversely affected by the depression prevailing owing to the war in Europe. Up to the end of the third week of September there has thus far been a further decrease of about £1,200 in the gross receipts, and international traffic was again suspended for "practically" the first three months of the year. A dispute has arisen between the company and the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, which has kept back some moneys against the claims by it for expenditure which this company is advised is not chargeable against its property. So a lawsuit is in prospect.

Just in the nick of time *Truth* has this week prevented us from giving a testimonial to the *Times*. It would have been given long ago but for the bewilderment of mind produced by its subscription figures. We, like all the public, took the *Times* fund to be what it was labelled, and did not know that it was not really the *Times'* fund at all, but the entire empire wide collection for behalf of the British Red Cross Society. Consequently, we marvelled continually at the success with which the money was being collected, for the *Times* by no means enjoys the power it once did. *Truth* now tells us that the money paraded by the *Times* is not its gatherings at all, but the total amount received from all sources by the British Red Cross Society. In other words, the smartest advertisers in our time appear to have "nobbled" the Red Cross people, and have managed to persuade them to give the *Times* the exclusive right to beg in exchange for the misleading permission to advertise the society's gatherings as the *Times'* Fund. How disastrous this blunder may have been to the fund the following extract from this week's *Truth* will make plain. It is altogether rather a sordid and pitiful business:—

The best way of testing what the Red Cross Society has gained by tying itself to the tail of the *Times* is to compare the case with that of the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund. The latter fund, merely raised to meet future contingencies, which up to the present have never happened, obtained something like four millions of money in a few weeks. This was mainly done by securing the co-operation of every journal of standing in the kingdom. A certain amount may have been paid for advertising, but a great deal of gratuitous publicity was asked for and was freely given. The Red Cross Society, with a much more direct and cogent appeal to the sympathies of all sections of the public throughout the whole Empire, has only succeeded in obtaining two and three-quarter millions in 16 months. This contrast between the results of invoking the assistance of the press at large and making an exclusive arrangement with one journal of limited circulation, is conclusive of the whole matter on the business side. In the face of it, what justification can possibly be offered for allowing a great national work like that of the Red Cross Society to be captured for trade purposes and prostituted to the uses of the smart advertiser?

In the Christmas issue of his *Book Monthly*, a most readable number, Mr. James Milne discourses interestingly on "War and Books," with reference to the winter publishing season. It is not a very exhilarating description that he gives, but yet one much less depressing than might have been expected, and he brings out the fact that readers of books are rather turning back to the old literature than buying the new. It has been a time for reprints and new editions of all kinds of good books from the Bible, Thomas à Kempis's "Imitation of Christ," and John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," to the highest kind of old poetry. The war has actually brought Wordsworth to the fore once again, and has given a fillip to the classics of a bygone age. As for modern books, Mr. Milne gives a list which embraces a notable variety of books on the war, and signals "An Englishman in the Russian Ranks," by Mr. John Morse, Mr. Philip Gibbs's "Soul of the War," and other books as well worth reading. Some of them we have not read yet, but have noted. He omits two, though, that we have read, and that stand high in our esteem. One is that able American journalist Mr. Granville Fortescue's "Russia, the Balkans, and the Dardanelles," and the other Mr. Bernard Pares's "Day by Day with the Russian Army." Both authors speak in identical terms about the high moral qualities and heroic spirit of the Russian soldier, and the magnanimous kindness of the

Russian people. All testimony about Russia is to the same effect, the latest being Mr. Ian Malcolm's eulogy of the Russian Red Cross work. He chants in unison with Mr. Pares. But apart from the praise of Russia and the Russians, Mr. Fortescue gives such a vivid description of the Dardanelles as should help to reconcile us to our withdrawal from Suvla Bay. We were wasting one of the finest armies that we ever had in attempts to storm that now impregnable death-trap. Mr. Pares's account of the Russian retreat from Galicia and Poland, after being apparently on the eve of a complete triumph, strikes us as a most impressive testimony to the value of an overwhelming superiority in artillery, especially in heavy cannon and machine guns. It was not the courage of the German troops—although when the men were handled in masses that was great—that drove the Russians back. Man to man the Russian soldier is greatly superior to the German, but he was simply borne down and back by weight of metal, by an overpowering preponderance of artillery handled with a skill and dogged determination to batter a way through, which reflected the confident pride of the Germans in their long-matured plans. Now the guns are more and more preponderating in the other camp, and when Mr. Milne's next *Book Monthly* appears (in April, for it is a quarterly during the war), we hope he will be able to tell us of other war books full of the joys of our deliverance.

An unusually interesting preface to the *Stock Exchange Year Book* for 1916, just out, has been compiled by Sir Thomas Skinner. In finance 1915 has been an exceptional year, and not least in the almost total cessation of new capital issues, promotion of fresh companies, and every form of capital creation outside the demands of the Government. In his brief history Sir Thomas calls to mind the success of the 4½ per cent. War Loan, which he estimates brought in altogether more than £600,000,000, a result closely approached by the latest French loan, which is reported to have given the French Government £560,000,000. Were that all the money our Government needed, it would perhaps be a matter lightly to be regarded, but unfortunately it is not so, and other borrowings in the form of Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds have had to be resorted to as well as paper currency in 10s. and £1 notes, the nett amount of which last in circulation was, when this preface was written, about £88,000,000. As for the Stock Exchange, its record has been dreary and characterised by a more or less severe decline in prices. British Funds and Home Corporation stocks, however, have only fallen by from 1 to 3 per cent. on the year, and Colonial and Provincial Government securities 1 to 4 per cent. Russian bonds have gone back by from 12 to 20 per cent., Brazilian 20 to 35 per cent., Chilean 10 to 18 per cent., and Buenos Ayres Province bonds upwards of 40 per cent. German loans have fallen about 20 per cent., and Austrian from 15 to 30 per cent., in spite of the dogged assiduity in hocus-pocus with which German officials and financiers have sought to bolster the market and delude the world. These examples indicate what has been going on in all directions, and except Japanese bonds, which have actually risen by from 1 to 8 per cent. during the year, the whole list of foreign public issues show more or less distressing relapses. It is the same story in American Railroad securities, and that fact may, as has already been urged, give our Government its opportunity. In view of the number of calls made by the war upon our resources, it may be well to remind the people who doubt that at April 30 last the total number of joint-stock companies registered in the United Kingdom was 65,986, and their total paid-up capital about £2,657,500,000.

Some fortnight ago or less sundry newspapers treated us to specimens of pulpit oratory as it seems to be exercised in Germany. They were in their bestial savagery horrible to read, the preachers—mostly of the



Lutheran persuasion, we suppose—giving rein to their coarse swinishness of mind and Prussianism after a fashion that we would hardly expect to find here in the wildest outbursts of the imported slum anarchist. It is not within our province to animadvert upon outbursts of this description, but they are brought back to mind by a little book called "The Beautiful Thing that Has Happened to Our Boys, and Other Messages in War Time," by the Rev. Charles Allan, published by James McKelvie and Sons, of Greenock. Mr. Allan is one of those Scottish ministers whose patriotism has risen above all prejudices of creed and all considerations of self-interest, one of whose sons, given freely to the service of his country, fell in the war last May. Sorrow has moved him to put together a number of reflections on the sad events of our time which are worth reading. There is no bitterness, no fury of hate, in anything Mr. Allan says, but a simple, fervent patriotism and a steadfast faith in the righteousness of our cause, which should be helpful just now, when the faith and confidence of the people are being so sorely tried, not so much by what is happening as by the perversity of and want of real patriotism among those who should be, or who set themselves up to be, the people's guides.

The war has naturally made havoc among the super-luxury trades. Diamond tiaras and the like are incongruous extravagances which must be dispensed with in war time, as the directors of the principal diamond mines had the sense to recognise in the first month of the war, when they decided to stop work. Shareholders of the great diamond monopoly corporation, the De Beers Consolidated Mines, have had to suffer in consequence, but in view of the excellent dividends that have been paid in the past, the loss is not a serious one. Moreover, it is one that the speculative nature of the industry necessarily involves. Revenue from diamonds in the 12 months to June 30 amounted to £574,399 as compared with £5,123,386; income from investments declined by £86,767 to £142,003, and the total income was £735,450 as against £5,352,106. Expenditure totalled £1,244,047, of which £625,860 was specially incurred on account of the war. Of this £375,613 was spent on allowances to men on active service, on providing work for employees when operations at the mines ceased, and in donations and other services rendered to the Government of the Union in connection with military supplies given free. The remaining £250,247 was allowed for depreciation of reserves and special investments, being the depreciation in stocks caused by the war. Thus a loss of £508,597 is shown on the year; this is made good by transferring £581,667 from the general fund, but as the suspense profit account is raised from £919,320 to £1,150,990, the amount carried forward is reduced from £447,864 to £289,264. Of course, no dividends are being paid. Of the revenue from diamonds all except £124,074 sold in June last, was obtained in the month preceding the outbreak of war. But latterly the demand for stones from abroad has revived, and the mines will resume operations on a restricted scale on January 1. Consequently the outlook from the shareholders' point of view is a little better. The Cape explosives works, which are owned by the De Beers Co., had its production adversely affected by the closing of the mines, its sales declining from 377,526 cases to 321,241 cases.

In these days, when the base metal industries play such an important part in the world's affairs, it is gratifying to find that Minerals Separation, Ltd., is making satisfactory headway. The company, like most other patent pioneers, appears to have a good deal of litigation on its hands, but the Privy Council has established its rights as far as the British Empire is concerned, and the final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States is expected early next year. As the company's income is mainly derived from royalties collected from mines situated in all parts of

the world, it is perhaps excusable that the accounts are only now presented for the year 1914. They show a revenue of £28,150, with a nett profit of £11,925, which increases the credit balance to £35,177, subject to £6,400 contingent litigation expenses, but no dividend is recommended, although the issued capital is only £50,000. It is stated that the company's processes have continued to give excellent results in the treatment of copper, zinc, and lead ores, and at the Anaconda mine alone 16,000 tons per day are dealt with. The report is rather niggardly in details, but it claims that the company's flotation processes are indispensable in the production of zinc required for the manufacture of munitions of war, and it confidently asserts that many important zinc and lead mines would not have been able to recover the metallic contents of their ores so effectively and in such a desirable form for smelting without the aid of the company's patents. Doubtless fuller information will be accorded at the forthcoming meeting.

### Mr. Lloyd George, the Optimistic Scold.

It is curious how constantly Mr. Lloyd George's speeches fall short here and there of expectations. Their aim is excellent always, and portions of their substance also; but yet a certain feeling of bewilderment, and now and then of soreness, is often left, and no one can therefore be surprised if the tone of the last speech jars on the feelings of our working classes as well as on those of the waiting nation. What was wanted at a time of disappointment and strain like the present was a word of encouragement, of hope, a dwelling on what we have done and are doing. Mr. George gave plenty of information of an encouraging character, but mixed it up with complaints, appeals, and minatory warnings that left the mind uneasy, and made readers at least ask, "Are we being licked, then?" In places the speaker appeared almost to forget to be loyal to his colleagues, although yet frankly acknowledging that Mr. Asquith was the first to rouse the Cabinet, and Mr. George himself, to our dangerous behindhandedness. It does seem a pity, then, that there should be so many assertions regarding our unfitness to wage war and remonstrance levelled at our industrial community, employer and employed, for its inertia. They cause readers to lay down the speech with a sense of gloom and feeling that it may be even now, as the *Daily Mail* blazons it, "Too late."

The same paper puts in leaded type, with heavy rules beneath each line, the following little passage from the speech, which is exactly suited to its temper, and we feel sure the Minister of Munitions did not mean all the paper would have him mean. But in nearly all his speeches on the war we come upon flashes—seldom of hope, often very like flashes of despair—and we can only hope that when he goes to Newcastle our brilliant and courageous Minister of Munitions will be in a cheerier mood.

"I wonder," the *Daily Mail* makes him bawl, "whether it will not be too late—the fatal words of this war. ('Hear, hear.') Too late in moving here, too late in arriving there—(cheers)—too late in coming to this decision, too late in starting that enterprise, too late in preparing. (Cheers.) The footsteps of the Allied forces have been dogged by the mocking spectre of 'Too late'; and unless we quicken our movements damnation will fall on the sacred cause for which so much gallant blood has flowed, and I beg employers and workmen not to let 'Too late' be inscribed on the portals of their workshops. (Loud cheers.) Everything in the course of the next few months depends upon this." Considering what we have done and endured, beholding also what we are doing, this outburst sounds like the lash of an enraged wagoner's whip on the back of a straining, willing horse. Our industrials do not deserve such language.

Much information of a really cheering kind was scattered through the speech, and if it could be separated from the skirls it would brace us up. It is



not the case, never has been the case, that either employers or employed in our great engineering and iron and steel industries have been "slackers" as a body any more than that a large proportion of the men have been drunkards. Probably Mr. George will agree, and declare that he never meant to accuse the men *en masse* of any such behaviour or of lack of patriotism. He has again and again indignantly denied that he accused labour of being sodden with drink, and he certainly never did in so many words; but the general effect of his speeches on drink, as on under-production, is to leave the impression on the mind of the ordinary reader that we are just on the eve of going to the dogs; and in regard to the drinking scold, a feeling of bitter resentment was aroused which has not yet by any means passed away. Is it to be the same in regard to the output of munitions?

In contrast with the snappish and, in places, colleagues-accusing tenor of last Monday's speech, we should like to put an extract from the final letter communicated to the *Times* by its latest friendly "neutral," who has been giving us in its columns his impressions and information gleaned in a recent visit to Germany. He is friendly to us, obviously so, friendly and frank, an able and observant man, judging by his letters, and after coming back from his wanderings over the enemy country he wound up by taking a tour through the industrial quarters of the United Kingdom, and this is what he says. It will be comforting to read after Mr. Lloyd George's disagreeable philippic, and puts the facts before us with clearness and force. Within one year the nation has been, as it were, re-born.

"I have just crossed Great Britain from one end to the other, and I have visited innumerable towns and cities. Britain at last, after more than a year's delay, is mobilised for war. Her achievement to-day far surpasses the wildest German idea of the 'kolossal.' I have seen factory after factory, working steadily 24 hours a day, seven days in the week, employing thousands of men and women, making shells, shells, shells! I have seen factory after factory making airplanes; I have seen guns being forged under hydraulic pressure of 12,000 tons; howitzers forged out of the stoutest steel, which requires 16 hours in a blast-furnace to heat. I have seen motor-lorries. They had come across England under their own power, and stood ready, waiting to be sent to the front. I have seen dull, brown-coloured, specially constructed staff automobiles lined up ready for shipment, not luxuriously upholstered limousines of peace times, but, like part of a true soldier's kit, they are fitted with hard seat cushions of plain leather, and steady, small, collapsible tables. I have seen row upon row of motor-ambulances of the same brown colour, not improvised in construction, but especially devised to save the wounded all possible discomfort. I have seen shell-cases pressed out of the living ingot in less than five minutes, and shells forged at a speed three times as great. I have seen smaller shells—chiefly the 18-pounder—turned on the lathe by young girls 16 or 18 years of age, many of them frail, slight girls for whom it was difficult to lift the heavy metal; yet the shells are piled up in pyramids about them on every available space, and the pyramids are growing, growing. In one plant, gaily decorated with flags of the Allies, I saw young girls turning out fuses of aluminium and brass. Steadily they worked, without looking up from their lathes. Many, while working, hum a low, crooning tune that seems to mark time with the burrowing note of the knife-edged tool as it cuts deep into the yellow metal. I have seen men working at great forges, where gun parts are cast, straining every nerve and muscle to accomplish their difficult tasks, handling vast lumps of red-hot metal with lightning dexterity. I have seen machine-guns by the hundred, and rifles by the thousand, all of most careful workmanship and finish. I have seen mile upon mile of khaki cloth being reeled off by the looms, and thousands of yards of specially prepared white woollen cloth for wrapping propelling charges; hundreds of pairs of khaki

puttees patterned by a single cut of the knife. This list might be extended indefinitely.

"The whole North-country has been turned into one vast arsenal. The deep pall of fog and smoke that hangs low over the great industrial centres of the Midlands, deeper, denser than it has been for some years past, means that England has at last turned with full energy to the mighty task. The achievement is the more remarkable when it is appreciated that all this work is merely a beginning. To-day nearly the entire industrial output of Great Britain is under Government control. It is not, as in Germany, the transformation of industry—such as a factory which in peace time had made lead pencils and was mobilised to make shrapnel or other even more startling changes with which Germany dazzled the world in the early stages of the war. Here in England I find all the old plants at work on their usual products, while guns and shells, and airplanes, and all other necessities of war are in many cases being made in new factories that have sprung up with mushroom growth all over the country. No more striking example of national energy, directed, consolidated, and centralised under direct Government control, can be found. The master mind behind this gigantic enterprise has created a compulsory industrial system, stronger and more powerful than any hitherto devised, even in Germany. Employer and employee have been merged into servants of the State. Great Britain awake has chosen the path to victory."

Having got out our grumble, it is meet that we should now make room for some of Mr. George's statements in his own words. They confirm the *Times* "neutral" at most points, and rebound much to the credit of all concerned in bringing about the awakening and concentration of our industrial strength. Here is how the transformation began:—"The country was divided into 12 areas: England and Wales eight, Scotland and Ireland two each. We set up 40 local munition committees at the most important engineering centres, each with a small board of management consisting of business men in the locality. Two alternative methods of production were adopted. One was to set up national shell factories, which have answered three purposes: (1) They have increased the supply; (2) they have minimised our labour difficulties; (3) they have enabled us to check prices. In addition to these national shell factories, of which we had 33, we had four different co-operative schemes by which we utilised to the full private firms which up to that point had not been occupied in turning out munitions of war. Though they have been so engaged for a very few months, last week they turned out three times as many high explosive shell bodies as were turned out by all the arsenals and works in the United Kingdom in the month of May last. (Cheers.) But they did more than that. They either themselves or through firms which they helped the Ministry of Munitions to discover turned out prodigious quantities of components, so as to enable us to complete not merely the shell bodies they were contributing, but shell bodies which were on order before. We owe a great deal to the patriotism of these manufacturers. (Cheers.)"

Well might the House—or what is left of it; members are not yet paid by the day—cheer. And many encouraging facts of this kind were scattered through the long speech, facts like the loyal, ungrudging, and unpaid, services of men high in their particular industries, of other men called away from the management of great businesses to help the Government, and by whom the whole labour and machinery power of the country is being reorganised and co-ordinated. It was altogether a splendid and most exhilarating history; but what is done is not enough, says Mr. George, and in proof cited the experience at Loos. Here is his account of what happened there:—"There was not a general who was in the battle who does not tell you that with three times the quantity of ammunition, especially in the higher natures, they would have achieved 20 times the result. It is too early to talk about over-production. The most fatuous way of economising is to produce an inadequate supply. A



good margin is a sensible insurance. Less than enough is a foolish piece of extravagance. £200,000,000 can produce an enormous quantity of ammunition; it is 40 days' cost of the war. If you have got it at the crucial moment the war might be won in 40 days; if you have not got it it might run to 400 days. What sort of economy is that? (Cheers.) What you spare in money you spill in blood. (Cheers.) I got a very remarkable photograph of the battlefield of Loos, taken immediately after. There was barbed wire which had not been destroyed; there was one machine-gun emplacement which was intact—all the others had been destroyed. There in front of the barbed wire lay hundreds of gallant men. One machine-gun! These are the incidents that you can obviate if you have enough. Every soldier tells me that there is but one way of doing it: have enough ammunition to crush every trench where an enemy lurks, destroy every emplacement, shatter every machine-gun, rend and tear every yard of barbed wire. If the enemy wants to resist he will have to do it out in the open, face to face with better men than himself. (Cheers.) That is the secret—plenty of ammunition. I hope all these ideas that we are turning out too much will not enter into the minds of workmen, capitalists, or taxpayers until we have enough to crush our way through. (Cheers.)

And forthwith the orator proceeded to point the moral for labour in the way quoted above, which delighted the Carmelite Street "sea green" cast of mind and brought Mr. J. H. Thomas up in protest. He denied that labour had not responded to the appeals made to it. Here we must, taking courage, leave the subject from the scold's point of view. It has other aspects, this wonder-working revolution, which must be left to be dealt with in another article. But of one thing are we sure—workman and capitalist can no more return, as Mr. Thomas demands in the name of labour, to pre-war conditions when the agony of war has ended than water can solidify in tropical heat. We are on the threshold of a new era.

### By-the-Way War Notes.

From what we hear and see the community at large is rapidly ceasing to take its cue from the sour-hearted section of the Press. The withdrawal, however, of our troops from those two posts on the north-western coast of the Gallipoli Peninsula has given our habit and repute journalistic detractors the opportunity of their lives, and they have been "rubbing it in proper," as their way is. We cannot object, for from first to last the Dardanelles expedition has been ill-conceived, rash if inspired by laudable motives, and abominably mismanaged. It was a "gamble," no doubt, but had the players been well chosen and the date and methods of attack skilfully fixed and arranged, we might have won the rubber. As it is, we have heartened the enemy a little perhaps—it is by no means certain—and probably brought upon us this troublesome war in the Balkans, with its increase of cares over dangers and possibilities of danger in regions still farther away. Worse than all we have sacrificed without apparent benefit of any kind many thousands of valuable lives, especially Australian and New Zealand young men of heroic temper, who well deserved a better fate. Over the loss of their sons these two young nations now mourn in a bitterness of spirit that, did we go on blundering, might turn them away from the Old Country for ever. Who have been most to blame for this lamentable fiasco? "Mr. Churchill first and all the time," the angry critics say, and say in their haste and not without show of reason. The whole Cabinet was to blame at the start, although it may have been carried away by the eager First Lord's untempered enthusiasm; but on the generals chosen to lead our army when the decision was taken to send troops to assist the Fleet the blame for all that happened subsequently must rest, and if one-tenth of the stories surviving and returned "Tommies" tell are true, some of those warrior leaders at least deserve to be cashiered. They must not be employed again. Neither recrimination, however, nor punishment will

avail now, and it is best to accept our buffet and its lessons in silence, and to brace ourselves by it for the greater efforts to come. After all, and but for its spectacular and sentimental effect, the Dardanelles rebuff can have no influence on the general course of the war. The straits will probably open of themselves by and by in consequence of the destruction of the enemy elsewhere. And even as it stands there is no consolation for *les Boches* in our partial withdrawal. At the very first our attack forced the Turks to drop their raidings on the Suez Canal, and concentrate their best troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and in the forts on both the European and Asiatic coasts of the straits, where probably the flower of their army has been destroyed during the prolonged struggle. As for the money loss, it has fallen chiefly on Germany, who has gained nothing at all, no stronger hold on Constantinople, no greater freedom in Asia, no fresh base for the Balkan war, by all its expenditure. We still hold the Ægean end of the channel, so that nothing Turkish or German can get out, for ours is still the ocean. A secondary base, so well east of Salonika, may even prove most valuable for the Allied army operating towards some goal other than any lying to the north of that city. We have no room, then, for wailing. On the contrary, the successful skill with which the Anglo-French troops have been withdrawn from Anzac and Suvla Bay gives comforting assurance that now, at last, the men are well led. Yachting and champagne suppers have presumably now gone out of fashion everywhere in the Balkan seat of war. Sir Chas. Monro said "Withdraw." "That will cost more lives than in holding on," it was alleged in retort; he has proved that to be wrong, and in clearing the troops out with only three men, two soldiers and a sailor, wounded has demonstrated his capacity. But the Turks are still engaged in counting the 8 guns and "immense quantities" of stores they allege we left behind. Shall we believe them in preference to General Monro?

On Tuesday night the Prime Minister got authority from the House of Commons to increase the British Army to 4,000,000 men. In February last the aggregate was fixed at 3,000,000, so that now liberty to raise an additional million has been obtained, and we should have been very glad to know approximately whether the recruiting rally carried out by the Earl of Derby, as suggested by two of his Lancashire friends, had brought us any way near this enormous figure. Whether it has or has not, Mr. Asquith either would not or could not quite tell us. It is no matter, however, whether voluntary enlistment succeeds or fails in gathering this extra million, because if the war goes on we shall have to fall back upon some system of national service to get it whether we relish the step or not. For it is coming to this, that in no other way can we hope to regulate the supply, the essential supply, of labour to our industries of peace. Our trade is free of the ocean, not cooped up like the German, and must be maintained at all costs. Therefore, the foundations of a voluntary national service ought to be begun to be laid now. Our Army has hitherto always been small, and consequently the nation has always been able to bear its cost, not without irk, but without serious hurt, in all wars of the old type. But it is totally unable to go on paying on the present scale for such a formidable army as this volcanic eruption of the Teuton has made necessary. For another year we can endure the strain of it probably without bringing financial confusion upon the empire, but by the time that year is up there ought to be a system elaborated whereby the young men of every class in the community would be made available at the very minimum of expense. Therefore, we should begin at once by making it the law for all to undergo a certain amount of military discipline. And, as we have said long ago, it ought, for the rising generation, to be discipline beginning with the school curriculum, the small cost of which should fall upon the parents wherever they are able to bear it. Many years may pass before the Germanic rodent becomes reconciled



to his servile state, and during that time the Allies of the Entente must be vigilant and "ready, aye, ready."

This question aside, it is encouraging to find that no difficulty now confronting it in the least degree daunts the Government, and that the Ministry is able to be as hopeful as any optimist of a citizen quite outside the range of official information. The trend of events is steadily bearing the Allies onwards towards the victory sought, and those Allies, as Mr. Asquith once more emphatically announced, are all as determined as we are "to have nothing to do with a separate peace, and to persist at all costs until our supreme and common purpose is achieved." That is well, and also the best guarantee for an ultimate, nay, for an early, triumph that could possibly be given. In unrelenting vigilance and with unflinching vigour we must fight to beat the enemy to impotence if it takes us other two years to do it, which it won't.

As to the week's warring, nothing of a sensational kind, apart from our retirement from the Gallipoli Peninsula, has happened, but the small events, as we may call them, daily and hourly occurring are all productive of results calculated to encourage us. Not only is the enemy being held at all points, held and beaten when he attacks, but the internal distress of the non-warlike inhabitants of both empires is steadily on the increase. That is proved almost as much by the growing recklessness of the German lying as by such facts as the Buda Pest correspondent of the *Morning Post* gives us about the food scarcity in Hungary. There the people are less docile than in Germany, and their misery may lead them to revolt. Members of the Government are even accused of being in partnership with, or bribed by, the rich bankers in a conspiracy to lock up supplies and make food excessively dear. The banks made a compact with the Government, getting certain concessions to buy up necessities such as fat, lard, meats, flour, &c., of which they stored immense quantities, and, after stocking up, they arranged with the Government the prices to be charged, selling at such a profit as enabled them to subscribe for £75,000,000 of the War Loan, that being part of the bargain. They did that, and even if we reckon that money as all lost, which it probably is, were still in a position to make a profit. The letter of a peasant woman writing to her husband and quoted by this correspondent, gives an illuminating picture of the misery that is settling down upon rural Hungary:—"First I sold the cow and we could get no milk, although I had the money. Then I had to sell the horse, then the two pigs, although I thought we could winter on their meat and fat. Now all we have is the bit of land, but not having the horse, how can I work it? I cannot pull the plough myself." Coal and wood are scarce and the price of coal has risen to about 4s. 6d. per cwt. What the position is inside Germany we have too often tried to describe to make it necessary to enlarge further this week. Of one thing we remain certain, viz., that the economic crisis there is not much if any less acute than in Hungary. And "the stars in their courses are fighting against Sisera."

That would seem to have been a great feat which a portion of the German "fleet" performed "in the North Sea" some day in December, somewhere outside the courage-bestowing shelter of the Kiel Canal. It "searched" the North Sea (actually searched) for the "enemy," and found him not. Doubtless the British Fleet had taken fright, and made for home, Christmas being near. Having successfully "powdered up and down a bit" somewhere, sometime, the German "fleet," or a portion of it, cruised on Wednesday and Thursday in the Skagerrack—well away from the open ocean—and caught one steamer out of fifty-two "searched,"—another brilliant feat. It was laden with contraband, which the daring "fleet" forthwith confiscated. We hope there was something in the steamer's hold capable of providing "the mariners bould" with a supper or two. Oh, it was a grand success, the more so as "during the whole time British naval forces were nowhere sighted." It was just as Lewis Carroll sings, "no clouds were to be seen because no clouds were in the sky." All Prussianised

Teutonia must, we feel confident, have gone merrily to bed, drunk, if supperless, that night when the glad news became known. Who would grudge being hungry with such glory to feed on? If that resplendent "chum" of the Kaiser's, Herr Ballin, the undaunted, does not forthwith arrange the new sailing programme of his Hamburg-Amerika Line—and publish it, too—he can scarcely be the man we take him to be. With the North Sea abandoned to his master's "fleet," he is almost as well off as Milton says Adam was when expelled from the Garden of Eden—has all the world before him where to choose a place "to scoop." And envy and some malice must wander o'er his bantam mind when he sees how these stupid Junkers of a low-bred race compared with his own have utilised the occupation of Serbia—Bulgaria and Austria helping—to compile their new Orient express time table—pardon, not yet time table, but proposed route. Berlin to Bagdad by train sounds just scrumptious, and ought to be almost as soothing to Hun empty stomachs as that blessed word Mesopotamia, where so many Turko-Teutons are now fighting and lying and biting the dust—or is it mud they smother in?—to the pure. It may be the fact that you cannot yet travel by train *viâ* Belgrade, and that "three weeks" will be necessary even yet to repair the line at places south of that city—although enormous trains are daily pouring in supplies upon the Turk in Constantinople—but what of it? You have the route first to get, and if the transit should involve breaks of bulk—or changes of flying machines—now and then, that can only add to the enjoyment of the traveller. He will be able to survey from above all the land he means to own with a faculty greater than Satan's. The next route mapped out should be Petrograd to Potsdam, and thence *viâ* Antwerp and Southampton to New York, Vera Cruz, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo, and Buenos Ayres. There is a bold idealism in trade grabbing for you, most enterprising Ballin, and you may be sure the Kaiser is ready for it. He, confident in the all-might of his artillery, has been ready to sup and sleep in Buckingham Palace any day these years past, and has not yet quite got over. Cheer him, the good Ballin, with "routes" of travel, routes on land, routes by sea, and make haste about it, because before the spring brings its flowers again there is no knowing what may have become of the wandering mortal's grovelling dupes or of him. Why, he may even be glad to steal over to visit us—there is danger of getting hanged—disguised as "Mr. Smith," like Louis Philippe, the beloved of his grandmother.

### British Railways in Argentina.

#### II.

A minute comparison between now and 14 or 15 years ago is rendered well nigh impossible by the consolidations and leaseings which have gone on in the meantime. A mere comparison, for example, of the traffic receipts of a line like the Buenos Ayres and Pacific for the year ended June 30, 1901, with the past year's outcome, would be totally misleading, because in the interval the company has leased the Argentine Great Western as well as the Bahia Blanca Co.'s lines, and some other small acquisitions. Many of the properties, too, in existence 15 years ago have now been swallowed up by their larger neighbours, or are, like the Ensenada line, worked by a big company under a traffic agreement, so that to-day there are only five big systems of British-owned roads in existence. Recently the Buenos Ayres Great Southern endeavoured to absorb its neighbour, competitor, and rival, the powerful and wealthy Buenos Ayres Western; but the Argentine Government, jealous of any kind of railway supremacy in the country, prevented the arrangement from being carried out. As it is, however, the paid-up capital of the Great Southern Co. has expanded from £25,000,000 in 1901 to almost £54,000,000 now. In like manner the capital account of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, the most pushful and vigorously, if not always prudently, expansive of all the great Argentina



railway networks, has swollen from £12,000,000 in 1901 to £29,143,000 at June 30 last. Its leased company, the Argentine Great Western has also more than doubled its capital during the interval, so that it is now carrying £12,000,000, as against about £6,000,000. The Central Argentine Co., too, has increased its capital from about £12,600,000 at the beginning of the century to over £57,000,000.

In this rapid growth of capital there is unquestionably no small risk of disappointment, especially to the ordinary shareholders. In the case of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, for example, the ordinary capital is only £10,000,000, whereas the debenture capital amounts to £17,000,000, and there is besides £2,200,000 of preference stock. Almost the same amount of debt is shown by the Great Southern Co., but its ordinary capital stock alone amounts to £29,000,000. The Central Argentine has also a share capital nearly double its debenture capital, the one being £38,694,000, and the other, including last year's addition, of £3,000,000, £18,568,000. There is, however, £9,696,000 of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. preference stock in between to intercept revenue from the holders of the common stock. In regard to the secured and the preferential and the unprotected kinds of capital, the Buenos Ayres Western is in the best position of all, since against an ordinary capital of £13,748,000, it has a debt of but about £10,000,000 all told, and if its new issues of shares are converted into stock its position will become still more favourable. We may hold it to be a rule that the greater the weight of debt carried by any company the more rapid is the tendency to deterioration in the position of the unsecured capital. Look, for example, at the Buenos Ayres and Pacific. Not only is its revenue absorbed by the prior charges of all kinds—charges largely forced upon it because it could not sell ordinary stock at reasonable prices—but it is loaded with heavy leasehold rentals. Last year its revenue from all sources fell off £50,918, and its charges for rentals increased £166,000, while for its own direct obligations under debenture stocks, the increase was nearly £51,000. The debenture interest took £736,000, and the rentals of the Great Western, Bahia Blanca, and Villa Maria Railways together £968,000, consequently out of a total revenue of £1,884,000, over £1,700,000 went in interest and rentals. When, in addition, £57,000 was set aside for special expenses, and when the loss on the Transandine Railway, together with depreciation of steamers, are allowed for, the reduced first preference stock dividend, which took £60,000, left only £28,369 undistributed. It makes no difference to the position of the ordinary stockholders that the rent payable to the Argentine Great Western is a fluctuating one, dependent to an important extent on the amount of the nett revenue. He stands aside in all instances until prior claims have been satisfied.

For a good many years to come the provision of additional capital for all enterprises must necessarily be on a much more restricted scale than ever before, since the fashion of progression by the piling of debt on posterity first became the unquestioned mark of advancing civilisation. This inability to borrow, or otherwise raise money, must mean for enterprises like these Argentine railways a change in the method of development. Instead of forging ahead with extensions, developments, great terminal facilities, new ports, and so forth, whenever money markets are propitious, the rate of growth will have to be determined by the amount of free revenue available for investment in the undertaking after all demands have been satisfied. Hitherto the usage towards revenue has mostly been to distribute all available balances, or nearly all, in dividends, and even the prudently managed Argentine Railway companies never show reserves of a magnitude that could be relied upon to shield them from adversity. The Great Southern, however, now has a reserve of £739,000, and the Central Argentine one of £694,000, besides £1,011,000 to the credit of the renewal account, and even the often hard-pressed Pacific Co. has laid aside £671,000, exclusive of

£195,000 belonging to the first debenture stockholders, while the rich Buenos Ayres Western Co. has laid apart altogether £1,787,000.

These examples will serve to indicate the policy which must in future be followed, and they point also to a severe restriction in future dividend payments. Where the ordinary capital is of small amount a difference of 1 or even 2 per cent. in the proportion of income distributed as dividend may not greatly affect the power of the property to conserve its strength and expand; but where the ordinary capital is large, as in the case of several of the railways just mentioned, the shareholders ought to make up their minds to be satisfied, whatever happens, with no more than 5 per cent. for, say, the next 10 or 15 years, and to resolve loyally to support their directors in a policy of consolidation, of thrift in using, spending upon the property, all surplus revenue in excess of the fixed payment. We have mentioned irrigation as a dream of the future, but already the Argentine Government has begun to lay obligations upon the companies, not only to help in providing means to increase or create facilities for the storage of water, but to cover the open plains with highways to facilitate the movement of traffic. We may be quite sure that as circumstances develop a public spirit and necessities force reflection, the Government of the Republic will be more and more inclined to make the alien railway proprietor pay for his privileges. That is another reason why there ought to be no straining after large dividends, but, on the contrary, a strict determination to practise self-denial, for thus, and thus alone, can security for invested money be in some measure guaranteed.

One other reason may be mentioned for abstention from the nourishing of too sanguine hopes about the future of these fine properties, and that is the remarkable growth exhibited in their working expenses. It is quite startling when contrast is made between dates 14 or 15 years apart. Thus the B.A. and Pacific Co.'s ratio of working expenses to gross receipts was 55.31 in 1900-01 and 61.70 last year; the Great Southern Co.'s proportion has risen from 48.96 to 60.44, the Western Co.'s from 46.81 to 59.67, and the Central Argentine's from 49.88 per cent. to 58.54. Probably it will be said that last year's experience does not afford a fair test, because of the enormous increase in the cost of coal and of everything that had to be imported. Freights were enormously raised and shipping accommodation often difficult to get on any terms. Allowing, however, for all this, there cannot be a doubt that the constant tendency is for working expenses to advance, and it may not always be possible to obtain the consent of the Argentine Government to increases in freight charges and passenger fares adequate to compensate for this continually augmenting suction. Indeed, the tendency of the Argentine Administration is not unlikely to be the other way; and the management of the railways may even before long have to encounter a determined movement for the reduction of railway charges, concurrently with further increases in their expenses.

ESTATES CONTROL, LTD.—This subsidiary of Bovril earned £20,915, or £9,146 less, in the year ended November 30, but the balance brought in was £11,547 larger at £32,560, giving £53,483, or £2,401 more, to be dealt with. After meeting the preference shares, a dividend of £10 per £1 ordinary share, or 1,000 per cent., is paid on the 500 £1 ordinary shares, all of which are held by the parent company, and the balance carried forward is increased to £34,761. Investments in shares and debentures of estate, cattle, and associated undertakings have been reduced by £8,518 to £163,950, cattle and stock of raw material are £6,037 down at £134,382, and debtors owe £9,839 less at £889, but cash is £6,693 better at £16,707. On the other hand, loans and trade creditors show a decrease of £14,187 at £22,430, while bills payable for £5,709 have disappeared from the balance-sheet.

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## IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Dec. 17	£	+	£	10	180,654	+	£
Belfast and County Down..	" 17	3,010	+	255	†	28,197	+	1,649
Grand Canal..	" 17	1,359	+	435	†	1,759,790	+	25,090
Great Northern..	" 17	22,385	+	1,214	†	1,665,917	+	93,857
Gt. Southern and Western..	" 17	31,091	+	2,012	†	649,414	+	8,615
Midland Great Western..	" 17	13,929	+					

† From July 1.

\* From Jan. 1.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	Nov. 13	1,30,000	—	2,989
Bengal & N.W.	" 13	3,38,230	—	66,264
Bombay Nagpur	" 20	7,21,000	—	64,000
Bombay, Baroda	Dec. 11	13,32,000	+	1,26,000
Burma	Nov. 13	3,34,500	—	22,073
Delhi Umballa	Dec. 11	63,600	+	2,883
East Indian..	" 18	20,35,000	—	70,000
Gt. Indian Penin..	" 11	17,93,200	+	7,23,300
Lucknow-Bareilly..	Nov. 13	25,819	—	4,358
Madras and S.	" 20	7,40,000	+	16,444
Mahratta	" 20	1,24,283	—	5,215
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 20	79,662	—	3,085
" (Metre)	" 20			
Rohilkund and	" 20			
Kumaon	Nov. 13	27,772	—	2,464
South Indian	" 20	5,30,368	—	62,703
Southern Punjab	Aug. 5	5,05,939	+	40,543

† April 1.

§ Month.

‡ October 1.

## COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	£	£	£	£
Beira..	Oct. *	40,567	—	11,252
Canadian Northern	Dec. 14	\$ 823,700	—	\$ 395,900
Canadian Pacific	" 14	\$ 3,055,000	—	\$ 1,348,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 14	155,466	—	16,714
Gr. Trk. Western	" 14	40,849	—	10,828
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 14	13,979	—	3,787
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 14	38,255	—	25,372
Mashonaland	Oct. *	53,911	—	10,458
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	6,561	—	2,478
New Cape Central..	Nov. 20	1,504	—	103
Rhodesia	Oct. *	75,200	—	2,697
W. Pass & Yukon..	" 7	\$ 43,239	—	\$ 14,465

\* Months.

† July 1.

‡ Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Dec. 7	£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio	Dec. 7	763,000	+	111,000	†
Chicago G. W.	" 7	280,000	+	32,000	†
Colorado & South'n	Nov. 14	347,000	+	3,000	†
Denver & Rio (Gran)	Dec. 7	462,000	+	84,000	†
Louisv'e & Nashv't	" 7	1,171,000	+	202,000	†
Minn. S.P. (Soo)§	Nov. 21	879,000	+	299,000	†
Missouri Kansas	Dec. 7	632,000	+	49,000	†
Missouri Pacific	Nov. 21	1,329,000	+	172,000	†
Southern	Dec. 7	1,331,000	+	141,000	†

a Nine days.

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

## MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	Oct.	3,755,000	+ 100,000	4	14,344,000	+ 787,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	600,000	+ 223,000	4	1,364,000	+ 478,000
Baltimore & Ohio	"	3,161,000	+ 1,203,000	4	12,827,000	+ 3,195,000
Canadian Northern	"	1,257,000	+ 537,800	1	1,257,000	+ 537,800
Canadian Pacific	"	6,579,000	+ 3,258,000	4	17,567,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,391,000	+ 411,000	4	5,645,000	+ 1,451,000
Chicago & N.W.	"	2,670,000	+ 568,000	4	9,517,000	+ 376,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	"	4,382,000	+ 724,000	4	13,499,000	+ 186,000
Chicago G.W.	"	369,000	+ 35,000	4	1,322,000	— 95,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	Sept.	3,435,000	+ 751,000	4	12,124,000	+ 1,690,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	Oct.	1,401,000	— 360,000	3	3,328,000	— 1,052,000
Colorado & Southern	"	559,000	+ 100,000	4	1,525,000	+ 236,000
Cuba	"	391,108	+ 113,961	4	1,639,755	+ 321,900
Do.	"	69,942	+ 24,276	4	439,129	+ 179,349
Delaware & Hud.	Sept.	833,000	— 81,000	8	5,338,000	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Oct.	977,000	+ 149,000	4	3,258,000	+ 775,000
Erie	"	2,591,000	+ 1,215,000	10	15,571,000	+ 4,210,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line.	"	\$ 218,600	— \$ 18,000	10	\$ 1,967,850	— \$ 1,310,500
Grand Trunk Western	"	\$ 45,100	— \$ 37,300	10	\$ 1,616,050	— \$ 1,314,600
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	\$ 16,550	— \$ 10,350	10	\$ 36,650	— \$ 72,050
Gt. Northern	"	5,276,000	+ 749,000	4	15,507,000	— 654,000
Illinois Central	"	1,269,000	+ 130,000	4	4,191,000	— 144,000
Kansas City Southn.	"	381,000	+ 137,000	4	1,308,000	+ 214,000
Lehigh Valley	"	1,370,000	+ 17,000	4	4,939,000	+ 115,000
Louisville & Nashv.	"	1,531,000	+ 605,000	4	5,532,000	+ 1,572,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)§	"	1,306,000	+ 346,000	4	3,110,000	+ 478,000
Miss. K. & Texas	"	905,000	— 158,000	4	2,639,000	— 366,000
Missouri Pacific	"	1,355,000	— 100,000	4	4,664,000	— 1,179,000
New York Cent. & H.	"	5,811,000	+ 2,290,000	10	38,850,000	+ 12,883,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	"	2,197,000	+ 655,000	4	8,667,000	+ 2,152,000
New York Cent. & W.	"	108,000	+ 52,000	4	1,024,000	+ 50,000
Norfolk & Western	"	2,064,000	+ 578,000	3	5,702,000	+ 1,735,000
Northern Pacific	"	3,379,000	+ 798,000	4	10,255,000	+ 1,704,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines..	"	10,205,000	+ 3,583,000	11	70,851,000	+ 11,438,000
Reading	"	560,000	+ 23,737	4	2,258,000	+ 424,019
St. Louis & San F.	Sept.	1,194,000	— 105,000	3	3,550,000	— 124,000
Seaboard Air Line.	Oct.	534,000	+ 134,000	4	1,600,000	+ 151,000
Southern	"	1,820,000	+ 820,000	4	6,207,000	+ 1,695,000
Southern Pacific	"	5,283,000	+ 1,200,000	4	19,210,000	+ 4,582,000
Union Pacific	"	4,669,000	+ 793,000	4	14,848,000	+ 907,000
Wabash	"	919,000	+ 315,000	4	3,265,000	+ 302,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. \* Gross earnings. † Surplus.

## FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 18	Ps. 16,500	+ 6,500	1	Ps. 624,200	—Ps. 33,550
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 19	35,295	+ 14,375	1	1,266,120	— 230,085
Arauco ..	Oct.	9,225	+ 2,400	1	71,801	— 6,149
Argentine N.E.	Dec. 18	5,675	+ 75	1	162,051	+ 48,014
Bilbao R. and Canta	Nov.	5,216	+ 1,256	11	55,565	— 613
Bolivar ..	"	9,000	+ 4,457	5	30,634	— 13,961
Brazil Gt. Southern	Oct. *	M3,941,000	+ M773,269	10	M33,260,000	+ M263,792
B. Ayres & Pacific	Aug. *	Mis. 33,750	+ M 4,900	10	M271,600	+ M23,000
Do. Gt. South'n	Dec. 18	82,000	— 6,000	1	1,923,000	+ 293,000
Do. Western	" 19	129,000	+ 13,000	1	2,304,908	+ 46,967
Central Argentine..	" 19	56,000	+ 2,000	1	1,149,000	+ 165,000
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 18	95,000	— 12,700	1	2,710,700	+ 224,700
Do. East'n Ex.	" 18	12,439	— 937	1	285,080	+ 51,203
Do. North'n Ex.	" 18	4,553	— 958	1	91,436	+ 19,579
Do. West'n Ex.	" 18	2,136	— 29	1	46,987	+ 11,252
Colombian National	Nov. *	2,005	— 163	1	45,528	+ 9,220
Cordoba Central	Dec. 18	10,560	—	1	114,802	—
Costa Rica	Oct. 16	27,550	+ 2,120	1	737,950	— 148,165
Cuban Central	Oct. 16	5,704	— 646	1	74,943	— 31,386
Dorada Extension..	Dec. 19	10,747	+ 3,564	1	197,943	+ 35,802
Egyptian Delta	Nov. *	6,900	— 500	1	85,300	— 5,900
Entre Rios ..	204	6,687	+ 554	1	107,366	+ 14,975
French Santo Fé	Dec. 11	11,100	+ 2,900	1	226,700	+ 43,600
Gt. South. of Spain	Oct.	81,576	+ 14,083	10	757,768	+ 54,261
Gt. West. of Brazil..	Dec. 11	Ps. 73,964	+ Ps17,121	†	Ps3,019,576	+ Ps201,005
Havana Central	" 18	11,100	— 5,300	1	493,300	+ 123,700
Inter. of C. Amer..	" 11	5,641	+ 429	1	127,972	+ 14,550
La Guaira and Car.	Nov. *	11,96	+ 7,644	11	182,158	+ 42,290
Leopoldina	Dec. 18	6,750	— 1,750	1	74,500	+ 19,000
Manila (N. & Sth.)	" 18	26,600	— 6,949	1	1,490,620	+ 2,128
Midland Uruguay ..	" 18	6,331	— 2,73	1	540,826	+ 40,842
Mogiana	Nov.	8,723	— 949	5	50,743	+ 9,519
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	M2,355,000	— M76,628	10	M198,290	+ M205,587
Nitrate	Nov. *	22,700	— 2,810	10	\$114,764	+ \$28,491
Paraguay Central	Dec. 18	26,570	+ 16,130	1	360,114	+ 176,795
Paulista	" 15	\$ 474,000	— \$188,000	1	\$11,500,000	+ \$520,300
Peruvian Corp'n.	Oct. *	M3,100,000	— M163,352	10	M23,250,000	+ M2,866,37
Salvador	Nov. *	\$ 757,720	+ \$121,176	5	\$3,857,777	+ \$353,574
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	Dec. 18	\$ 21,500	— \$3,625	1	\$73,280	+ \$70,210
Sorocabana	" 11	\$ 32,634	— 2,342	1	\$74,206	+ 179,238
Taitai	Sept. *	M1,718,000	+ M658,031	9	M244,2000	+ M153,7474
United of Havana.	Oct. *	17,708	— 7,538	4	56,461	+ 2,648
West'n of Havana..	Dec. 19	34,973	+ 5,084	1	622,407	+ 139,060
Zafra and Huelva..	" 18	5,107	— 374	1	118,204	+ 5,776
	Nov. *	9,781	+ 1,819	11	94,099	— 39,772

\* Months. † From Jan. 1 ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 11 days. § Apl. 1

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

	Dec. 17	£	£	£	£
Bristol	Dec. 17	10,122	+	1,661	†
Dublin United	" 17	5,714	+	136	†
Hastings and Dist.	" 17	721	—	36	†
Lancashire United..	" 15	1,519	—	60	†
London Cnty. Cncl.	Sept. 24	46,960	—	4,984	†
Provincial	Dec. 18	2,028	—	788	†
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	" 19	1,459	—	134	†

a 5 days. † From Jan. 1. \* Oct. 1. § Apl. 1

## TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms	£	£	
Anglo-Argentine ..	Dec. 16	51,871	+	24	2,555,023	—	132,941
Auckland Electric ..	Nov. 1906	20,910	+	1,579	104,036	—	482
Bombay Electric ..	Oct.	Rs 3,76,766	+	Rs 8,269	Rs 34,95,900	+	Rs 103,82
Brazilian Traction ..	"	M 3,9 7,000	+	M 35,39	M 37,662,420	+	M 202,6682
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Nov.	31,120	+	2,521	338,774	+	20,853
British Columbia ..	Oct.	£ 58,775	—	£ 90,348	£ 145,167	+	£ 470,503
B. A. Lacroze ..	Nov	42,600	+	347	207,402	—	1,364
Burmah Electric ..	Dec. 11	Rs. 3,605	+	Rs. 252	—	+	Rs. 5,832
Calcutta ..	" 18	Rs 67,012	+	Rs. 4,465	* Rs 3,293,475	—	Rs. 35,002
Cordoba Light ..							
P. & T. ..	Oct.	£ 13,439	+	535	97,338	+	2,467
Georgia ..	Sept. 5	£ 34,767	—	£ 905	£ 276,822	—	£ 28
Havana Electric ..	June 20	£ 50,050	—	£ 2,462	£ 1,259,165	—	£ 79,907
Hongkong ..	Nov. 6	£ 10,589	+	£ 1,011	£ 494,467	—	£ 15,623
La Plata ..	"	4,515	+	5	46,836	—	4,096
Lima ..	"	14,601	—	775	149,425	—	14,748
Madras Electric ..	Dec. 15	Rs. 28,666	+	Rs. 4,195	Rs. 672,827	+	Rs. 37,622
Manila ..	Nov.	£ 62,700	—	£ 3,931	£ 661,442	—	£ 45,977
Mexico ..	"	£ 215,256	—	£ 108,009	£ 3,193,106	—	£ 197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 5	£ 40,000	—	£ 25,600	£ 669,500	—	£ 44,500
Rangoon ..	"	4,886	+	286	39,162	+	457
Singapore Electric ..	" 23	£ 12,052	+	£ 2,294	£ 496,948	—	£ 211
Toronto ..	Oct. 5	£ 433,044	+	£ 9,944	£ 3,948,607	—	£ 189,146
United of Monte V. ..	Nov.	£ 8,407	+	£ 1,326	£ 28,407	+	£ 1,326
Vera Cruz ..	Sept.	£ 80,800	+	£ 38,600	£ 481,100	—	£ 177,400
Winnipeg ..	Oct. 5	£ 104,970	—	£ 28,127	£ 951,570	—	£ 471,837



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**NOTICE.**—Owing to the Banks and the Stock Exchange being closed on January 1st, **THE INVESTORS' REVIEW** will next week be published on Friday morning.

**The Investors' Review.****The Week's Money Market.**

**BANK RATE 5 PER CENT.** (Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

*Norfolk House, Thursday Evening.*

During the latter part of last week and on one or two occasions since, the discount market was influenced by a special inquiry for bank paper maturing in March, which was understood to come principally, if not entirely, from Holland. That country has recently taken a good deal of gold from London, the withdrawals announced by the Bank as for "abroad" or for the Continent being for Amsterdam, and this demand has been supplemented by the purchase of bills. Apparently the chief buyers are unable, owing to the provisions of their charters, to take Treasury bills, and holders of ordinary remitted bills have consequently had an opportunity of disposing of them on very satisfactory terms to the seller. Transactions were reported to have taken place at well under 5 per cent., and while the total business at such fine rates was probably very small, they were effective in depressing rates for the ordinary dealings of the market. Nominally, the quotation for three months' maturities did not fall below  $5\frac{1}{8}$  per cent., but the actual working rate was for a time no better than  $5\frac{1}{16}$  per cent. This special demand, however, has come to an end for the present, and holders, as usual towards the end of the year, have shown a greater readiness to turn out their cases. Parcels of very fine paper have been offered more freely during the last day or two, with the result that the three months' rate has hardened to  $5\frac{1}{8}$ - $5\frac{1}{16}$  per cent. A fair business has also been reported in January Treasury bills at rates ranging down to  $4\frac{9}{16}$  per cent., but longer maturities are less wanted, and Februaries were offered at  $4\frac{1}{16}$  per cent., without finding many takers. French Januaries were quoted at about 5 per cent., and Octobers at  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent.

So far the market has not taken much interest in the new Exchequer bonds, but the demand from investors, and particularly in Scotland, appears to have been good. One effect of this has been to divert funds from the usual channels, and as credit has also been held up in some quarters from time to time by the

irregular arrival of both foreign and provincial mails, the Money market has been decidedly "patchy." The inquiry for accommodation has also been rather more pronounced this week, especially towards the end, and borrowers have had to pay up to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for part of their funds, although nominally the quotations are unchanged at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for day-to-day loans, and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for seven days.

In addition to £713,000 received from abroad during the week ended on Wednesday, £87,000 in gold came back from the country, so that the Bank's stock of coin and bullion rose by £810,000 to £51,091,000. As, however, there was an expansion of £831,000 in the note circulation, the reserve is slightly lower, and with a big increase in liabilities, the proportion has fallen to 22.1 per cent. Public Deposits are £998,000 higher, and Other Deposits have risen by £4,564,406, while Other Securities are £5,585,000 up.

Foreign exchanges have moved steadily in favour of this country. The New York cable rate is now showing the effects of the arrangements made, and has improved to 4.73 $\frac{1}{2}$ . At this level the gold withdrawals from London have been substantially reduced, and it is believed that the small amounts now going are on behalf of mercantile firms. The result has been that for the first time since the middle of August the Bank was able this week to show a substantial influx of £713,000 on balance. The Paris cheque receded to 27.59 on the successful placing of the London portion of the "Victory Loan," but it has since risen again to 27.65, while the Dutch exchange, owing to the purchases of bills, has advanced to 11.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Petrograd is up to 152, and the Scandinavian exchanges have all recovered a good part of their recent decline.

**SILVER.**

In addition to the usual purchases of silver by the Mint, buying orders came from India and the Continent in the beginning of the week, and the price improved to 26 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. The demand, however, then seemed to be satisfied for the time being, and with the approach of the holiday the quotation has relapsed again to 25 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 24,00,000 in bills, Rs. 2,65,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,42,50,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 5,81,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 1,48,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 12,71,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4-13d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. receiving about 24 per cent. Special sales have since been made of Rs. 50,000 in bills at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Between April 1 and the 21st inst. the total sales were Rs. 11,12,50,377, realising £7,421,299, compared with Rs. 6,60,44,861 for £4,405,091 to December 22 last year.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has opened a branch at Ford, Ontario.

Mr. Harry Willmott, chairman of the Stratford-on-Avon and Midland Junction Railway Company, has joined the board of the British Coalite Company.

Mr. J. M. Falkner has been elected chairman of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited.

The Right Hon. Viscount Peel has been elected a director of the London and Provincial Bank, Limited.

Messrs. F. S. E. Drury, A. J. Milne, and R. R. Tweed have resigned their seats on the board of the Cheleken Oilfields, Limited.

The death occurred suddenly, on the 21st inst., of Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart, chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Imperial Bank of Persia, and a director of the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, Union Discount Company of London, Limited, and the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, &c.



## BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 22, 1915.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued .. ..	£ 69,363,515	Government Debt .. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities .. ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. ..	50,913,515
		Silver Bullion .. ..	—
	£ 69,363,515		£ 69,363,515

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 32,840,075
Reserve .. ..	3,293,906	Other Securities .. ..	102,450,297
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	53,134,578	Notes .. ..	34,266,065
Other Deposits .. ..	98,733,682	Gold and Silver Coin ..	177,619
Seven Day and other Bills ..	18,890		
	£ 169,734,056		£ 169,734,056

Dated Dec. 23, 1915.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 23.	Dec. 15, 1915.	Dec. 22, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,266,421	Rest .. ..	1,296,508	3,293,906	—
37,458,949	Pub. Deposits ..	52,136,369	53,134,578	998,209
115,405,743	Other do. ..	94,169,276	98,733,682	4,564,406
23,613	7 Day Bills ..	14,597	18,890	4,293
	Assets.			Decrease.
14,805,529	Gov. Securities ..	32,840,075	32,840,075	—
503,293,843	Other do. ..	96,865,303	102,450,297	—
52,603,354	Total Reserve ..	34,329,820	34,443,684	20,688
			5,587,596	5,587,596
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
36,220,050	Note Circulation ..	34,266,800	35,097,450	830,640
70,378,404	Coin and Bullion ..	50,281,182	51,091,134	809,952
348 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.6 p.c.	22.1 p.c.	1.5 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £73,000 in.

## LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date	1915.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ..	£ 958,887,000	1,294,126,000	—	335,229,000
February ..	560,743,000	1,480,294,000	—	519,551,000
March ..	1,231,392,000	1,795,099,000	—	563,707,000
April ..	976,264,000	1,304,990,000	—	328,726,000
May ..	930,909,000	1,300,909,000	—	355,304,000
June ..	1,193,494,000	1,641,923,000	—	448,429,000
July ..	1,316,695,000	1,337,832,000	—	21,137,000
August ..	1,076,534,000	679,099,000	397,435,000	—
Sept. ..	1,275,993,000	895,957,000	380,036,000	—
Oct. ..	1,690,919,000	984,535,000	106,383,000	—
Nov. 3	273,423,000	248,870,000	24,553,000	—
" 10	269,284,000	232,258,000	37,026,000	—
" 17	262,398,000	222,590,000	39,808	—
" 24	261,627,000	200,392,000	61,235,000	—
Dec. 1	263,784,000	215,603,000	48,181,000	—
" 8	271,441,000	241,793,000	29,648,000	—
" 15	255,433,000	203,817,000	51,616,000	—
" 22	266,660,000	206,560,000	60,100,000	—
Total ..	13,135,780,000	14,471,942,000	—	1,336,162,000

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 18.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs .. ..	£ 1,076,000
Excise .. ..	3,200,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	543,000
Stamps .. ..	95,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—
Property and Income Tax ..	440,000
Land Values Duties ..	—
Post Office .. ..	1,660,000
Crown Lands .. ..	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	—
Miscellaneous .. ..	240,046
Bullion advances repaid ..	120,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	19,274,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
War Loan, 1925-8 .. ..	—
War Loan, 1925-45 .. ..	—
American Loan .. ..	10,594,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	1,484,900
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	170,000
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	30,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1907-1903 ..	—
Under Housing Act .. ..	94,000
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments ..	—
Cunard Loan—r. payment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity .. ..	—
Ways and Means Advances ..	10,000,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances .. ..	5,616,174
	£ 54,577,120
	£ 54,577,120

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Foreign coin ..	£ 100,000
Tuesday—Bars .. ..	U.S.A. .. ..
Wednesday—Bars .. ..	Monday—Continent ..
	Tuesday—U.S.A. .. ..
	Canada .. ..
	Continent .. ..
	Wednesday—U.S.A. ..
	Egypt (set aside) ..
	Thursday—U.S.A. .. ..
	Nett Influx .. ..
£ 1,540,000	£ 1,540,000

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 3, 1915.	Nov. 26, 1915.	Nov. 19, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 48,845,800	49,197,200	49,080,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	250,400	250,400	246,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	15,940,000	14,766,000	13,869,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	6,536,200	7,442,400	6,434,600
Total reserves .. ..	71,572,400	71,656,000	69,630,000
10-day bills and loans ..	1,356,800	1,232,800	920,600
30-day bills and loans ..	2,348,000	2,225,800	2,464,000
60-day bills and loans ..	3,724,000	3,665,000	3,167,000
90-day bills and loans ..	2,153,200	1,904,800	1,803,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	691,200	766,200	674,600
Total .. ..	10,271,200	9,794,600	9,029,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds .. ..	2,775,000	2,583,800	2,534,800
Municipal Warrants ..	3,564,200	5,461,600	5,503,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,623,600	3,835,200	3,758,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	3,955,000	2,810,600	3,165,400
All other assets .. ..	1,310,400	926,600	732,400
Total assets .. ..	97,071,800	97,068,400	94,354,600
Paid-up capital .. ..	10,971,800	10,969,200	10,970,800
Government Deposits ..	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	78,593,200	79,590,400	76,999,400
Note circulation—nett.	2,793,800	2,677,000	2,584,600
All other liabilities ..	1,713,000	831,800	799,800
Total liabilities .. ..	97,071,800	97,068,400	94,354,600
Gold reserve against nett liabilities .. ..	80.9%	77.9%	79.6%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities .. ..	89.0%	86.9%	87.7%

## TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Sales of Treasury Bills during the week ended December 18 amounted to £19,208,000, or a daily average of about £3,200,000. Bills to the amount of £6,422,000 were repaid, leaving a nett increase of £12,786,000 in the amount outstanding.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1916.	
10,000,000	12 months	Feb. 27.	2 17 1/2
*361,180,000			
371,180,000			

\* Issued otherwise than by tender.

## NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 18, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Dec. 19, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 635,364,000	630,082,000	626,566,000	435,640,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	100,970,000	103,916,000	103,466,000	67,020,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,818,000	32,262,000	32,634,000	18,920,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,898,000	10,888,000	10,928,000	6,220,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	647,782,000	645,014,000	642,322,000	394,480,000
Nett Time Deposits .. ..	29,791,000	29,364,000	29,010,000	18,760,000
Circulation .. ..	7,010,000	7,023,000	7,020,000	11,700,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	32,754,000	35,604,000	36,088,000	24,200,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

## NEW YORK STATE BANKS &amp; TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 18, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Dec. 19, 1914.
Loans .. ..	£ 124,492,000	123,818,000	123,512,000	111,700
Specie .. ..	10,578,000	10,560,000	10,532,000	—
Deposits .. ..	129,740,000	129,118,000	128,412,000	11,080,000
Legal Tenders .. ..	2,016,000	2,000,000	1,974,000	—

## BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Dec. 12, 1914.
Gold .. ..	£ 34,476,414	34,197,467	33,737,709	22,836,004
Silver .. ..	30,116,000	30,010,224	30,113,734	28,253,244
Foreign Bills .. ..	4,028,710	4,010,826	4,093,578	5,987,517
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,403,124	26,346,394	26,059,467	31,710,941
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,260,526	28,202,793	28,049,280	23,402,943
Notes in Circulation .. ..	82,541,108	82,686,411	82,380,191	78,168,338
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	27,536,101	27,036,465	27,137,127	23,756,998
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,110,874	1,238,045	1,750,105	1,144,419
Government Securities .. ..	2,799,477	2,729,489	1,991,590	4,919,619



## IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Dec. 15, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	123,748,550	123,605,900	123,628,100	104,845,700
Treasury Notes	16,018,050	23,083,650	33,431,050	31,374,500
Bills discounted	263,771,750	249,596,200	233,589,500	153,547,500
Advances	732,100	679,000	757,350	3,213,400
Note circulation	304,989,050	302,041,500	299,070,600	213,765,800
Deposits	88,286,300	83,363,450	79,392,350	85,714,650

Clearing House returns during Nov. £222,927,375 against £242,546,610 in Oc.

## NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Dec. 12, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	35,059,218	34,755,993	34,291,515	16,301,822
Silver	334,732	291,152	314,714	484,058
Bills discounted, &c.	13,851,948	13,969,281	13,935,172	25,089,933
Note circulation	47,103,267	47,382,130	47,123,240	39,525,054
Deposits	3,609,488	3,046,307	2,724,577	1,284,265

## IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 6, 1915.	Nov. 29, 1915.	Nov. 20, 1915.	Dec. 6, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	6,925,500	7,437,800	7,051,600	6,933,600
Cash in reserve	160,815,100	160,828,700	160,518,450	155,392,900
Gold in reserve abroad	22,809,100	22,851,400	13,372,700	21,512,700
Circulation note issue	528,900,000	523,900,000	518,400,000	290,000,000
Treasury deposits	23,344,500	23,805,700	25,061,603	20,622,900

## SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Dec. 15, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	12,096,796	12,073,100	12,113,840	10,443,624
Bills	5,390,712	5,519,412	5,605,816	6,851,148
Note circulation	16,480,524	16,697,940	17,098,420	16,642,756
Current and deposit accounts	3,856,800	3,368,756	2,982,956	3,592,132

## BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 4, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915.	Dec. 12, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,342,000	6,921,000	6,294,000	5,808,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	7,665,000	7,980,000	7,581,000	2,506,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	2,897,000	2,908,000	2,918,000	1,472,000
Discounts and Loans	5,689,000	4,931,000	4,604,000	10,811,000
Notes in circulation	16,426,000	16,863,000	15,971,000	15,412,000
Deposits at notice	5,911,000	5,150,000	5,296,000	5,368,000

## BANK OF NORWAY.

	Dec. 15, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915.	Dec. 15, 1914.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	3,614,000	3,526,000	3,659,000	2,286,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	3,499,000	3,788,000	3,694,000	1,574,000
Govt. Securities	781,000	781,000	781,000	508,000
Discounts & Loans	4,509,000	4,314,000	4,200,000	6,569,000
Notes in Circulation	8,717,000	8,404,000	8,416,000	7,714,000
Deposits at notice	1,147,000	1,377,000	1,317,000	1,945,000

## LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 16, 1915.		Dec. 21, 1915.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Holland	Three months' bills	10.93	11.04*	11.08	11.15*
Do.	Cable transfers	10.75	10.83	10.91	10.96
Italy	Three months' bills	31.45	31.55*	31.43	31.55*
Do.	Cable transfers	31	31.10	30.93	31.08
Lisbon & Oporto	Cable transfers	33½	34½	34½	35
Do.	Three months' bills				
Paris	Three months' bills	28	28.10*	27.94	28.05*
Do.	Cable transfers	27.62½	27.67½	27.56	27.61
Petrograd	Cable transfers	149	151	151½	152½
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	16.50	17.20		
Do.	Three months' bills			17.90	19*
Spain (Bnk. ples.)	Three months' bills	45½	46½	46½	47*
Do.	Cable transfers	25.12	25.22	25.08	25.16
Switzerland	Three months' bills	25.31	25.45	25.30	25.45*
Do.	Cable transfers	24.90	25	24.85	24.95

Nominal.

## FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	obqs.	27.65	27.66	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	obqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	31.10	31.05
Amsterdam	sight	11.10	11.88	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	obqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Hamburg	obqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	49½d.	49½d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd	3 mths	150	149½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4½d.
New York	sight	4.73	4.72½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/11d.	1/10½
Lisbon	sight	34½d.	34½d.	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7½d.	2/6½d.
Madrid	sight	25.10	25.12½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

## TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5	5
Six months	5	5
Nine months	5	5
Twelve months	5	5

## OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5	5-5½
Three months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months	5½	5½-5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	5½-6	5½-6
Four months	5½-6	5½-6
Six months	5½-6	5½-6

## BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5	5
short loan rates	5	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	3½	3½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4	4
7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½-4½	4½-4½
for call loans	4-4½	4-4½

## The Week's Stock Markets.

Hardly anything need be said about Stock Exchange matters this week, business having been smaller than ordinary by reason of the nearness of the holidays. Also men's minds were a good deal occupied with the business and intentions of the Government. There is that Exchequer bonds issue which does not promise much in the way of pickings for the market, and in the middle of the week comes the project for acquiring by purchase or loan as large masses as possible of American securities to be used for credit generating in New York. Until that project appeared the market was in doubt about its treatment, many people having picked up the mistaken idea that the Government was going to cut into their business and do it itself for nothing in the manner promised by our bucket-shops. Happily that fear has proved to be groundless, and now we have a much more cheerful mood prevalent. Prices have been going up for Government stocks, and ever since the French Loan came out there has been a considerable business in it done here. On the whole, then, the "House" may close for its Christmas holidays with some degree of confidence.

There is still, however, no small grumbling at times over the cavalier treatment of the market by the Treasury, and people are continually expressing surprise that so little would seem to be known there of business usages, and of what may be called the courtesies due to the market by those who seek its services. Perhaps if enough clamour is made to penetrate the sacred recesses of the Exchequer, more friendly feelings and more harmonious co-operation may ensue. Assuredly this is not the time to ruffle handlers of the sources of credit in any direction.

In regard to the members of the Stock Exchange born abroad, the Committee has given notice to the "House" of an amendment to rule 29 just adopted by it. It is to the effect that no candidate for admission of German or Austro-Hungarian origin will henceforth be eligible for membership. Rule 29 as it stands merely prescribes that a candidate for admission who has been a foreign subject is ineligible for membership until he has been naturalised for a period of five years and resident in this country for ten. Instead of that lenient stipulation—bitter experience has taught us its misplaced benignity—it is now intended to exclude Germans and Austrians altogether, and the proposed new rule will come up for confirmation on January 5. From the present temper of the market we should fear that the Committee's proposal will be accepted, unfortunate though the decision may prove to be for many estimable men. Germans, of all nationalities, have to thank the Prussian saviour for the change in our attitude towards them.

With the approach of the holidays business on the Stock Exchange has grown gradually less and less, but on the whole the tendency has been quite satisfactory. British Government securities fell on the new Exchequer bond issue, but quickly



rallied, and Consols, after fluctuating between 57½ and 58½, finished at the top. A good business was done in the 4½ per cent. War Loan, but it was heavy in the early part of the week, and the sharp advance towards the close left the price only ½ up. Colonial Government stocks were also affected by the Exchequer bond issue, but they likewise recovered, and Canada, Union of South Africa, New South Wales, and Victoria 4½ per cent. all show gains of ½ to ¾. In the Foreign Government market the new French loan was freely dealt in, and at one time rose to 81½, but it has since gone back to 81½. Japanese 4½ per cent. issues were again bought in connection with the

shares dipped to 187½, but gradually improved and finished with a gain of ½, but Trunk stocks were weak. American Railroad shares, as usual, merely reflected the ups and downs of Wall Street. That market was heavy at first on fears of trouble with Austria, but became more cheerful on the improvement reported from Mexico. Changes, however, were irregular, Erie, Union Pacific, Norfolk and Atchison being down, while New York Central, Milwaukee, Pennsylvania and Southern Pacific showed gains. Argentine Railways were generally harder, but the only important change was a rise of ½ to 8½ in Central Argentine. Antofagasta deferred touched 124, but closed unaltered, Leopoldina dropped a fraction, and United of Havana fell to 73. Mexican Railway stocks were inclined to harden on the report that General Villa was leaving the country.

Bank stocks were dull, but prices showed very few changes. In the London group National Provincial ½12 paid fell ½, London County and Westminster dropped ½, and Barclay issues were ½ and ¾ down, but Capital and Counties and Parr's improve ½ each. In the Colonial and Foreign section Chartered of India gained ½, but National of India was that fraction lower, and Hongkong and Shanghai fell to 75½. London of Australia, London and River Plate, and British of South America lost ½ each, and Anglo-Egyptian were ½ down. Amongst Shipping shares there was a remarkable jump to 75s. 6d. in Cunard, but Royal Mail, after rising to 105½, relapsed to 102 on profit-taking, and closed only ½ above that figure. A fair business was done in Furness, Withy round about 35s., and P. and O. deferred was steady at 278 xd. Hudson's Bay shares declined to 6, but at that level found a few buyers, and closed a shade better. Forestal Land ordinary shares were lifted to 44s. on the interim dividend, but the preference were a shade easier. Brazilian Traction recovered to 83, but were then offered, and dropped back to 51, while Rio Tramways 5 per cent. bonds fell to 91. Motor shares were quiet, with a relapse in Rolls-Royce, and although there was a little business in Darracq ordinary and preferred after the meeting, it was not sufficient to affect prices. National Steam Car shares, however, came into favour on the report and dividend. United Alkali preference met with support, but Castner-Kellner and British Aluminium both gave way, and Associated Cement were dull and a trifle lower. Cuban Ports were bought, and rose to 36, apparently on the belief that some arrangement had been come to with the Government, but they have since fallen sharply to 26, as the Legation officially denied that the Government has any kind of negotiation pending or has made any proposition of an exchange of bonds of the Republic for bonds and shares of this company. Canadian Engineering things have been more or less neglected, and most of them show losses on the week. Otis Steel fell back to 42, but recovered to 45, and domestic Iron and Steel concerns were generally a trifle harder, and in Armament and Munition things Thornycroft and Projectile improved. Aerated Bread and Lyons were both sold and Van den Berghs were dull, but there was a little inquiry for Bovril preference. A demand sprang up for Waring and Gallow, sending the preference up to 9s. and the ordinary to 3s., Harrods (Buenos Aires) shares firmed up a little, and South American Stores debentures hardened on the report. Textiles were quiet, with a little selling of Coats at 4½.

With the exception of a little business in "Shell" on the directors' hopeful circular, the Oil share market has been more or less idle. Royal Dutch were at once time marked up to 46½, but fell back to 46½, and Spies, North Caucasian and Ural Caspian were dull. Emba Caspian, however, were wanted, and rose to 7s., and Anglo-Egyptian "B" were a shade harder. Mexican Eagle were firm on the dividend announcements. In the Rubber market there has been, by comparison, a considerable amount of activity, but the business actually done was restricted by the difficulty of reconciling the views of buyers and sellers. Java descriptions have again been the principal favourites, with a good inquiry from the North. Anglo-Java and Langen were the most prominent, but strong support was also forthcoming for Kawie, Djasinga, Bajoe, Kidoel, and Telogoredjo. In the Malay and Sumatra group, United Sua Betong were sought after on the large increase in the output, the total for 11 months being 84,000 lbs. above the estimate for the whole year. United Serdang were also in request on the highly satisfactory report just issued, and good business was reported in Batu Tiga, Pataling, Highlands, Straits Bertam, Bukit Mertajam, and Petepah Valley.

### LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

In keeping with this advanced period of the year, business became more and more diminished and is likely to remain within narrow limits until early in the new year, as stocktaking measures go to form a barrier to anything like general trading.

**SUGAR.**—This market remains in precisely the same condition as that commented upon previously, being at a fixed tendency while under Government control, and dealings this week were of a holiday character. Supplies of grocery cane crystallised West India remain small, and full rates are obtainable. American granulated, spot, 32s. 6d.

**COFFEE** continues very quiet, the small number of licenses allowed from time to time being insufficient to make any appreciable inroad into existing stocks, while requirements of the home trade do not count for much just now. A featureless state of affairs prevailed respecting the future delivery position.

**Cocoa.**—Only retail transactions occurred, the situation at the moment being nominal.

**TEA.**—The recent firmness in this market made further progress, especially with regard to common grades, and which suffered so

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	58½	58½	N.S.W. 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	97½	97½
War Loan 3½%.....	59½	59½	" 4½% 1922-7.....	96½	96½
India 3½%.....	97	97½	New Zealand 4½%.....	95	95
" 3½%.....	60½	60½	Queensland 4½%.....	92	92
Canada 4½% 1940-60.....	92	92	" 4½% new.....	98½	98
" 4½% 1920-5.....	96½	96½	Union of S. Africa 4½%.....	95½	95½
N.S.W. 4½%.....	95	95	1920-5.....	98	98
			Victoria 4½% 1920-5.....		
Belgian 3%.....	55	55	French War Loan, 5% ..	—	81½
Brazil, 1913.....	60	60	Japan 4½% (1st).....	92	93
" New Funding.....	75	75½	" (2nd).....	91½	92½
Chinese 1896.....	93	92½	Russia 4%.....	69½	69½
" 1913.....	77½	77½	" 4½%.....	70½	70½
Egypt Unified 4½%.....	75½	75½	" 5%.....	84½	84½
Brighton defd.....	54½	52½	London and S.-W. dfd. ...	24½	24½
Caledonian defd.....	7½	7½	Do. new pf. ....	101	101½
Chatham ord.....	78	78	Metropolitan.....	24½	24½
Gt. Central dfd.....	13½	13½	Do. 5% New pf. ....	95½	95
" dfd.....	7	6½	Met. District.....	15½	15½
Gt. Eastern.....	36½	36	Midland dfd.....	58½	58½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39	39	Nth. British dfd.....	16	16
Gt. Western.....	92½	92½	Nth.-Eastern.....	101½	101
Lancs. and Yorks.....	69½	69½	Nth.-Western.....	102½	102½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	24½	23½
Canadian Pacific.....	192	191½	Chesapeake.....	65	64½
Do. 6% Notes.....	110½	110½	Erie.....	45	44
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93	93	Milwaukee.....	98½	98
Grand Trunk ord.....	17½	17½	N. Y. Central.....	111½	111
Do. 3rd pf. ....	27½	26½	Southern.....	23½	23½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes.....	99½	99½	Southern Pacific.....	106½	106½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. ".....	98½	98½	Union Pacific.....	145½	144½
Atchison.....	112½	111½	U. S. Steel.....	90½	89½
Baltimore.....	97½	97½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	123	123	Cent. Argentine ord.....	82	82½
Do. 6% Notes.....	100	100	Do. 5% Notes.....	98½	98
Brazil Common.....	46½	47	Do. 6%.....	101	101
B. A. & Pacific.....	81½	82	Leopoldina.....	37½	37
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	84½	84½	Mexican ord.....	19	19½
B. A. Western.....			San Paulo (Brazilian)....	177	175
			United of Havana.....	73½	73
Bank of Australasia.....	108	108	London City & Midland..	72½	72½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	84	84	London County & West..	15½	15½
Do. "B".....	112	11	London Joint Stock.....	21½	21½
Capital & Counties.....	22½	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	25½	25½
Chartered of India.....	54	54½	Do. (£12 pd).....	29	28½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	76	75½	Parr's.....	29½	30
Lloyds.....	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.....	103	103½
London & Provincial.....	15½	15½	Union & Smiths.....	23½	23½
London & S.W.....	112	11			
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Forestal Land.....	44½	44½
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	34½	34½	Furness, Withy.....	35½	34½
Associated Cement.....	32	32½	Hudson's Bay.....	6	6½
Birmingham Small Arms	36½	37	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.....	25½	25½	Do. dfd. 'A'.....	35½	35½
Bovril.....	20½	20½	Kynochs.....	29½	29½
Brazil Traction.....	52½	51	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ....	21½	21½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	37½	37½	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.....	27½	28½	Marconi.....	1½	1½
Brunner, Mond.....	38	38½	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	24½	24½
Cammell-Laird.....	41½	41½	Mond Nickel ord.....	37½	37½
Castner-Kellner.....	60½	60½	National Steam Car.....	12½	12½
Coats.....	57½	57½	Pears, A. & F.....	2	2
Cunard.....	70½	75½	P. & O. dfd.....	278½	278½
Dennis Bros.....	26½	26½	Royal Mail.....	103	102½
Dorman, Long.....	22½	22½	South Durham Steel.....	27½	27½
Eastmans.....	8½	8½	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	77	76½
English Sewing Cotton.....	34½	34½	Vickers.....	33½	34½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	25½	25½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	8	8½	Mexican Eagle pf.....	18½	18½
Baku (ros.).....	2½	2½	North Caucasian.....	22½	22½
Burmah.....	3½	3½	Roumanian Cons.....	13½	13½
Lobitos.....	32½	32½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	46½	46½
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3½	3½	Shell.....	48	47½
Maikop Pipeline.....	4½	4½	Spies (10/-).....	12½	12½
Mexican Eagle.....	18½	18½	Ural Caspian.....	1½	1½
Anglo-Malay.....	10½	10½	Linggi.....	17½	18½
Batu Caves.....	12	12	London Asiatic.....	6½	6½
Bukit Mertajam.....	3½	3½	Malacca.....	4½	4½
Bukit Sembawang.....	2½	3½	Malayalam.....	23½	24½
Damansara.....	3	3½	M-rimau.....	4½	4½
Gula Kalumpung.....	1½	1½	Rubber Trust (15/ pd.) ..	10½	11½
Highlands.....	2½	2½	United Serdang.....	10½	11½
Johore Rubber Lands.....	17½	18½	Vallambrosa.....	15½	15½
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	10½	10½
Brakpan.....	3½	3½	East Rand.....	17½	17½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	47½	48½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	15½	15½
Cam & Motor.....	14½	14½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12).....	6½	6½	Modder "B".....	5½	5½
Chartered.....	11½	10½	Do. Deep.....	5½	5½
City Deep.....	3½	3½	New Modder (£4).....	15½	15½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	18½	18½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	4½	4½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	54½	55½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3½	3½	Van Ryn Deep.....	28½	28½

sinking fund, and improved ¾, but the other stocks were inclined to be heavy. Peru Corporation preference fell to 22½, and the 6 per cent. debentures to 81, on the possibility of smaller guano receipts, and Uruguay 3½ per cent. stock was lower at 56½, but Brazilian 1914 Funding was harder at 75½.

Home Railway stocks went down and up with the gilt-edged market, with a very small business passing. North-Western came into favour towards the end and improved to 102½, while Great Northern deferred was a fraction up, but North-Eastern gave way. Brighton deferred was perhaps the weakest stock in the market, dropping to 52½. Underground Electric income bonds and debenture stock were both lower. Canadian Pacific



severely in the previous depression. It would appear that the upward move is mainly brought about by fears as to further shipments from Calcutta and Colombo to this country being considerably curtailed by lack of tonnage, as the crop harvested in India proved prolific. During the week 50,000 packages Indian were offered, and 30,000 packages Ceylon.

**SPICE.**—Pepper, also cloves and tapioca, ruled quiet, but generally steady.

**FIBRES.**—Jute proved quiet apart from Daisee qualities, though rates moved steadily on stiff cables from Calcutta, where scarcity of freightage is causing some uneasiness. Native first marks, December-January steamer, London, sold, £27 5s. to £27 10s.;

### CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 22, 1915.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
<b>Sugar</b> —per cwt., duty 9/4, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	<b>Wool</b> —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 0 6	2 0 6	Australian		
Ditto, No. 2	2 0 0	2 0 0	Scoured Merino	1 43-3 13	1 33-3 0
Fine granulated	1 13 0	1 13 0	Scoured Cr'sabr'd	1 4—2 4	1 6-2 0
Lyle's granulated	32 3-32 9	32 3-32 9	Greasy Merino	0 72-1 9	0 72-1 7 1/2
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	0 9-1 2	0 62-1 8 1/2
German Cubef.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 112-2 7	2 1-2 9
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 7 1/2	1 0-1 5 1/2
Crystallised, West India	29 3-31 9	29 3-31 9	Cape snow white	1 2-2 6	1 6-2 5 1/2
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	<b>Indiarubber</b> p. lb.		
<b>Tea</b> —per lb., duty 1/-	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe	0 72-1 13	0 7-1 13	Crepe	0 3 6 1/2	0 3 7 1/2
Broken	0 72-1 22	0 72-1 2	<b>Coal</b> —per ton.		
Orange	0 72-1 2	0 72-1 2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 82-1 33	10-1 6	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 62-0 102	0 62-0 102	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 72-0 112	0 72-0 112	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 82-1 0	0 82-1 0	Steamers, best	21 0	20 0
Orange	0 82-1 1	0 82-1 12	Seconds	17 6	17 0
Broken	0 92-1 13	0 9-1 12	<b>Lead</b> —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 72-0 102	0 72-0 92	English Pig	29 10 0	29 10 0
<b>Cocoa</b> —per cwt., duty 1 1/4, per lb.			Foreign soft	28 15 0	29 2 6
Trinidad—per cwt.	90 0-96 0	90 0-96 0	<b>Julksilver</b> —per bottle firsthand	£ 168-£ 168	£ 168-£ 168
Grenada	83 0-91 0	83 0-91 0	Fin—per ton	£	£
West Africa	nom.	nom.	English Ingots	167-168	166-167
Ceylon Plantation	77 0-91 0	77 0-91 0	Do. bars	168-169	167-168
Guayaquil Arriba	90 0-94 0	90 0-94 0	Standard cash	£ 167 10 0	£ 166 0 0
<b>Coffee</b> —per cwt., duty 2 1/4, per cwt.			Fin Plates, per box	24/6-24/9	24/9 25/
East India	56 0-94 0	56 0-94 0	<b>Copper</b> —per ton.		
Jamaica	52 0-120 6	52 0-120 6	English, Tough	£ 98 1/2-£ 99 1/2	£ 101-£ 102
Costa Rica	53 0-76 0	53 0-76 0	per ton	£ 97-£ 98	£ 100-£ 101
<b>Provisions</b>			Best Selected	£ 112	£ 112
Butter, per cwt.			Sheets	£ 80 12 6	£ 84 2 6
Australian finest	150/-156/-	144/-152/-	<b>Jute</b> —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	152/-160/-	nom.	Native firsts for sh'pmt. Dec.-Jan.	£ 27 5 0	£ 27 10 0
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	<b>Oils</b>		
Russian finest	126/-134/-	126/-134/-	Linseed, per ton.	£ 36 1/2-£ 37 1/2	£ 38 1/2-£ 39 1/2
Normandy baskets	150/-154/-	150/-154/-	Rape, ref. English		
Danish finest	168/-172/-	160/-168/-	barrels	£ 45	£ 46
Brittany rolls	14 6-18 0	14 6-18 0	rown English		
<b>Bacon</b> —per cwt.			naked	£ 43	£ 43
Irish	93 0-103 0	93 0-103 0	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 39	£ 41 10
Continental	92 0-103 0	98 0-105 0	Ditto, refined	£ 40-£ 45	£ 44-£ 48
Canadian	96 0-93 0	84 0-93 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	rod.	rod.
American	83 0-80 0	81 0-84 0	Water White	11d.	11d.
<b>Hams</b> —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	134/-150/-	134/-144/-	Calcutta—per 4 1/2 lbs.	3 12 6	3 16 6
Canadian	100/-104/-	97/-100/-	Rape, Guzerat		
American	70 0-98 0	68 0-98 0	Nov.-Dec.	3 7 6	3 7 6
<b>Cheese</b> —per cwt.			<b>Iron</b> —per ton		
Edam	nom.	nom.	Cleveland Cash	3 16 10	3 17 0
Canadian	90 0-94 0	94 0-98 0	<b>Tobacco</b> —duty, unmanufactured		
Gouda	nom.	nom.	5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb.		
English Cheddar	92 0-102 0	92 0-102 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
New Zealand	90 0-92 0	91 0-92 0	Virginia leaf	0 5 1/2-1 6	0 5 1/2-1 6
<b>Rice</b> —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Garden Siam			Latakia	0 4 1/2-1 0	0 4 1/2-1 0
Spot	15 6	14 6	tiavana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Rangoon 2 stars	15 0	14 9-15 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
<b>Eggs</b> —per 120.			Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2	2 0
Dutch	nom.	27 0-30 0	<b>Timber</b> —Wood.		
Russian	16 0-19 0	16 0-19 0	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Danish	27 0-29 0	27 6-30 0	Indian Teak	260/-600/-	280/-600/-
<b>Copra</b>			<b>Flour</b> —per sack.		
Malabar, London	31 0 0	33 0 0	Town households, official	48/	49/
Ceylon, London	30 0 0	32 0 0	American, 1st patents	up to 48/6	up to 51/
South Sea	27 5 0	29 5 0	<b>Turpentine</b>		
M.F.S. Straits	28 5 0	31 10 0	American Spot	2 6 9	2 8 3
			<b>Spelter</b>		
			G.O.B. as to position	£ 88-£ 78	£ 88-£ 78

Daisee No. 2, January-February, Dundee, at £25 5s. Hemp dearer, and a fair business resulted. New graded fair, prompt, sold, £45; medium, £43 15s.; coarse, £37 10s. to £37 15s.; brown, £36 to £36 5s. New Zealand also advanced, and H.P.F., January-March, sold, £37 5s.

**RUBBER** after being firm disclosed slight irregularity, and a feature during the week was a fair inquiry from American houses in the East for parcels on f.o.b. terms. Plantation spot crêpe sold, 3s. 7d.; December, at 3s. 7d.; July-December, 3s. 2d. Fine hard Para, spot and forward, sold, 3s. 2 1/2d. to 3s. 3d. Standard ribbed smoked sheet, spot, realised 3s. 6d. to 3s. 6 1/2d.

**COPRA.**—Business remains quite at a standstill as far as the London market is concerned, where extensive stocks on spot act as

a deterrent to crushers, becoming interested in forward positions. On the other hand, however, consumers in Marseilles proved large buyers forward, and to this destination dearer rates were required, and in most instances obtained, owing to paucity of local stocks.

**CORN** (Mark Lane).—As the year draws to a close buyers have shown very little disposition to embark in fresh business since last Monday, but further advances have been established in the principal sections. Offers continue to be made reservedly. Wheat (English): Whites nominally range to 59s. 6d., and reds to 58s. 6d. per qr. (504 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 63s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 62s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents moved to 49s., and Manitoba patents to 48s., landed. Grinding barley: Plate, 42s. ex ship, and 43s. ex quay. Maize: Plate, sound, 43s. ex ship, and 43s. 9d. to 44s. ex quay. White flat South African, 44s. 6d., quay terms. Oats: Plate, 32s. 3d. upwards, landed. American nominal.

**METALS.**—Copper: Influenced by a further rise in the price of electrolytic, the speculative market developed increased strength, sellers being scarce. Standard spot fluctuated to £85, and three months to £83 5s. At Tuesday's session values settled down at £84 5s., for both positions. Electro, £100 to £101. Tin firmer at the week's commencement, but rather below the best, dealings being limited. Spot standard settled down at £168 5s., and three months, £169. At Tuesday's session values of these dates left off at £167 5s. and £168 5s. respectively. Lead steady. Foreign, December to March, £28 17s. 6d. to £28 10s. Spelter easier. G.O.B., December, £87, and March, £77. Iron steady.

**TALLOW.**—In auction, 519 casks were submitted, and 482 found buyers, prices being steady to 6d. per cwt. firmer. Mutton, 44s. to 50s. 3d., and beef, 45s. 9d. to 50s. 3d. per cwt.

**COTTON** (from our Manchester correspondent).—Although holiday influences have prevailed in the market during the past week, business has not been at a standstill. If anything, the tone has been rather stronger, and in some quarters there is more disposition to purchase, owing to the fear of still higher prices in the near future. Various influences are at work which help to support the bullish feeling in the raw material markets. Freight charges from the United States to Liverpool are very high, and distinctly add to the cost of spinners. There is no particular change in the prospects for supplies in either American or Egyptian qualities. A considerable inquiry has been experienced in piece goods for export, and although a large part of the demand has been impracticable, some sellers have done fairly well. India has continued purchasing light fabrics, such as mulls and dhooties, and occasional moderate lots have been put through in shirtings. Printing cloths have also been in request, especially for early delivery. The China market, on the whole, can only be described as unsatisfactory, but operations have not been altogether at a standstill in fancy materials and bleaching cloths. Some of the smaller markets of the Far East, such as Java, have given rather increased support. Goods are wanted in Egypt, but our customers do not readily pay the prices required by manufacturers on this side. The undercurrent of demand in finishing cloths continues healthy, and, owing to the scarcity of chemicals, supplies are limited. The home trade for the time of the year is doing well, and some special contracts have been reported in heavy materials for the Government. American yarns for home use have tended to harden in quotation, and spinners continue in a strong position. There has not been much forward buying, but an encouraging demand has been reported in small lots for quick delivery, especially in wefts. The export section has been rather quiet, and buyers are declining to pay the prices ruling at the moment, especially for India. The improvement in Bolton spinnings continues. The better qualities are attracting increased attention, and Egyptian yarns as a whole are in a distinctly healthier condition than a few months ago.

### DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

#### MINES.

Butters Salvador.—25 cents, and a bonus of 12 cents per share, payable Dec. 27, same as a year ago.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—12 1/2 per cent., against 10 per cent. F. M. S. Timah.—Interim of 25 per cent. free tax, payable Dec. 22. For the whole of 1914 a dividend of 30 per cent. was paid.

Glencairn Main Reef.—5 per cent., same as a year ago. Ginsberg.—7 1/2 per cent., same as a year ago. Gopeng Consolidated.—7d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 7. Langlaagte Estate.—Final of 7 1/2 per cent. (making 15 per cent. for the year), payable Feb. 10. Last year the final dividend was 5 per cent., making a total of 10 per cent.

Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining.—40 per cent. (8s. per share) for six months ending Dec. 31, and a bonus of 50 per cent. (10s. per share), making 130 per cent. for 1915, against 70 per cent. for 1914.

New Unified Main Reef.—10 per cent., same as a year ago. New Primrose.—7 1/2 per cent., against 20 per cent. New Goch.—5 per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, making 10 per cent. for 1915. Van Ryn Deep.—17 1/2 per cent., against 12 1/2 per cent. Witwatersrand.—25 per cent., same as a year ago.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Barratt and Co.—For half-year ended Nov. 30 at the rates of 14 per cent. per annum (making 12 per cent. for the year) on the ordinary, and 6 1/2 per cent. per annum (making 6 per cent. for the year) on the preference.



California Petroleum.—1 per cent., payable Jan. 3, on the preferred.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—Annual statement shows net profits, \$2,352,035; carry forward, \$461,892, after paying usual subscriptions to pension fund, dividends and bonuses to shareholders, \$1,000,000 reserved against further depreciation in securities, subscriptions; \$5,000 to British Red Cross Society; cash reserves, \$39,901,993; total assets, \$250,000,000.

Dulcia Steam Shipping.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per £1 share, payable 30th inst.

European Gas.—Interim of 10s. per share, payable Feb. 1, free tax, same as last year. The directors state that until the accounts are made up for the financial year it is impossible to estimate how far the profits will be affected by the war and what the amount of the final dividend will be.

Henry Clay and Bock and Co.—The directors have decided to pay a dividend of 16 per cent. on the preference, being in respect of the 8 per cent. for the year 1908 and the 8 per cent. for the year 1909. Warrants will be mailed from New York on the 29th inst.

Imperial Tobacco of Canada.—Interim on the ordinary of 1½ per cent. for current year, payable with the final dividend of 1 per cent. in respect of the year ended Sept. 30, 30th inst.

Kelly's Directories.—Usual interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—For year ended June 30 of 5 per cent., less tax, against all in 1913-14.

Lochgelly Iron and Coal.—Interim on the ordinary of 15s. per share, less tax, against 5s., less tax.

Mexican Eagle Oil.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the preference in respect of year ending June 30 next; also a final of 4 per cent. on the ordinary in respect of year ended June 30 last, same as a year ago.

Mitchells and Butlers.—Interim on the ordinary at rate of 6 per cent., payable Jan. 5, same as a year ago.

Montgomery, Ward and Co.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the preferred, payable Jan. 1.

North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage.—Final of 8½ per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent., making for the year 18½ per cent., less tax, on the final portion, against 17½ per cent., free tax, last year.

Permas Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, an account of year ending June 30, 1916, payable Dec. 23. For the whole of the preceding year the dividend was 5 per cent.

Philadelphia Company.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the Common, payable Feb. 1.

Royal Dutch Petroleum.—Interim of 15 per cent., payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

Selangor Rubber.—Third interim of 8d. per share, less tax, making 1s. 6d. per share, against 4d. per share, making 1s. 2d. per share.

Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging.—2s. per share, payable Jan. 22.

Weardale Lead.—Interim of 1s. per share, free of tax, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

## Critical Index to New Investments.

### MANSFIELD RAILWAY CO.

Having obtained the sanction of the Treasury to the issue, this company is offering for subscription £120,000 5 per cent. debenture stock, repayable at par on January 1, 1926, at the price of 95. The company is constructing a line of about 11 miles in length, with some three miles of branches, between Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Clipstone, both on the Great Central Railway, for the double purpose of providing a shortened route between Grimsby and London and an outlet for the Mansfield Collieries to the Grimsby and Immingham ports. About five miles have been opened for traffic for upwards of a year, and the remainder will probably be opened by the end of January, while the connections with the collieries in the districts are also expected to be completed early next year. Guarantees of a minimum traffic of 750,000 tons of coal have been given by two undertakings, which it is estimated will yield a nett yearly revenue of £5,500. The line is worked by the Great Central Co. for 60 per cent. of the gross receipts, and for the half-year ended June 30 the nett revenue handed over was at the rate of £8,294 per an., a sum which was more than sufficient to meet the debenture interest. It is estimated that when the line is fully open the nett earnings should be about £30,800, and the prospects seem sufficiently promising to make the debenture stock a good investment.

Monte Video Water Works Co.—Gross revenue, Oct., £15,285; increase, £953. Aggregate from Jan. 1, £147,607; decrease, £2,272.

## American Business Notes.

It is hardly for us to intervene with comment or criticism in the acute dispute now going on between the Governments of Washington and Vienna. We may, however, congratulate President Wilson and his Cabinet upon having at last taken their stand without circumlocution on plain principles of justice and fair play. The *Ancona* was sunk with almost more brutal indifference to every consideration of the humanity supposed to influence civilised people than even the *Lusitania*, and Austria has thus far treated the remonstrance made by the United States with sneering contempt. The last Austrian Note, in fact, was of an insolence not exceeded by any performance of the Berlin officials, and yet there are people in Germany who cannot understand why all the world outside the "Central Empires" should more and more shrink with loathing and dread from contact with the guides and peoples so depraved. Apparently the firmness of the second Note sent by the United States Government leaves Austria but two courses open: Either an ample apology must be tendered, accompanied by a confession of guilt, punishment of the commander who perpetrated the crime, and compensation to the relatives of those who were foully done to death, or submission to have diplomatic relations broken off between the two countries. We do not much care which way it is; Austria has already done for herself as a civilised State.

Probably the best piece of news coming from Mexico lately has been the announcement of the flight of Villa the Brigand. He is said to be making his way through the United States to Europe, and doubtless *les Bosches* might find him a recruit of some value, especially in the Balkans, he being familiar with that kind of warfare practised by the Bulgars for so many years past in Macedonia and in what is now Southern Serbia. Should he stay here he runs danger of being shot at sight for the murder of Mr. Benton. That Villa should have skulked off now, no matter whither, in manner attuned to his reputation, is furthermore comforting in that it points to the early restoration of order under Carranza throughout the pitifully maltreated Republic. That gentleman has now a great opportunity given to him, and we trust he will use it with honesty and discretion. Many of his acts hitherto have betrayed a tendency in him to idealism of the wreck everything, utopian sort. But the type of politics thus conceived will not work well when brought in contact with practical affairs. Look, for example, at Carranza's treatment of the National Railways of Mexico. As soon as his party got hold of Mexico City—or was it even earlier?—it seized these railways without the slightest regard to justice or to the rights of any individual. A report of sorts, covering the year ended June 30 last, has recently been issued by the company, which reveals the havoc this high-handed method of reforming the Republic has produced. Actually the deficit on the year was \$m28,909,000. The earnings fell short of the working expenses by just \$m45,487, and in fact the total earnings from all sources amounted to only \$m1,777,000. That was because the company worked the railways for the first six weeks of the year only, because, as the chairman of the company wrote on October 6 last, the forces of the "Citizen First Chief of the Constitutionalist army" were ordered by said Citizen Carranza, to seize the whole of the company's property, its chief offices in Mexico City and its archives, and from that day the servants of the company were not even allowed to enter its offices, while all earnings went into the Treasury. And now the condition of the property is most lamentable, working stock destroyed or allowed to go to ruin, staff disorganised or no longer in existence, complete ruin impending. This cannot be allowed to continue, and now that through traffic with the Southern Pacific Railway of the United States is said to have been re-established steps must be taken to show the new President the unreasonableness of his behaviour and its danger to the newly-established Government. If no faith is kept with the bondholders of the railways, with the Mexican National Railways Co., or with other creditors of the State, then



no capital will be entrusted to that country any more from anywhere. It will be a land shut in upon itself and lost. We have hope that when the facts and their bearings are laid before him Carranza will understand and learn something of true statesmanship. The property now derelict ought to be among the most permanently valuable of its kind in the world, a source and means of wealth to its creditors and shareholders, and of prosperity to one of the richest territories in all the Americas.

More than usual interest attaches to the figures published by the United Fruit Co. of Boston showing the results of this business for the year ended September 30 last. They were first-rate, the nett earnings of \$7,615,000 being more than double those for the previous year, which were only \$3,742,000 from all sources. 1913-14, however, was a very bad year for the company, thanks to the failure, or partial failure, of its crops in Costa Rica, Cuba, and elsewhere, but last year's nett income was even \$1,417,000 above the highest figure ever before reached. Consequently the directors were able to pay the usual 8 per cent. dividend, and after charging \$2,526,000 to profit and loss for depreciation, discount on the issue of \$10,000,000 four-year 5 per cent. notes and other objects, there was \$14,040,000 left to carry forward, or nearly \$500,000 more than had been brought in. The company is now the most powerful fruit-growing and supplying combination in the United States, if not in the world, and its interests in Costa Rica alone are to-day represented by a book cost of \$16,375,000. This is a decrease of nearly \$3,000,000 on the figure for the previous year, the company being careful to write off losses and to make liberal provision for depreciation. A year ago accordingly there was a deficit on the income account of \$663,000, and yet an extra dividend of 2 per cent. was then paid. This year there is no mention of an extra dividend. Altogether the value of the company's property, including plant and equipment as well as cost of land, is now \$52,045,000, which is also a decrease of nearly \$2,000,000 on the figure for the preceding year, but still a majestic sum.

### Insurance News.

At the general meeting of the Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society, held by order of the Court, an account of the liquidators of the conduct of the winding-up during the year was presented. The total receipts from calls received, investments realised, sale of properties, interest, &c., amounted to £67,565, while the total payments came to £69,219, including payments to creditors, 3 per cent. interest under the scheme, £38,791, and administration and liquidation expenses, £26,800. On the 12th inst. the cash balance at the bank was £908,176. The considerable item of expenditure was very largely made up of arbitration expenses, which had been extremely heavy. Of the call of £1,000,000 made by the liquidators, the amount collected has reached £870,419. In regard to contingency policy-holders, the estimated liability at the date of liquidation was two millions, but up to the present the only claim admitted is for £750; in 1918, when the scheme of arrangement terminates, those who might have any claim would have an opportunity of proving in respect to their contingent claims on that date. The liquidators report that it is impossible to say what the figure might ultimately reach. It was assumed that the total claims against the company at the beginning of the liquidation amounted to about 21 millions. These have been reduced to £2,550,000. Proofs have been admitted up to the present time to the extent of £1,157,958, and other proofs are imminent aggregating £177,000.

The President of the Board of Trade, in reply to a question as to whether he had any intention in the immediate future of introducing legislation which will suspend for the duration of the war, or any other period, the declaration of bonuses by life assurance companies, announced that he was at present consider-

ing whether any special legislation with regard to the matter is desirable.

According to cable advices from Toronto, an agreement has been reached for the amalgamation of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Co. and the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada. The business of the former company, amounting to 16 millions sterling, will be re-insured in the Sun, which has some 43 millions of insurance in force. The life assurance fund of the Manufacturers' Co. amounted at the end of 1913 to £3,476,882, and that of the Sun Co. to £11,211,938. The managing director of the first-named company is going to the front.

Several British fire offices, including the Commercial Union, Phoenix, Gresham, and Royal, held between them a moderate proportion of the insurances upon the new annexe of the Bon Marché, Paris, in which the recent fire happened. The total insurances on this portion of the premises amounted to about £570,000, and at one time it was said there would be a total loss, but it has been found that the salvage is somewhat considerable. The old portion of the building and its contents, exclusive of the annexes, are insured for about £1,600,000.

### The Week in Mines.

With the approach of the Christmas holidays, business in the mining markets has shown a tendency to shrink, but the tone has been quite cheerful. South Africans have been helped by further buying on colonial account, and by the generally satisfactory character of the dividend announcements for the half-year. Copper and other base metal shares have displayed an upward tendency, though business both here and in New York has fallen off somewhat.

#### SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

There have been several interesting incidents in the South African market. The announcement of a surprise bonus of 50 per cent. to shareholders of the prosperous Meyer and Charlton company caused a quick demand for the shares, which rose  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 6, reacting later to 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ . New Gochs at 14s. 9d. were also supported on the dividend, and General Minings at 6s. 9d. were firmer in sympathy. Renewed buying from the Cape, accompanied by rumours of favourable developments, caused Springs to rise to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ , buyers, while the Options rose 1s. 3d. to 17s. 3d. Brakpans were in demand at 3 15-32, and Daggafonteins improved to 8s. 9d. on Cape buying. It is announced by the latter company that the negotiations for providing funds for the resumption of development work have not yet been completed, but it is hoped to submit the full details of the scheme early in the New Year. Modder Deeps advanced sharply to 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ , a little demand finding the market short of stock, and Modder B's at 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ . New Modders at 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and Modder Leases at 30s. have also been in fair request. Van Ryns recovered from 2 $\frac{1}{16}$  to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Van Ryn Deeps rose to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  on the increase in dividend. East Rands, however, were depressed on the poor dividend statement, and fell to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ , and Crown Mines have been dull at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Knight's Deeps and Wit Deeps rose to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  for both on the dividends, and City Deeps have continued to meet with support up to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ . Randfontein Estates have sagged to 14s. 3d., presumably in intelligent anticipation of the passing of the final dividend, which disgusted the market. In the diamond group, De Beers deferred weakened to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  on the issue of the report, but the prefs. rose  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 13 $\frac{1}{8}$  on the idea that at the meeting the chairman will be able to announce, as the result of the improved American demand for stones, the date of payment of some of the arrears of dividend. Koffyfonteins have developed marked strength in the past few days on rumoured buying by the De Beers Co., and the price is  $\frac{1}{16}$  up at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Among Rhodesians Charteredds have been dull at 10s. 9d., but Tanganyikas are firmer at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ , and Amalgamated Props. at 1s. 3d. The only sign of life in the West African market has been some inquiry for Ashanti Goldfields at 18s.



## COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been bought on the strength of the metal market. Rio Tintos have risen  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but both Anacondas and Utahs are  $\frac{1}{2}$  lower on the week at 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  on profit-taking in New York. Russians have been a dull market on the Gallipoli withdrawal, Russo-Asiatics falling to 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Kyshtims to 1 31-32. Orsks, however, have been firmer at 10s. on hopes of a dividend next year. Tin shares have been dullish with the metal, except Timahs, which rose to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  on the interim dividend. Broken Hills have been steadier, with some demand for Sulphides at 23s. 3d., Souths at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Proprietaries at 48s.

In the West Australian department, Lake View and Stars weakened further to 3s. 6d., and Lake View and Oroyas at 8s. 9d. are a shade lower. The Alaska group has continued to advance, with Treadwells up to 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ , Mexicans at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Uniteds at 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Of the Indians, Balaghats improved to 5s. 9d., and Champion Reefs rallied to 9s. 3d. on the statements made at the meeting regarding development prospects. Mexicans have undergone little change, but in the Canadian section, Casey Cobalts have fallen rather sensationally to 5s. on a rather alarming report from the consulting engineer. He states that all work has ceased on the western section, which is worked out. Work may be carried on until April, but funds are apparently getting low, and it looks as if a great disappointment is in store for the shareholders.

## MINING NEWS.

**SULPHIDE CORPORATION.**—This corporation, which owns the Central Mine at Broken Hill and smelting works at Cockle Creek, made a fine recovery last year. Its nett profits, which in 1913-14 declined from £280,947 to £165,228, rose to £286,000 in the year ended June 30 last, in spite of the interruptions of work caused in the early stages of the war. The sum placed to reserve for contingencies is £13,600 higher at £28,000, final dividends of 10 per cent. on the preference and of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares are recommended, making 20 per cent. for the year on both classes of shares, and the amount carried forward is raised from £229,463 to £294,963. Last year a 10 per cent. dividend was paid on the ordinary. The output of ore from the Central Mine was 200,079 tons, against 208,538 tons, but this decrease was more than offset by the increased prices realised for the metals.

**KNIGHT'S DEEP.**—This company's results in the year ended July 31 were rather better, for the working profits were £17,256 higher owing to the crushing of 59,620 tons of additional ore. The yield rose by 3d. to 14s. 11d. per ton, costs increased by 1d. per ton, and the profit was consequently 2d. higher at 2s. 8d. per ton. The total nett profit rose from £131,645 to £172,135, the dividend is raised by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and the sum carried forward is £30,473 higher at £131,081. Reserves of ore are estimated at 2,627,000 tons, valued at 4.25 dwts.

**WOLFRAM MINING AND SMELTING.**—The greatly increased demand for Wolfram ore brought about by the increased requirements of tungsten metal by the English steel-makers has been of valuable assistance to the wolfram producing companies. This Portuguese concern has increased its output from 20 tons per month to 27 tons per month. Shipments in the year ended September 30 amounted to £35,800, and a further sum of £1,289 was realised from sales of tin and crude arsenic, as compared with £26,968 and £884 respectively. The available balance is £7,991 higher at £14,143, and a dividend of 15 per cent. is paid as against nil last year, and the carry forward is raised from £1,440 to £2,143.

**TANALYK CORPORATION.**—Revenue in the year to January 13 last amounted to £16,650, and expenditure, including debenture interest, to £16,259, leaving a credit of £391 to be carried forward. The smelter produced 32,000 tons of sulphide and gold ore and 573 tons of blister copper. The 1916 estimates provide for an output of copper at the rate of about 600 tons of blister, which represents, in conjunction with cyanide operations, a profit of about 1,000,000 roubles for the Russian company.

## What Balance Sheets Tell.

## EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA CO., LTD.

Business was a little upset in the early part of the year ended August 31, but the falling off does not seem to have been appreciable, and as a recovery set in during the last few months, the results were amongst the best ever realised. Nett profits, after providing for administration expenses and debenture interest, were £33,164 up at £99,484, and advantage is taken of this to make special provision for wastage of assets. In addition to £11,678 written off for ordinary depreciation of the various factories, £21,000 is set aside for special deprecia-

tion, £7,000 is reserved for renewal of steam plant at Alexandria, together with £5,480 against payments on account of machinery ordered in Germany and £3,500 for bad and doubtful debts, while £2,000 is written off patent rights in connection with new oil processes. These appropriations leave £51,049, to which is added £48,309 brought forward, making a total of £99,958, or £16,761 more, and the dividend is raised from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 8, leaving the balance carried out £9,481 up at £61,131. After deducting the present appropriations, the factories stand in the books at £161,000, or a decrease of £35,520, but the outlay on new oil processes is £4,059 up at £33,301. Debtors owe £9,356 more at £45,686, but stocks are £5,891 lower at £114,860, against a reduction of £4,075 to £7,311 in sundry creditors, cash has risen by £36,910 to £173,395, and investments are £2,300 up at £213,080.

## EAST INDIA DISTILLERIES AND SUGAR FACTORIES, LTD.

During the year ended September 30 prices for sugar were favourable, and although correspondingly high rates were paid for raw materials, the nett profits showed an improvement of £18,629 at £31,995. Adding £2,618 brought in, the available balance is £17,995 up at £34,613, and the ordinary shares reappear in the dividend-paying list for the first time since 1904-5 with a distribution of 5 per cent., while £7,000 is transferred to contingency account, as against nothing last time, leaving £2,613 to be carried forward. A further £5,246 of the debenture stock has been paid off, leaving £132,092 outstanding, while the sinking fund has been increased by £4,000 from revenue and £600 from profit on redemption of stock, to a total of £61,171. Loans in Madras have been reduced by £24,749 to £49,150, and current liabilities show a small decrease of £971 at £30,343. Buildings account is £5,372 down at £10,216, while the outlay on the new factory, &c., is £1,728 up at £37,351. Stocks are £5,230 smaller at £126,522, duty paid in advance is £1,337 down at £3,890, debtors owe £1,000 less at £28,539, and cash has dropped by £3,462 to £6,857.

## NEW TAMARUGAL NITRATE CO., LTD.

In common with the other producers, this company found its business stopped by the outbreak of war, and one of its oficinas was closed from September, 1914, to April, 1915, while the other was closed from August, 1914, to September, 1915. Profits in the year ended July 31 were consequently only taken on 176,000 quintals of nitrate sold, as against 991,610 quintals in the preceding 12 months, and the gross total showed a decrease of £66,382 at £21,775. The loss on exchange was £6,562 smaller, but stoppage expenses amounted to £5,459, and after providing for London office charges, income-tax, and debenture interest, there was a loss of £2,217, compared with a profit of £65,181. A balance of £18,586, or £17,020 more, however, was brought forward, and £13,788 was derived from profit on exchange on realisation of stocks at July 31, giving a total of £32,374, from which the above deficiency is deducted and £13,000, or £4,000 less, is transferred to reserve, leaving £17,157 to be carried forward. A year ago the income bonds received their interest, and a dividend of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., tax free, was paid on the shares, but the income bonds can get nothing this time, and the directors say that coupon No. 13 should be destroyed as valueless. With the present appropriation the reserve will stand at £70,000. Current liabilities are £22,938 down at £17,776, against which there are decreases of £33,073 to £50,907 in stocks and £9,301 to £3,761 in sundry debtors, while cash has risen by £4,385 to £20,030.

## Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Remarkably good progress was made by the United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations in its financial year ended August 31. The area in bearing was increased by 856 acres to 6,628 acres, and although the average yield per tree only rose by .60 lb. to 3.71 lbs. per acre, the output exceeded the estimate by 270,000 lbs. and the previous crop by 647,029 lbs. at 2,474,972 lbs. At the same time, the all-in cost, including .39d. for war risk insurance, was further reduced by 1.71d. to 11.79d., against a drop of 1.01d. to 2s. 2.50d. in the average gross price, with the result that the nett profits showed an improvement of no less than £42,887 at £151,163. Of this, £40,000 is again transferred to reserve, and although the capital ranking for dividend is larger, the distribution is increased from 30 per cent. to 45 per cent., less tax, leaving £14,958 to be carried forward, compared with £16,295 brought in. In December last 222,730 shares of 2s. each were issued at a premium of 3s. per share, increasing the capital to £250,000, and the premium account to £170,141, in addition to which the reserve will now stand at £115,000. Expenditure on development was £18,936, bringing the outlay up to £403,610, but buildings and machinery were reduced by £5,893 to £69,238, and after allowing for the reserve and premium account the cost of the planted area works out at the very moderate figure of



£19 10s. 6d. per acre. Stocks are £29,837 larger at £87,833, investments have been increased by £20,000 to £25,470, owing to a purchase of War Loan, and cash, including £29,660 in Treasury bills, comes to £36,306 more at £52,704. On the other hand, the amount due to sundry creditors has been reduced by £35,300 to £20,845, so that the position is exceedingly comfortable. This year's crop is expected to reach 2,913,800 lbs.

The Taiping Rubber Plantations increased its output in the year ended September 30 by 123,285 lbs. to 484,930 lbs., and although the average price realised was 1.64d. smaller at 2s. 1.34d., the reduction was more than offset by a decrease of 2d. to 1s. 0.59d. in the all-in cost, which includes .33d. for war risk insurance. Nett profits consequently showed the substantial improvement of £12,043 at £26,262, to which is added £25,927 or £14,219 more brought forward, giving a total of £52,189 to be dealt with. The company is therefore able to enter the dividend-paying list with a very satisfactory distribution of 12½ per cent., and still leave the balance carried out £3,321 up at £29,248. During the year a further 200 acres were cleared and planted, and the expenditure on development amounted to £4,986, but very little was spent on buildings, machinery, &c., and after allowing for depreciation the cost of the estates is £4,136 higher at £234,889. Rubber in hand is valued at £19,615, or an increase of £7,931, and cash has risen by £4,713 to £6,903, while, on the other hand, a loan of £14,900 has been paid off and current liabilities are only £945 up at £5,696. This year's crop is estimated at 560,000 lbs.

Owing to the political disturbances which have existed for so long in Mexico, the directors of the Mexican Eagle Oil Co. have been unable to publish any report since December, 1913, but apart from that the company does not seem to have suffered appreciably. The usual final dividend on the common shares of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended June 30 last, has just been declared, together with an interim dividend on the preference shares in respect of the current year, and it is announced that a report covering the two fiscal years to June 30, 1915, is expected to be available for issue early next year.

During the year ended September 30 the Tampico-Panuco Oil Fields was unable to do much in the way of development, owing to the Government having prohibited drilling on oil properties in the Republic for seven months. The directors, however, say that they consider that this decree was beneficial to the oil industry, as the facilities for marketing the oil were very small compared with the enormous quantity in stock. Since the prohibition was removed in July, drilling operations have been resumed, and it is believed that as soon as market facilities are such as to make it worth while to produce larger quantities there will be no difficulty in doing so on the Punta Arena property. In addition to its oil properties, the company is interested in a railway which is being constructed from Tampico to Panuco and Chijoles. It had been hoped that this would be opened by the end of May last, but, unfortunately, the National Railways, from which the rails have been bought, was unable to deliver the bulk of them until some considerable time after the contract date. No revenue was received from oil during the period under review, but the income from interest on loans and investments was £5,250 up at £8,185, and the balance brought forward, including £1,437 transferred from income-tax reserve on adjustment, was £1,289 larger at £8,099. A further sum of £9,433 was also received as premium on preferred shares, making a total of £25,717, or only £4,113 less than for the preceding 12 months. Of this, £1,000 is written off for depreciation, as against £1,200, and the premium is transferred to reserve, while £3,000 is set aside for a field reserve, leaving £12,284, or £5,622 more, to be carried forward. During the year a further £33,333 was received from the issue of preferred shares, raising the paid-up capital to £199,995. On the other hand, property account stands at the original

figure of £13,250, although the valuation made in 1914 by independent experts was over £120,000. A further £54,700 of 6 per cent. mortgage bonds of the Tampico-Panuco Valley Railway Co., however, was acquired at 85 per cent., increasing the investments by £46,495 to £205,995. Expenditure on development account, including administration charges, &c., was £6,567, making a total of £24,239, and cash has been reduced by £7,113 to £5,155.

The report of the Oilfields Finance Corporation for the year ended June 30 makes far from cheerful reading for the unfortunate shareholders. No valuation of the assets has been attempted, but the directors state frankly enough that circumstances arising out of the war have caused heavy losses, and that they can hold out no hope that under any circumstances are the investments and loans at all likely to realise figures even approximating to the book values. Heavy expenses and great loss were sustained owing to proceedings which were taken on behalf of certain secured creditors to wind up the corporation. These creditors demanded prompt payment of their pre-war loans, and on failing to obtain the leave of the Court to realise their securities commenced proceedings for a compulsory winding-up order. On the hearing of the petition a prolonged adjournment was granted by Mr. Justice Astbury, who intimated that the offer made by the corporation was a reasonable one, which he thought ought to be accepted. An appeal by the lending companies was successful, and the corporation was obliged to settle with these creditors on terms which involved direct sacrifices and losses. The directors state that when the war is over and it becomes possible to arrive at an approximation of new values, not only will there inevitably be a large debit to profit and loss, but a considerable capital depreciation which will require to be faced. Naturally they express the hope that the interests left after providing for all liabilities will prove to be substantial, but the prospects seem very far from bright. In the last financial year there were, of course, no profits on realisations, and receipts from interest, &c., dropped from £3,767 to £600, while rents, administration of companies and other fees yielded £2,428 less at £2,556, and after providing for interest on loans, &c., the debit balance was increased by £11,383 to £16,462. The investments, taken at last year's figures, show a decrease of £31,071 at £348,585, but loans are £5,424 up at £73,328. On the other hand, liabilities on loans have been reduced by £36,680 to £34,000, but £25,000 is due on bills payable, as against nothing a year ago.

**GLEN-BERVIE RUBBER.**—Not only was this company's crop for the year ended September 30 83,162 lbs. larger at 203,730 lbs., but it benefited by the improvement in the market value, which brought the average gross price up by 2.81d. to 2s. 5.40d. For some reason known only to themselves the directors make a mystery of the "all-in" cost, which they will only disclose to shareholders who can go to the offices, but they state that there was a further substantial saving. After meeting all charges, including three-fourths of estate management and general charges, as against half last time, and again writing £2,000 off buildings and machinery, the nett profits were £8,500 up at £10,752. Of this £3,000 is set aside to form a reserve, and the dividend is then raised from 5 per cent. to 12½, leaving £2,594 to be carried forward, as against £1,091 brought in. The cost of the property has been increased by £2,558 to £53,451, but buildings, &c., have been reduced by £1,006 to £3,071, and coolie recruiting charges are £1,162 down at £625, while stocks are £4,009 larger at £7,121 and cash is £5,224 up at £9,888. A crop of 220,000 lbs. is expected for the current year, of which 37,250 lbs. had been harvested by the end of November.

**MALAY RUBBER PLANTERS.**—The report issued by the directors for the year ended September 30 is the most meagre statement by a rubber company we have yet seen. Most undertakings give the average price realised, even if they do not give the cost of production, but this company gives neither, and the omission is the more regrettable because the results obtained were good. The total crop of 301,492 lbs. showed an increase of 44,492 lbs., and the nett profits, including £3,917, or £916 more, brought in, were £4,070 better at £10,943. Rather more capital ranks for dividend, but the distribution is, nevertheless, raised from 20 per cent. to 25, and in addition to transferring another £4,000 to reserve, £2,000 is set aside for excess profits tax, leaving £455 less at £3,438 to be carried forward. The share capital has been increased by £2,800 through the conversion of debentures to £37,630, but the debenture debt is only £862



down at £2,170 owing to further instalments having been paid. Outlay on the property, less depreciation, was £2,340, making a total of £44,279, and investments have been increased by £3,010 to £6,220, while cash is £2,453 up at £8,827. No estimate is made of the crop for the current year.

(GARING (MALACCA) RUBBER.—In the year ended September 30 a crop of 124,935 lbs. was obtained, as compared with an estimate of 117,000 lbs., and an output for the previous 12 months of 81,129 lbs. The gross price realised was comparatively high at 2s. 4.36d., while the all-in cost was reduced by 2.01d. to 1s. 3.49d, leaving a profit of nearly 1s. 1d. per lb. Nett profits amounted to £6,842, of which £468 is applied in writing off preliminary expenses and £6,374 is carried forward. Expenditure on development amounted to £3,357, and on buildings, &c., to £720, making a total cost of £71,807. Stocks are valued at £5,174, or £2,397 more, and cash is £840 up at £6,003. The crop for the current year is estimated at 150,000 lbs.

KELANTAN RUBBER.—Of the two estates in bearing, one was only brought into tapping in March, but the total output for the year ended June 30 was 13,143 lbs. larger at 41,427 lbs. Including a proportion of home expenses, the cost showed a reduction of 4.48d. at 1s. 4.41d., a highly creditable achievement in the circumstances. The average price obtained was 1.06d. better at 1s. 10.70d., and the profits rose by £1,025 to £1,114, giving with the balance brought in a total of £1,914, which is carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £10,837, raising the total cost to £98,745, against which £9,748 was received from calls on shares, making the paid-up capital £100,000. Further funds are now required, and although the company has £20,000 of unissued capital, the directors, in view of financial difficulties due to the war, have thought it advisable to obtain the money required by borrowing, and state that this has been satisfactorily arranged.

KONG LEE (PERAK) PLANTATIONS.—In 1914 this company removed the rubber trees interplanted with its coconut palms, so that the output for the year ended August 31 was 3,469 lbs. down at 8,289 lbs., but the cost was reduced by 1½d. to 1s., and the price was 2d. better at 2s. 3½d. A crop of 934,000 coconuts was obtained, or an increase of 134,000 over the estimate and of 336,950 compared with the previous year. The average price was reduced by 18s. 5½d. to £3 17s. 7d. per 1,000 nuts, but this was offset by a reduction of a like amount to £2 8s. 3d. in the cost, and profits were practically the same at £2,075. Out of this the appropriations of £550 in reduction of formation expenses and of £500 to reserve are repeated, and the dividend is increased from 2½ per cent. to 3, leaving £342, or £50 more, to be carried forward.

EMBA CASPIAN OIL.—In view of the difficulties of labour and transport under which the Russian undertaking worked during the year ended October 31, the progress made seems satisfactory. In addition to the three wells which were producing a year ago, three new ones have come into production on the Dos-Sor properties, while active prospecting operations have been carried on at Karaton, Karatchungel, and other fields. The total production of the six wells from the beginning amounted to 985,661 poods, of which 177,600 poods were used as fuel, &c., and 752,816 poods were sold to the Emba Co., leaving 55,245 poods in stock. Expenses of the English holding company for the 12 months, including a further £2,727 written off the debt of Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co., Ltd., amounted to £7,888, against which £3,685 was received from interest, &c., leaving the debit balance increased by £4,203 to £451,728. In January the Russian Company gave notice that it proposed to make a call on the shares to provide funds for the exploitation of the property, but arrangements were made by which this company should lend at 6 per cent. interest sums equivalent to the amount of the call. Under this arrangement the Russian Company appears in the balance-sheet as a debtor for £138,173, and cash balances have been reduced by £140,552 to £5,855.

KANSAS-OKLAHOMA OIL AND REFINERY.—Throughout the whole of the year ended July 31 the oil industry in Oklahoma was depressed by the exceptional output of the Cushing field. This increased from 156,000 barrels per day to 285,000 barrels, while the total for Kansas and Oklahoma only rose from 383,000 barrels to 453,000 barrels, and naturally the price of crude oil dropped sharply from 75 cents in July, 1914, to 40 cents in February to July, 1915. Consequent upon the enormous production of the Cushing field, this company, in common with others, restricted their pipe runs, and as no new wells were completed during the year, the output from its leases fell off by 40,586 barrels to 143,236 barrels. Profits of the holding companies showed a decrease of £17,486 at £14,656, which the directors consider satisfactory in view of the exceptionally adverse conditions. The balance brought in was also much smaller, giving £29,358, or £22,180 less, to be dealt with, and it is impossible to meet even the dividend on the cumulative preference shares. Of the available total £4,611 is written off for proportion of drilling expenditure, together with £7,580 for depreciation, while £1,680 is reserved against possible loss on lease in litigation, and after meeting London office charges the sum carried forward is reduced by £2,365 to £12,334. The company has purchased 60 new tank cars on deferred terms to replace cars previously leased, and this item in the balance-sheet shows an increase of £15,781 at £20,637, against which liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable have risen by £12,217 to £24,381. Since the close of the financial year the production of the Cushing field has dropped to 187,000 barrels per day, and the price of crude oil has recovered to \$1, with corresponding advances in refined products, so that the outlook is more encouraging.

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1915, and December 18, 1915:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1915-1916. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 18, 1915.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 19, 1914.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England .....	—	81,898,728	9,349,952
Bank of Ireland .....	—	1,552,224	1,085,467
REVENUE.		83,450,952	10,434,519
Customs .....	48,900,000	36,251,000	25,846,000
Excise .....	54,850,000	43,490,000	27,040,000
Estate, &c., Duties .....	30,000,000	22,832,000	17,799,000
Stamps .....	6,500,000	4,739,000	5,726,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	350,000	280,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax .....	116,424,000	23,155,000	11,822,000
Excess Profits Tax .....	6,000,000	—	—
Land Value Duties .....	350,000	62,000	71,000
Post Office .....	34,280,000	22,650,000	20,450,000
Crown Lands .....	530,000	350,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	2,100,000	774,312	791,119
Miscellaneous .....	2,430,000	4,469,116	4,404,113
Revenue .....	305,014,000	159,122,428	114,582,232
Total, including Balance .....		242,573,380	125,016,751
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of advances for bullion .....		2,000,000	2,270,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) .....		275,153,000	46,850,000
For War Loan 1925-1928 .....		35,798,408	83,800,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		242,345	—
For War Loan 1925-1945 .....		586,316,000	—
For American Loan .....		35,329,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .....		1,484,900	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,400,000	1,650,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		190,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		744,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan:—			
Repayments on account of Principal and Interest .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan: Repayment on account of principal .....		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £231,150,000 in 1915-16 and £38,500,000 in 1914-15) .....		302,196,500	96,161,000
Total .....		1,483,561,358	355,877,751

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1915-16. (See Note.)	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 18, 1915.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1914, to Dec. 19, 1914.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	22,055,000	17,320,728	14,851,015
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	45,030,000	28,045,869	1,068,201
Road Improvement Fund ....	525,000	694,395	945,394
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c. ....	9,600,000	6,597,433	6,235,124
Other Consolidated Fund Services .....	1,800,000	1,215,883	1,194,093
Supply Services .....	1,510,696,000	997,954,703	261,255,151
Expenditure .....	1,589,706,000	1,051,829,068	285,548,978
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion .....		2,565,000	2,645,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .....		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910 .....		16,395,500	—
For Repayments to the Bank of England .....		160,427,623	—
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915 .....		9,715,690	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .....		1,400,000	2,450,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		190,000	22,000
Under Housing Act, 1914 .....		744,000	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908 .....		60,000	34,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (i) (b) .....		104,835	85,000
Section 16 (i) (c) .....		—	85,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-12—			
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914 .....		250,000	751,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911 .....		3,825	—
Cunard Loan Repayments, Issued to reduce Debt under the Cunard Agree'm't (Money) Act, 1904 .....		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances repaid—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £205,998,000 in 1915-16) .....		212,420,000	36,520,000
		1,456,326,912	328,362,348
Balances in Exchequer—	1915. Dec. 18.	1914. Dec. 19.	
Bank of England .....	£ 26,006,771	£ 26,937,824	
Bank of Ireland .....	1,227,675	577,579	
Total .....		1,483,561,358	355,877,751

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 344 of 1915, which is subject to revision.

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on December 18, 1915:—

Bills issued by Public Tender ..	£10,000,000
Bills otherwise issued ..	*361,180,000
Total ..	£371,180,000

\* Includes £147,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, December 20, 1915.



## COMPANY MEETINGS.

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Commercial Bank of Scotland was held in the head office in Edinburgh on 17th inst., the Marquis of Breadalbane, K.G., governor of the bank, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, although banking business had in many ways been influenced by the war, and rates in the latter part of the year were less favourable, the profit over the whole year had been satisfactory. Deposits to a large amount were withdrawn by customers for the purpose of placing the money in the British War Loans, and it was very gratifying to see that the deposits had since increased, and that the figures at the close of the year exceeded those of the previous year by £83,000. The chief feature in the accounts was the large increase of £5,573,000 in the holdings of British Government securities. The banks had not hesitated to support the Government in the prosecution of the war by taking up large amounts of the War Loan Stocks, and that policy he was sure would be cordially commended by the shareholders. Substantial reductions were shown in the amounts of loans against securities and of bills discounted. Stock Exchange loans had been brought down very largely, and borrowers generally had been reducing their commitments; while contraction of mercantile business, and a less amount current in British Treasury Bills accounted for the reduction in discounts. The item for freehold property in London showed an increase of £80,000, arising from the purchase of the adjoining premises at 60, Lombard Street, which had been acquired to provide adequate accommodation for the bank's expanding business in London. In view of the uncertainty of future conditions and the impossibility at this stage of estimating the financial effects upon the country of the vast war expenditure, the directors considered it prudent to adopt a conservative policy as regards the allocation of profits, and they recommended that the dividend for the year be at the rate of 16 per cent., less income-tax, and that, after setting aside the usual £5,000 towards bank's properties, the sum of £100,000 be applied in writing down the value of the investments, leaving a balance of £25,731 to be carried forward to next year.

## AMALGAMATED PRESS, LTD.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.  
DIVIDEND OF 40 PER CENT. IN DIFFICULT TIMES.  
MAGAZINES' BIG CIRCULATION.

The ordinary general meeting of the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., was held on Monday at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, Mr. George A. Sutton (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. R. Sumpter (joint secretary) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think the shareholders will agree with me that it is a matter for congratulation that we are able to come before you to-day and tell you that this company is in a position to pay the same dividend as in previous years, in spite of the trying and difficult times through which the business world is passing, and the journalistic world in particular. As you will have seen from the report, the profits, after writing off depreciation of plant and buildings, amount to £326,836 6s. 4d. This achievement is one that has not been equalled by any other publishing firm in the country. Most publishing businesses, if they have not passed their dividends altogether, have, at any rate, reduced them. I ventured last year to suggest that this business, which is the largest periodical and magazine publishing firm in the world, backed by its enormous paper mills, would maintain its pre-eminence. So far it has done so, and I hope and believe that during the coming year it will continue to occupy premier position. It should not be forgotten, however, that the task of conducting the business has been a difficult one. In addition to shortage of staffs and labour, your directors have been faced with a great increase in the cost of everything necessary for the production of your journals—paper, ink, carriage, labour, everything, in fact, has advanced, and the longer the war continues the more these expenses must increase.

## INCREASED CIRCULATION OF MAGAZINES.

In former years the permanent nature of your periodicals and magazines has often been referred to. The fact that many of them have increased in circulation during the past 12 months proves that there is nothing ephemeral about them. Our advertising revenue, of course, has suffered, in common with every periodical and newspaper in the country, but the papers themselves have maintained their position, and this fact has done a very great deal to convince advertisers that home journals like ours appeal to the very people they desire to reach. As a result, advertisers will, I hope, devote more of their expenditure to this class of medium in future. Here I would like to say a word to advertisers about the *London Magazine*. The *London Magazine* has jumped into the very front rank of British magazines. We have recently made public the chartered accountants' certificate showing the circulation for a period of 12 months, and we

believe that the *London Magazine* has now the largest certified circulation of any magazine in this country; 247,000 copies of the Christmas number were sold, a record not accomplished by any other Christmas magazine. Advertisers who wish to have these figures can obtain them from us on application. Another of your magazines, the *Premier*, has become the most popular story magazine in this country. Though it was hardly established when the war started, the circulation is steadily increasing. Your other magazines, the *Red Magazine* and *My Magazine*, are doing equally well, I am glad to say.

## 477 EMPLOYEES WITH THE COLOURS.

When I had the pleasure of meeting you last year I mentioned that over 300 of our employees had joined his Majesty's Forces. Since then a further 177 have done so. We have already paid out between £15,000 and £16,000 in allowances. I am happy to say that our colleague on the board, Mr. W. F. Mildren, who, together with many of our employees, has been at the front practically ever since the commencement of the war, has recently been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. (Cheers.) In addition, two employees have received Distinguished Conduct Medals and another the Military Cross. Having regard to the large number who have enlisted, you will recognise that the carrying on of the concern in the past year has not been an easy one for the directors, and it is due to the splendid organisation of your business that we are again able to show such satisfactory results. (Hear, hear.)

## RETIREMENT OF LORD NORTHLIFFE AND LORD ROTHERMERE.

We regret that during the year under review Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere retired from the board, but we are happy to say that the benefit of their counsel and advice will still be at the disposal of the company with which they have been so long associated. (Hear, hear.) Under the articles of association Lord Northcliffe was entitled to retire from the board 12 years ago, and Lord Rothermere nine years ago.

Our programme for the starting of new publications, of course, had to be abandoned owing to the war, and must remain in abeyance, but we shall neglect no opportunity of strengthening the business whenever possible. Apart from the uncertainties and increasing cost, the labour difficulties alone make it impossible at present to embark upon new ventures, and the best we can do is to solidify existing publications. We are fortunate in possessing such valuable investments as the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd., and the Imperial Paper Mills at Gravesend. The latter, as you know, are the second largest mills in this country. Backed by these companies, and foresight in securing large stocks of raw material, there has never been any anxiety in the past year as to the enormous supplies of paper and pulp required for the production of your publications, a position in which no other similar organisation has found itself.

## CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

I said last year that it would be most unwise to make any prophecy regarding the financial year upon which we were then entering, and I can only repeat this statement to-day. But I will add that I look forward with the same confidence to the ensuing 12 months as I did at this time last year to the financial period that has just closed. At any rate, you can rely upon your directors devoting that energy and enthusiasm to their work which has always been one of the strongest assets of the business. In this connection it will be my pleasure presently to ask you to confirm the election to the board of Mr. Tod Anderson. He has been associated with our organisation for a period of about 20 years, and has thoroughly earned his promotion. (Hear, hear.) We are constantly endeavouring to strengthen the staff by the introduction of new blood. Applications from ambitious men and women for either editorial, commercial, or advertising positions always receive our careful consideration. I now beg to propose:—"That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's account at October 31, 1915, be now received, approved, and adopted, and that a dividend be now declared on the ordinary shares at the rate of 50 per cent. per annum for the six months, making 40 per cent. for the year."

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. Arthur E. Linforth) seconded the resolution.

## MR. HARTLEY ASPDEN ON THE COMPANY'S RECORD.

Mr. Hartley Aspdn, J.P.: May I be permitted, as one of the oldest shareholders, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the board on the magnificent report which you have presented to us to-day. I am sure it has been a pleasant surprise to many of us to find that, after passing through a year of stress and storm, the Amalgamated Press has been able to maintain the same rate of dividend it has paid for the last 10 years. Such a record is, I think, unexampled in the whole history of journalism. We all remember the dark and troublous days of last year when every business was trembling in the



balance, and few of us, I think, would have been bold enough to predict at that time that the Amalgamated Press would not only maintain its splendid dividend of 40 per cent., but actually be in a better financial position this year than it was at the end of 1914. Well, as an old member of the Amalgamated Press, and as one of its directors for over 12 years, I am quite certain that this grand result has only been achieved by hard and strenuous work on the part of the board and of the splendid staff under its control, and I am sure that we shall all join in thanking the board for the way in which they have held the fort during one of the most trying years that any business has ever gone through. (Hear, hear.) It only shows, ladies and gentlemen, if the Amalgamated Press can accomplish such wonders in times of war, that when the days of peace come round we can fairly hope that the company will go on paying the same dividend for many years to come. (Hear, hear.) But, while we are all glad to have such a good report, I think there is one touch of sadness in the fact that during the year we have parted with two of the most honoured members of the board, Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere. Those who, like myself, were associated with them in the early days of "Answers (Limited)" know the magnificent work which they put into the business of this company. They laid the foundations of this great business; they built up the superstructure, and if you want any monument of their work you have it in the position this company has attained as the greatest publishing house in Great Britain, if not in the whole of the world. (Cheers.) Well, as one who worked side by side with them in those early days, and who knows the vast amount of work they put into this enterprise, I think they have both earned a well-deserved leisure, for, as the chairman has pointed out, they were entitled to retire several years ago, but they stuck to the company longer than they were obliged to do, and the fact that they retire now, whilst we are in the midst of a great European war, shows that the foundations of this business have been well and truly laid, and that we can safely place our confidence in the men whom they have trained to follow them. As that well-known newspaper *Truth* said the other day, "Nobody who knows Lord Northcliffe can suppose for a moment that he would relinquish the chairmanship of the company if its position were in any way unsatisfactory," and so we must take comfort in the thought that this business will remain in safe and efficient hands.

#### THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming the new chairman and wishing him as long and prosperous a career as his predecessor. (Hear, hear.) I told him privately the other day that so long as he keeps up the dividend to 40 per cent. he will have a very easy time as far as the shareholders are concerned. (Laughter.) Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am not going to propose any resolution, as there is already one before the meeting, but I hope I am voicing your sentiments when I say that we all thank Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere very cordially and warmly for the high, honourable, and successful manner in which they have managed this company from its commencement to the present day, and I hope the board will convey to them the expression of our great regard and appreciation of their work. (Cheers.)

#### PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

Mr. J. H. Panting: As one who has been connected with this company since its inception, perhaps you will allow me to say "ditto" to everything that has fallen from the lips of Mr. Hartley Aspden. The remarkable thing that has always struck me in connection with this company has been that, ever since it was first incorporated, it has never looked back; it has always gone forward until now, on the occasion of the presentation of the 19th balance-sheet, we find it, as Mr. Aspden and the chairman have already said, in a stronger position than ever. We might well have looked forward to some decrease in its revenue during this terrible year, when we have been faced with a cataclysm such as the world has never before seen; but what do we find? We find that it has not only maintained its position, but has even improved it, so that, in addition to the handsome dividend of 40 per cent. which we are receiving, we see that a most substantial addition has been made to the reserve fund, which now stands at £250,000.

#### A REMARKABLE COMBINATION.

I think that is a very proud achievement on the part of any company. (Hear, hear.) These results have been mainly due to a remarkable combination—a combination which you rarely find in so marked a degree in one family—the far-sighted genius and ability of Lord Northcliffe on the one hand, and the keen financial ability and genius of Lord Rothermere on the other. (Cheers.) Sir, in common with every other shareholder present, I cordially welcome you as chairman of our board. You know all the ramifications of this company, because I suppose you have been associated with it for a longer period,

perhaps, than any member present. The same may be said with regard to Mr. Linforth. I am sure every member cordially welcomes him to the position which he has so well earned. You, sir, will have a very difficult task to follow in the footsteps of so distinguished an example; but we all feel perfectly confident that, difficult though the task may be, you will be perfectly sure to be successful. (Cheers.)

The Chairman: I am extremely obliged for the kind words which have been uttered by Mr. Aspden and Mr. Panting concerning myself, and I can only say that I am sure the board will do their very best in the coming year, as they have done in the past. We shall endeavour to live up to the wishes expressed by Mr. Aspden with regard to the 40 per cent. dividend.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed that the election of Mr. T. Anderson to the board be confirmed.

Mr. J. Horace Newton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. F. Bowater, seconded by Mr. Steeie, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. and Messrs. E. Layton Bennett, Sons and Co. were re-elected auditors of the company for the ensuing year.

The proceedings then terminated.

### ASAHAN RUBBER ESTATES.

The third annual general meeting of shareholders of the Asahan Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on Monday in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. George Croll, chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. J. M. Kemp, on behalf of the secretaries, Messrs. Harri-sons and Crosfield, Ltd., read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Our authorised capital remains at 260,000 shares of 10s. each, and our issued capital remains at 229,803 shares, of which 229,722 have now been paid up to the extent of 9s. 6d. per share, and 8s. are fully paid. When we met last year I anticipated that during the year under review we should require to call up the remaining 1s. per share, but, owing mainly to the very considerable increase of our output and the satisfactory price it realised, we were able to finance the company very comfortably by only calling up 6d. If anything like the present prices continue during the current year—and I think it reasonable to anticipate that they will—we shall in all probability be able to postpone the calling up of the remaining 6d. per share until we enter the 1916-17 period. The capital expenditure for the period under review amounted to £10,351 3s. 4d., against an estimate of £12,179. The capital expenditure spread over the average immature area of 1,759 acres represents £4 14s. 9d. per acre, which shows a satisfactory reduction on the previous year, when the figure was £6 10s. 5d. The total capital expenditure on the properties to July 31, 1915, was £105,349 6s. 11d., which, spread over the 2,464½ acres of cultivated land, gives us the figure of £42 15s. per acre. On July 31 we had a surplus at credit of capital account of £3,809, and, if you approve of the proposal we make in regard to the disposal of last year's profits, we shall have £1,037 of undistributed profits to add, giving us £4,846 to meet an estimated capital expenditure of £11,264. This would leave a deficit of £6,418, against which we have our un-called capital, but as our crops are increasing the proceeds of these should enable us to get through the current year without making any further call. I might mention that, when this company was reconstructed and came under its present management, it was anticipated that the then issued capital would be insufficient to complete the capital account, and that it would be necessary to issue at least a portion of the 30,000 unissued shares, but as things have gone I think that, without calling upon the shareholders to forego more than reasonable allocations to reserve out of profits, we should be able to bring the present acreage into bearing without any further issue. If this forecast proves to be correct, the capital cost of our property at par would be £46 per acre—that is, when the capital account is closed and the acreage planted brought to maturity. This is not only a very low cost, but it is very much less than we could plant up and bring to maturity a similar property for to-day. A statement of the acreage is given in the report, and the only changes from that given last year are that the 318 acres then given as early 1912 planting are now included with the 425 acres then given as 1912-13 planting, and that a further 44 acres are added as 1913-14 planting, making our total planted acreage 2,464½ acres. These 44 acres have been planted up from time to time in land which was brought under cultivation as a result of the draining programme which we had to undertake. We have also shown the reserve land available for rubber as apart from the area occupied by buildings, native reserves, waste land, &c. The crop for the period amounted to 137,583 lbs., against an estimate of 95,000 lbs. This very substantial increase was mainly due to a larger number of trees coming into tapping than was anticipated. This crop corresponds with 62,531 lbs. harvested in the preceding year. The all-in cost, including war risk insurance, was 1s. 4.13d., a reduction of 1.28d. on the preceding year, which, considering the large number of trees tapped for the first time, is, I think, very creditable to the management. The average gross price realised for the crop was 2s. 3.41d., which is 2.75d. per lb. more than was secured



for the previous crop. The profit for the year amounted to £6,412 12s. 8d., and, with your permission, we propose to deal with that as follows: by writing off the balance of the preliminary expenses, amounting to £1,121 6s. 1d.; by writing off the balance of the underwriting commission, amounting to £1,525; by payment of a dividend of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less income-tax, amounting to £2,728 19s. 3d., and carrying forward £1,037 7s. 4d. At the beginning of the year 56,978 trees were being tapped, and by the end of July this number was increased to 90,745. The first latex is manufactured into smoked sheet, the quality of which is excellent. This represents 68 per cent., and the balance of the crop is manufactured into crepe. The labour force has been satisfactory and the health good. The property is clean weeded and well drained, and our visiting agent, Mr. Ris, reports that the estate is all over in the best condition, and, from the growth of the trees and the yields which the tapped trees have given, has an excellent future before it. The past year has not been devoid of difficulties, but these have been successfully overcome, and we are very much indebted to our manager, Mr. Vink, and the staff for the careful and economical management of the property, and also to our visiting agent, Mr. Ris, and our agents in Sumatra, who have all contributed to the very satisfactory results of the year's working. The crop estimated for the current year is 180,000 lbs., and for the four months ended November we have harvested 74,134 lbs., so that it would appear that our estimate is again on the very conservative side. Of this crop we have to date sold 11,404 lbs. at an average price of 2s. 8.64d., and we have to deliver under forward contracts 44,800 lbs. at an average price of 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Sir William Erskine Ward, K.C.S.I., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

### ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. C. Greenway (chairman and managing director of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after dealing with the balance-sheet, said: The balance of our trading account is £171,083 7s. 4d. This amount would have been about £74,000 greater had we included in it the amounts due to us by the Turkish and Persian Governments, but although we have every reason for anticipating that the greater part, if not the whole, of these outstandings will sooner or later be realised, we have decided not to take credit for them in the meantime. The amount due by the Persian Government is, of course, a perfectly good asset, since there is no doubt that it will eventually be forthcoming. So far as regards the amount due by the Turkish Government, the manner in which this may be recovered is, of course, as yet uncertain, but inasmuch as the debt is chiefly in respect of goods which were formally requisitioned from our agents at Bagdad, and for which receipts were given, I think we may look forward with confidence to its ultimate recovery from whichever Power may, when the war comes to an end, assume the responsibilities of the Turkish Government in that part of the world. After making allowance for these outstandings—which may be regarded as purely adventitious—we have, I think, every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year under review. The balance of the trading account would have been about £245,000, and, omitting the loss of £26,711 3s. 10d. carried forward from the previous year, since it will not be a recurring item, there would, after paying debenture interest and home charges, have been a balance of about £200,000 available to meet depreciation and further payment of dividends. This, gentlemen, may, I think, in all the circumstances, be regarded as quite a satisfactory showing, and an earnest of what we may look forward to in the future, when our present programme of developments has been completed. I would like, however, to point out that had we been in a position to transport and market our benzine and kerosine products ourselves, instead of being dependent, as we are at present, in markets outside of the Persian Gulf, on the distributing organisation of another company, our profits for the year would have been considerably enhanced. What the result may be for the current year it is still too early to prognosticate with any certainty in the present unsettled condition of Southern Persia. But notwithstanding the diminution of revenue resulting from our pipeline having been out of use for two and a-half months of the present financial year, we may, I think, failing, of course, the happening of any untoward event, count upon being able to present at least as good a result as that now before you in our next annual accounts. As mentioned in the report, our pipeline was cut by some Persian tribesmen on February 5 last. This damage was perpetrated by a small tribe who inhabit a district which is traversed by our line for a distance of about 12 miles, and the damage was limited to the destruction of a few sections of pipe within this length of line. It was restored to full working order by the middle of June, and since then has been worked continuously. The amount of excess oil which had to be burnt, owing to lack of sufficient storage tanks and to avoid pollution of rivers in the four and a-half months during which we suffered from this enforced shut-down, was, I am sorry to say, about 36,000,000 gallons, or 144,000 tons, but, as you will have gathered from the terms of the concession which I have just quoted, the Persian Government are liable to make good to us, and to the producing companies, the whole of the losses consequent upon the destruction of this large

quantity of oil, and also for the extra expenditure to which we shall be put in consequence of the general interruption to our work which has been caused by this act of folly on the part of Persian subjects. The present refinery, I am pleased to report, continues to give satisfactory working results, the throughput for the quarterly periods preceding the cutting of our pipeline having averaged as follows:—For the three months ended June, 1914, 4,911,000 gallons monthly; for the three months ended September, 1914, 7,287,000 gallons monthly; for the three months ended December, 1914, 7,031,200 gallons monthly; while for the month of January it was 6,832,300 gallons. Since the pipeline was restored, it has averaged about 7,000,000 gallons monthly, and should there be no further shut-down, the total for the current year will be little short of that of the year now under review. The slight falling off of 200,000 to 300,000 gallons monthly since the quarter of September, 1914, is, I should explain, not due to any reduction in the working power of the plant, but to the fact that we have latterly been increasing our production of fully-refined oils, which means the employment of more stills. The work on the refinery extensions is making good progress, and will probably be completed well before the new pipeline is ready. With regard to the latter, I regret very much to say that there has been considerable delay—partly owing to the disturbances to which I have already referred, but chiefly to the grave difficulties which we are experiencing in getting the pipes transported to the various points at which they are required for laying. Nearly the whole of the craft usually available on the River Karun for such transport has been requisitioned for the purposes of military operations on the Tigris, and consequently we have been quite unable to remove the pipes at the rate required to keep our men fully employed. It is needless to say that we are doing everything that is possible to overcome this difficulty, but I am afraid that the completion will be delayed by fully 12 months beyond the date which was originally estimated. A further disadvantage arising from the war is that the cost of our extensions will be considerably enhanced by the much higher freights which we have had to pay for the transport of our plant and other material, and by the higher costs of all plant not contracted for before the outbreak of war. As regards the operations of the producing companies, there is little change to report since I last addressed you.

Mr. John T. Cargill seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK.

The fifty-third ordinary meeting of the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Mr. E. Ross Duffield, the chairman, presiding.

The Sub-Manager and Secretary (Mr. George R. Hutchinson) read the notice calling the meeting, and, other formal business having been disposed of,

The Chairman observed that there was a growing impression that appearances pointed to a gradual resumption of activity in those countries where the bank was chiefly interested—no doubt founded upon the promising state of affairs, agricultural and pastoral, out there, which justified looking forward hopefully if the weather continued favourable. At all events, the position of the bank was sound and strong. The directors had had to provide again this year for some large losses, arising mainly from the South American branches' business; they had also had to write down the securities of the bank, so as to face the general decline in quotations on this side, and there had been some losses from their valuable French business. All of this had been met chiefly out of the year's profit, and, to a moderate extent, out of their useful contingency fund and their balance brought over from last year. The assets of the bank, to the best of the directors' belief, might be safely looked upon as representing the value at which they stood in the books. There was an available balance of £497,675 odd to deal with, which included, of course, the balance brought over from last year, and they showed in profit and loss account the amount of income-tax incurred—namely, £46,978, and also that of depreciation in the value of securities held in London, provided for by £29,652. As the interim dividend foretold, the directors had at last had to relinquish their time-honoured custom of paying the dividends free of income-tax. They were the more gratified, therefore, that circumstances had enabled them to recommend a dividend of 9 per cent. for the six months, bringing the distribution for the year up to 15 per cent. They regretted that, in order to achieve this 15 per cent., they had not been able to carry forward to next year an amount equal to that brought forward from last year, but they thought the present £260,975—the amount they had for the purpose—commensurate with the risks the bank contingently incurred. He hoped the figures shown in the balance-sheet pleased the shareholders. Notwithstanding the war, the total figures showed an increase over those of last year. It was their custom to be very strong in their cash in hand, so their balance of £9,519,000 was what the shareholders might have expected—very close upon 50 per cent. of their total deposits. With respect to the outlook for the business this next year, the Press was so fully informed in these times upon the state of business affairs and statistics in all well-known countries that there was hardly anything he could say regarding that group in South America which claimed their attention which was not continually put before them in their daily newspapers, and what they had read there recently would have given them an encouraging impression as regarded the general features. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.



Mr. David Simson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after the chairman had replied to a few questions, and resolutions were also passed declaring the final dividend mentioned and re-electing the retiring directors and auditors.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the managers and staffs and to the chairman and the directors.

### RONEO.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of Roneo, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the offices, 5-11, Holborn, E.C., Mr. W. T. Smedley (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George E. Boraston) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, after alluding to the great loss which the company has sustained during the year by the death of the managing director, Mr. A. D. Klaber, who was the founder of the business, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. In reviewing the position of the company, he pointed out that, notwithstanding that the year's accounts included a period of eleven months of the war, the trading profits had been £30,135, as compared with £39,368 rs. 4d. in the previous year, and that the diminution was apparent rather than real. During the previous year upwards of £6,000 had been properly charged to capital account for additions to plant, &c., but during the year under consideration all expenditure had been borne by the revenue account. Moreover, the accounts had been charged with payments to the extent of £1,606 to the wives and dependents of employees who had joined the Army. These payments, on the basis of half wages, were still being continued. The nett profits were ample without encroaching on the amount brought forward from the previous year to provide for the payment of the usual dividends on the preference and ordinary shares, and also to provide a substantial increase to the reserve fund; but the directors had felt it incumbent on them, in these times of financial stress and danger, to adopt a policy of extreme caution and to devote all their resources to strengthening the position of the company. They desired to make it so sound that, whatever strenuous times the country might have to pass through, the future of this company might be regarded without any anxiety. To this course he felt sure the shareholders would give their support. With the balance brought forward there was a sum of £31,426 3s. 1d. of undivided profits available. There were also surplus profits, which had been set aside in previous years, represented on the balance-sheet as general reserve £20,000, and special reserve against interests in allied and proprietary companies £10,000, making a total of £61,426 3s. 1d. Two years ago, after the Balkan Wars, the directors had grave misgivings as to the future of the Austrian and Hungarian companies, which had suffered severely, and it was on this account that the special reserve was commenced. The business of these countries was placed in the hands of a substantial and experienced agent, and this company thereby reduced its responsibility. But the outbreak of the present war had rendered it necessary to deal drastically with the situation, and the directors had, therefore, made provision to write off, if necessary, the whole of this company's investment in and the debts due to it from both these companies to the estimated value of upwards of £20,000, without putting any value on the stock and book debts existing when war broke out. The dividend on the preference shares had been paid, and there remained £955 18s. 3d. to be carried to the next year's account. There was no need to carry forward a larger sum, for, with the five months' experience of the present year, there was no doubt that the year would establish a new record for profits. The profits for that period in the general trade showed an increase of 26.7 per cent. over those of the corresponding months of last year. This was the result of the normal increase in the sale of supplies which, with unflinching regularity, followed year by year the sale of additional duplicators and copiers. The company had received a number of orders from the Government. In the foregoing calculations no part of any profits on these orders had been included. From whatever point of view they regarded the position of the company, whether that of the soundness of the balance-sheet or the present profits and prospects, they were justified in expressing confidence.

Mr. A. S. Newmark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### D. NAPIER AND SON.

Presiding at the meeting of D. Napier and Son, Ltd., on Monday, at Acton, W., Mr. Montague S. Napier said the result of the past year had not been attained without considerable difficulties having to be overcome, especially difficulties arising out of the delays in obtaining supplies of materials, some of which should have been delivered in October, November, and December of 1914, but had not been delivered until July, August, and September, 1915. These delays were occasioned through suppliers having to supply other urgent war materials. The effect of this was to increase our stock at the end of the financial period, as well as to reduce our turnover for the year. Practically the whole of the company's output of Napier vehicles had during the past season been supplied to the British and Allied Governments, and at present the whole of the company's output of Napier chassis were being supplied to the British Government and firms engaged on Government work. The investments, which stood at £13,750, had realised in dividends and interest during the period under review, a sum of £1,903, which showed that they were of a remunerative character. The dividend on the

ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the 12 months compared with 3 per cent. for the previous 16 months' trading, and further, £20,000 had been carried to reserve this year, whereas nothing had been placed to reserve in the previous financial period. The fact that the company was a controlled establishment should assist in keeping the works fully employed during 1916, and, having regard to the special nature of the work on which the company are now engaged, it should further advance the Napier reputation for high-class work.

Mr. H. T. Vane, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, paid a tribute to the loyalty of the staff and employees, who had had to cope with a period of unprecedented difficulties, and had worked energetically to deal with the new conditions occasioned by the special Government work which had been entrusted to the company. Whilst the whole of the Napier works at Acton were now engaged on work for the Government which prevented the company from supplying its numerous customers with new cars, he hoped that when this state of affairs terminated that prospective purchasers of motor vehicles would support those British motor manufacturers who, like the Napier Company, had arranged their works at this critical period to suit the urgent requirements of the British Government. He would even go further and say that he hoped the Government would offer some protection, if only temporarily, after the war, to enable such firms to have sufficient time to re-arrange their works and organisation for civilian trade. The Napier reputation was well established, and the policy of the company would be to still put forth their best efforts to uphold and further that reputation.

### Answers to Correspondents.

WYKAMIST.—(1) This should certainly be held, as the position and prospects are both excellent. (2) And we see no reason why these should be parted with unless the present price gives you a substantial profit.

HARRY.—No, not yet. There is no "spring" at all in the market, and the future in that class of stocks is most obscure.

F. P.—Letter received too late to get properly answered in this week's issue owing to our going to press a day earlier than usual.

P. H. D.—We think you might hold on now after waiting so long. The company has quite encouraging prospects.

DAN.—You don't gain by the exchange at present prices. If you allow for the loss on your stock the extra interest does not repay you.

T. H. W.—Possibly the first two lots come under the scheme, but the third may not. You should certainly take advantage of the scheme. Your broker will be able to advise you what has to be done.

### STATE OF PARA FUNDING SCHEME.

The State of Para, on the 15th June, 1915, announced that it was unable, from various causes, to meet the payments due on the 1st July, 1915, for the interest in respect of the loans of the State.

The State has now passed a law creating a Five per Cent. Funding Loan, out of which will be paid, in lieu of cash, the interest coupons on the loans of 1901, 1907, and 1910, from 1st July, 1915, to 1st January, 1919, both dates inclusive, during which time their sinking funds will also be suspended.

Particulars of the funding scheme can be obtained at the offices of Messrs. Seligman Bros., 18, Austinfriars, London, E.C.; or Messrs. Alsberg, Goldberg, and Co., Amsterdam; or Messrs. Fonsecas, Santos, and Vianna, Lisbon; or the Banco Commercial do Para, Para.

### LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, will be CLOSED on the 1st January, 1916, for that day only, for the preparation of the Dividend payable 1st February, 1916.

Proprietors registered in the Books of the Company on the 31st instant will be entitled to the Dividend on the number of shares then standing in their respective names.

41, Lothbury, E.C.,  
23rd December, 1915.

A. A. KEMPE,  
Secretary.

### CITY OF YOKOHAMA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £716,500.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 5th January, 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,  
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.



## NOTICES.

## CON' LANGLAECTE MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## GINSBERG GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 5 per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## NEW UNIFIED MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 17½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

## WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 25 per cent. (5s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1915.

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